

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Germany

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Name of wetland: Donauauen und Donaumoos

Date of Ramsar designation: 25 February 1976

Geographical coordinates: 48°25'-48°33'N, 10°03'-10°25'E

General location: Bundesland Bayern, section of the Donau between Thalfingen and Lauingen

Area: 8,000 ha

Wetland type: M, U

Altitude: ca. 440 m above sea level

Overview: Regulated river waters with 6 weirs, large important meadow woods, small old water courses (rivulets?). 2 remaining moor areas, which lie in the drained and cultivated Donaumoos, north of the Donau (Niedermoor = lower peatbog).

Physical features: River course in a valley of 2-3 km width (typical channel formed by melt-water, after the ice age) with meadow wood and old rivulets. Between the Donau floodplain and the "Schwäbische Alb" lies the former Donaumoos (lower and intermediate peatbog), which is now very dry because of draining; extensive areas are cultivated for agriculture.

Water regulation: high water levels in the Donau occur in March and June due to the alpine snow melt. Diluvial gravel masses, below the layer of clay, carry plenty of ground water of the highest quality, which has its origin in the chalk formations of the Alb.

Annual precipitation ca. 750 mm (mean level measured over many years). Average temperature: 7-8°C.

Ecological features: Regulated river course, extensive important meadow woods with typical vegetation, old watercourses with areas in the process of becoming land. Peatbog areas with remaining patches of vegetation typical of lower and intermediate bogs.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) **site:** government and private ownership

b) **surrounding area:** private ownership

Conservation measures taken:

- Nature Reserve (NSG = Naturschutzgebiet) "Jungholz bei Leipheim", 34 ha, 01.10.80;
- Nature Reserve "Nauwald", 172 ha, 28.07.82;
- Nature Reserve "Gundelfinger Moos", 225 ha, 31.03.83

Drainage is prohibited, restricted agriculture and forestry, restricted access.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

- General requests: designation of extensive areas as Nature Reserves, acquisition of valuable areas and thereby ensuring their protection;
- Management of the Donaumoos: raising of the ground water level, creation of shallow water bodies, grazing of wet meadows, conversion from intensively grazed pastures to extensive use, etc.
- Restriction of hunting and recreational activities around the reservoirs.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: recreational activities, gravel extraction, agriculture and forestry, hunting, fishing

b) surroundings/catchment: agriculture, hunting, urban and industrial areas.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects**a) at the site:**

Donauauen: gravel extraction, uncontrolled waste dumping, forestry with *Picea excelsa*, measures to open areas to development, settlement of industrial complexes.

Donaumoos: further draining (deepening of the drainage channels), intensification of agriculture, increase in gravel extraction, uncontrolled leisure activities around the reservoirs.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: no information supplied

Hydrological and physical values: Water supply for large areas (sufficient ground water of excellent quality); flood protection.

Social and cultural values: site for recreation and leisure activities, water supply.

Noteworthy fauna:

The Donau Reservoirs are important as resting and wintering sites for waterbirds. There are no new results of waterfowl counts. Earlier results are: December 1975: total number of waterbirds 10,721 individuals; *Anas platyrhynchos* 4,352 birds, *Aythya ferina* 4,640 birds.

The Donaumoos is an important breeding site for many endangered bird species: for example, *Numenius arquata*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Anthus pratensis*, *Coturnix coturnix*, *Anas querquedula*, *Saxicola rubetra*. It is also an important resting site for many bird species, as well as preferred wintering site for some raptors.

Noteworthy flora: The meadow woods are the last remaining large areas of this kind in Germany, apart from the ones on the Oberrhein. Predominant are meadow woods with *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Ulmus* spp., but there are also woods on steep slopes with spring lines and woods with reeds and *Pinus* spp. There are important orchid- and gentian-species on dry, gravelly, areas, which are nearly devoid of trees. Vegetation typical for areas with old water courses is also abundant. There are remains of vegetation typical for lower peatbogs on the Donaumoos.

Current scientific research and facilities: no information supplied

Current conservation education: no information supplied

Current recreation and tourism: Leisure and recreational use.

Management authority: no information supplied

Jurisdiction: no information supplied

Bibliographical references:

- Hölzinger, J. & M. Mickley (eds), 1974: Existentsbedrohte Landschaften, Donaumoos und Auwälder zwischen Ulm und Dillingen, Illertal zwischen Vöhringen und Ulm. - Umweltschutz in Baden-Württemberg 3: 248
(Endangered landscapes Donaumoos and meadow woods between Ulm and Dillingen, Illertal between Vöhringen and Ulm) including other articles in the same publication.
- Beissmann, B. & W. 1984: Die Brutvögel des Naturschutzgebietes "Gundelfinger Moos" 1983. Ber. naturw. Verein Schwaben 88, Heft 1: 14-19.
(Breeding birds of the Nature Reserve "Gundelfinger Moos")

Reasons for inclusion: 1a); 2a), 2b); 3b)

Map of site: enclosed 1:50,000