

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: Germany

2. Date: 03.07.1992 3. Ref: 7DE017  
office use only

## 4. Name and address of compiler:

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5. Name of wetland: Lower Inn between Haiming and Neuhaus (four reservoirs)

6. Date of Ramsar designation: first nomination of the German Ramsar sites 25.02.1976

7. Geographical coordinates: 48°12' - 48°28' N, 12°52' - 13°26' E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

Border area between Southeastern Bavaria and Upper Austria (south of Passau)

9. Area: (in hectares)

1955 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

M, ⑥ Tp, W

river reservoirs, recovered to a quite natural state of the lower Inn river

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

350 to 320 m NN

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Rich structured shallow reservoirs with islands and bays.  
Virgin riverine forests on the islands without human influences.  
Formerly channelized river is redeveloping into a natural state.

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality;

water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

alluvial river plain; artificial wetland (hydroelectric power plants);  
shallow waters, subjected to unpredictable floods in summer; high natural  
silt load of the water ('glacier-milk'); climate transitional to a continental type.  
Siltation caused the development of islands, especially in the parts  
of the wider sections of the reservoirs (width up to 3 kms); fine river mouth  
delta of the river Salzach. The area is 'divided' into a Bavarian and an Austrian  
part due to the border between the two states. Both sides are Ramsar sites.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Shallow waters in the process of upland, rich in islands. Roughly half of  
the area is now of the river type of habitat, the other half being still  
gently flowing sections of the reservoirs. Vegetation on the islands  
is dominated by willows and alders with extensive beds of reeds. In shallow  
bays submerged aquatic vegetation is developing in summer. Water quality is  
good and further improving.

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**15. Land tenure /ownership of:**

(a) site mostly state owned

(b) surrounding area private land

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**16. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Two of the four reservoirs (three on the Austrian side) have been declared as a bird sanctuary (in 1972); for the southwestern part, the mouth of the river Salzach area, the protected area status will become effective in near future (presumably this year)

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**17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Restriction of angling to a tolerable level of disturbance.  
Improvement of regulations concerning boating as well as shooting of waterfowl in the southwestern part.

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**18. Current land use: principal human activities in:**

(a) site no agriculture or forestry; hunting is restricted (and virtually without impact) to Roe Deer, Foxes and Pheasants, but in parts water birds are still under hunting pressure. Main problem is angling.

(b) surroundings/catchment  
overall pattern of land use without peculiarities.

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**19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:**

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site  
severe disturbances of breeding and resting water birds due to angling

(b) in the surroundings/catchment  
no major threats or disturbances acting onto the Ramsar site

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**20. Hydrological and physical values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Dams are 'groundwater-proof', which causes biological iron formation in the oxbows outside of the reservoirs in the rests of riverine forest. Dams control effectively the floods and trap sediments up to the balance level between erosion and sedimentation (natural equilibrium). Most of the islands are now stable, but some may be re-located by high floods.

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**21. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Angling causes a high local pressure against the conservation aims and measures concerning the Ramsar site and its function to protect mainly water birds. No other conflict areas or problems.

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**22. Noteworthy fauna:** (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

Colony of the Night Heron, up to 120 breeding pairs, but now (due to the disturbances caused by angling and the changes in the fish fauna) possibly extinct.

Breeding of Red-headed Pochard and nine other species of ducks

Total of 22 water bird species breeding regularly in the site.

New breeding of Mediterranean Gull and *Larus cachinnans*; breeding colony of the Black-headed Gull (9000 pairs) now the largest in Bavaria and Austria.

Breeding of the River Warbler (*Locustella fluviatilis*) in the alder forests.

Important site for migrating and wintering water birds; regular wintering site for the White-tailed Sea Eagle.

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**23. Noteworthy flora:** (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Undisturbed series of development of annual flora on the silt banks and willow-alder-riverine woodland (virging forest character); many rare aquatic or semiaquatic plant species.

**24. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

No research facilities are available on the German side, but several ecological studies are carried out by students of the compiler (University of Munich).

**25. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

A visitors centre is under construction in the village of Ering in the middle section of the area. Two information booklets are available there (in German) on general ecology of the site and on the birds.

**26. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

Most of the site is closed to tourism (exceptions are canoe travellers, which have to follow the main channel of the river), but visitors easily can see the area from the dams which follow the river along most of its way. Angling is still allowed without restrictions, which causes severe disturbances. Shooting water birds is not allowed.

**27. Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

No direct responsibility; formally the Ministry of Environment in Munich is responsible for this wetland, but there are no local authorities (like wardens or rangers).

**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Regierung von Niederbayern (Höhere Naturschutzbehörde), Landshut & Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Planning, Munich.

**29. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

REICHHOLF, J. & H. REICHHOLF-RIEHM (1982): Die Stauseen am unteren Inn. Ergebnisse einer Ökosystemstudie. Ber. ANL 6:47-89.  
REICHHOLF-RIEHM, H. (1990): Unterer Inn - Ökologie einer Flußlandschaft. Innwerk AG, Töging & Landratsamt Rottal-Inn.

**30. Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

Important breeding area for water birds, *2a); 3a, b, c,*  
very important site for passage and wintering of water birds.

**31. Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)