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"Management of transboundary Ramsar Sites- Chances and Challenges"

International Conference
18./19. November
Information Centre Illmitz
National Park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel
Austria

Many wetlands of international importance listed under the Ramsar Convention are located in border zones of adjoining countries. Despite their obvious transboundary connectivity, these "shared wetlands", are often not perceived and treated as ecological and hydrological units.

This poses a major challenge to wetland conservation, not only in terms of habitat management, regional planning and decision making, but also with respect to environmental education and public awareness activities.



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For many shared wetlands, it is not yet clear how the largely national approach to wetland conservation can be turned into an efficient transboundary co-operation. Creating awareness for wetland connectivity across national borders, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and opening a common and broader view on management issues will be of paramount importance to the long-term survival of many transboundary wetlands.

In recent years, the need for effective transboundary conservation initiatives has become more and more pressing. As political borders in Europe lose their importance, underdeveloped and seemingly "empty" border regions move from the periphery into the centre of new economic spaces. Ambitious development projects pose new threats even to wetland sites that were considered as fairly well protected so far. Since the proposed development schemes will affect large tracts of land around existing reserves, wetlands with a close hydrological dependence on their surroundings will be especially at risk.

The conference will provide a forum for an intensive exchange of experience concerning these issues. It is intended for all persons involved in transboundary wetland conservation and management, namely conservation specialists, environmental educators and public relations officers from protected areas, experts in regional planning and members of higher administrative bodies responsible for transboundary Ramsar sites.



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Thursday, November 18th

- 09.00-10.00 Arrival and registration
- 10.00-10.10 Welcome addresses
Landesrat Paul Rittsteuer
Dir. Kurt Kirchberger
- 10.10-10.20 Management of transboundary ramsar sites from the perspective of the Austrian federal administration.
Wolfgang Mattes
- 10.20-10.50 Shared water catchments - how to manage water and wetlands in a transboundary context.
Tobias Salathé
- 10.50-11.20 Conservation and management of important transboundary wetlands shared by Lithuania-Belarus and Lithuania-Russia.
Saulius Svazas
- 11.20-11.40 Coffee break
- 11.40-12.10 Wetland co-operation in a sensitive context: The case of Prespa Lakes.
Thymio Papayannis
- 12.10-12.40 Key issues for transboundary water management in the Balkan region.
Alexander Zinke
- 12.40-14.00 Lunch break (Buffet)



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Thursday, November 18th

- 14.00-14.40 Living the Cooperation - The Morava-Dyje-Floodplains. The way to the Ramsar Wetlands Conservation Award 2002 and further steps.
Milan Janak, Mojmir Vlasin, Johannes Wolf
- 14.40-15.20 Regional development Visions for the Euregio West/Nyugat Pannonia.
Hannes Schaffer
Biosphere region and model concept "Grüne Mitte"
Herbert Bork
- 15.20-15.50 The Lainsitz/Luznice river system - possibilities of a common management across the borders.
Michaela Bodner
- 15.50-16.30 Environmental Education in the Fertő-Hanság-Neusiedler See-Seewinkel national park: history and status quo.
Attila Fersch
Development of a Joint Education Strategy for the transboundary national park & wetland system.
Bernhard Kohler
Education in a dynamic environment: changing programmes, changing target groups.
Michael Kroiss



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Friday, November 19th

- 9.00-9.30 The cross border cooperation for nature protection in the Danube Delta and the Lower Prut River, between Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova.
Grigore Baboianu
- 9.30-10.00 Realities and prospects of Ukraine's participation in transboundary wetlands management.
Grygoriy Parchuk
- 10.00-10.30 TEN: a major threat to Ramsar sites along the Danube.
Ulli Eichelmann
- 10.30-10.50 Coffee break
- 10.50-11.20 Habitat reconstruction at Riha Lake - Results of a transboundary action for wetland management.
Szabolcs Závoczky
- 11.20-11.50 Transboundary cooperation and improvement of shared wetlands management in Serbia, with special reference to special nature reserve "Gornje Podunavlje".
Slobodan Puzovic, Boris Erg
- 11.50-12.20 Drava-Mura: Transboundary Rivers of European Conservation Importance. Opportunities and obstacles.
Arno Mohl
- 12.20-13.20 Lunch break (Buffet)



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Friday, November 19th

13.20-14.20 Workshops

- 1) Communication, Education and Public Awareness as tools to build a sense of shared responsibility for transboundary wetlands.
- 2) Possible roles of Ministries, regional governments and other administrative authorities in transboundary co-operation projects.
- 3) How to join forces across the borders: threats to shared wetlands and the best ways to face them.
- 4) Transboundary wetlands as a focus for sustainable development activities in border regions.
- 5) Challenges for transboundary water and habitat management in wetland landscapes.

14.20-14.40 Coffee break

14.40-15.40 Presentation of workshop results

15.40-16.40 Plenary discussion

16.40-17.00 Closing session



Affiliation of speakers:

Landesrat Paul Rittsteuer (Provincial government, Burgenland)

Dir. Kurt Kirchberger (Director, Nationalpark Neusiedler See-Seewinkel)

DI Wolfgang Mattes (Austrian federal environment agency)

Dr. Tobias Salathé (Ramsar secretariat)

Dr. Saulius Svazas (Lithuanian Institute of ecology)

Dr. Thymio Papayannis (Society for the Protection of Prespa)

Dipl. Geogr. Alexander Zinke (Zinke environment consulting)

Dr. Milan Janak (Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology)

Dr. Mojmir Vlasin (Ecological Institute Veronica)

DI Johannes Wolf (Distelverein)

Dr. Hannes Schaffer (mecca, environmental consulting)

DI Herbert Bork (stadtland)

Mag. Michaela Bodner (Ramsar-Stadtgemeinde Schrems OEG)

Mr. Attila Fersch (Fertő-Hanság-Nemzeti Park)

Dr. Bernhard Kohler (WWF Wetland education centre Seewinkelhof)

Mr. Michael Kroiss (Nationalpark Neusiedler See- Seewinkel)

Dr. Grigore Baboianu (Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority)

Dr. Grygori Parchuk (State agency for protected areas, Ukraine)

DI Ulli Eichelman (WWF Austria)

Dr. Szabolcs Závoczky (Duna-Dráva Nemzeti Park)

Mr. Boris Erg (Institute for nature conservation of Serbia)

MSc. Slobodan Puzovic (Provincial Secretariat for environmental protection and sustainable development, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina)

DI Arno Mohl (WWF Austria)



Date:

Thursday, November 18th 2004, 9.00-16.30

Friday, November 19th 2004, 9.00-17.00

Location:

Nationalpark Information Centre Neusiedler See-Seewinkel,
A-7142, Illmitz, Burgenland, Austria

Registration to the conference and further information:

Georg Scattolin, WWF Austria, georg.scattolin@wwf.at

Tel.: 0043148817-265, Fax: 0043148817-277

How to get there:

from Vienna: Motorway A4 to Exit Gols/Weiden-Podersdorf-Illmitz

from Graz: Motorway A2 to Eisenstadt- Neusiedl/See-Podersdorf-Illmitz

from Budapest: Motorway M1-Austrian Border-Motorway A4 to Exit Gols/Weiden-Podersdorf-Illmitz

from Vienna Airport: Motorway A4 to Exit Gols/Weiden-Podersdorf-Illmitz

Accommodation:

Tourismusverband Illmitz

Tel.:++43 (0) 2175 2383

Fax:++43 (0) 2175 2383-4

email: illmitz@illmitz.co.at, www.illmitz.co.at



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Registration:

Please confirm your participation in the conference until **November 10th 2004** by email georg.scattolin@wwf.at or fax 0043148817-277.

I hereby confirm my participation in the conference **"Management of transboundary Ramsar Sites- Chances and Challenges"** in Illmitz, Austria on November 18th and 19th 2004.

Title, first name, name:

Organisation:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

