

**Annual Report 2014**  
**On the Nature Reserve and Protected Landscape Area**  
**"Wollmatinger Ried - Untersee - Gnadensee" (Germany)**

**Period under review:** 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014  
**Country:** Germany  
**Name of the Reserve:** Naturschutzgebiet Wollmatinger Ried-Untersee-Gnadensee  
European Diploma extension 2009 to 2019 (currently 5 years)

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**Reporting body:** NABU-Naturschutzzentrum Wollmatinger Ried  
Harald Jacoby, Eberhard Klein

## 1. CONDITIONS

The last extension of the European Diploma for the Wollmatinger Ried was not linked to any conditions by the European Council.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation 1:

It is extremely important to allow the nature reserve to develop naturally, particularly in the shallow water sections. To this end, there should be no obstacles to the natural erosion and sedimentation processes.

**Re. Recommendation 1:**

As in the previous year, no attempts were made to intervene in the self-perpetuating development of the shallow water zone, including the “*Schläuche*”. During the previous flood water years 2012 and 2013, anglers were able to gain unhindered access to these areas.

From the point of view of nature conservation administration, no inducement exists to intervene in the self-perpetuating development of the “*Schläuche*”.

**Recommendation 2**

All fishing activity must be halted in the *Schläuche* and the Hegnebuch “lagoons” for an experimental three-year period in order to further reduce the disturbances arising. An overall assessment of this measure should cover both the waterfowl and fish ecology.

**Re. Recommendation 2:**

Due to the very low water levels this spring, the shallow water zones in the core areas were comparatively little used in terms of angling. On the other hand, for the reed breeding birds of decisive importance here, the low water levels meant less than ideal breeding conditions. During the checks carried out this year in the course of routine monitoring of the reserve, among the bird populations resting here a noticeably high individual bird count was discovered. However, no systematic analysis was performed and consequently no scientifically sound findings could be recorded.

The Freiburg Government Headquarters, in consultation with the MLR, will set up a Round Table including representatives of the nature conservation and angling communities. The intention is to initially process the facts with a view to using these as a basis for developing a strategy agreed with the angling community to reduce disturbance incidents in the sensitive core areas of the nature reserve and in other nature conservation areas of the Untersee which are susceptible to disturbance. Initial talks will be taking place in December 2014.

**Recommendation 3:**

The Wollmatinger Ried is a refuge area for avifauna sensitive to disturbances, particularly during the moulting season. Increasing numbers of ferruginous ducks (*Aythya nyroca*), a threatened species, are coming to the area north of the Reichenau “dyke road” for the moulting season. Few studies of this have been conducted, so it should be documented and all potential disturbances eliminated (fishing, water sports, etc.).

**Re. Recommendation 3:**

The significance of the nature reserve as an over-summering and moulting location for waterfowl is regularly documented within the scope of the extended waterfowl monitoring programme. The moulting populations in particular could benefit from the fact that only minimal angling activity took place in the core areas of the nature reserve due to the low spring water levels.

The close cooperation between the volunteers at the conservation and observation station “Netta” and the waterway police provides an effective instrument to reduce disturbance due to leisure activities, in particular canoes and rowing boats. Increasing problems are also being caused by ever greater popularity of stand-up paddling, extending inside the protected area.

Disturbance from the air took place occasionally, for instance due to the Zeppelin NT flying over and increasingly also hot air balloon trips. A sharp rise in helicopter activity by the police and boarder patrols is also noticeable. As these often fly over at low altitude, they cause a considerable disturbance, particularly in the shallow water area. The Freiburg Government Headquarters has approached the responsible authorities with a view to achieving less intrusive flying activity.

**Recommendation 4:**

Throughout the protected area, but especially in the Ermatinger Becken area, an effort is needed to harmonise protection measures by developing co-operation between Germany and Switzerland, for example, as part of the international conference of Lake Constance.

**Re. Recommendation 4:**

The Management Plan (MaP) for the EU bird sanctuary "Untersee" envisages the extension of the nature reserve on the water side. The aim of this measure is for the lake to be granted an effective wildlife preservation status. This has vital significance for the water fowl during periods where the water is at a low level, as to date this area has been beyond the protection of the reserve. However, for the Untersee, this is only possible with the involvement of Switzerland.

During the year under review, no direct contacts have been forged on land within the framework of the International Lake Constance Conference (IBK) with a view to improving protection of the shallow water zone of the Ermatinger Becken area and to harmonize cross-border cooperation. However, the Freiburg Government Headquarters will be initiating contact with the corresponding authorities in Switzerland.

**Recommendation 5:**

The scheduled road works to improve traffic flow at the entrance of the reserve – B33 and western bypass (Tangente West) – are part of a comprehensive landscape concept and must not be detrimental to the protected area. The compensatory measures necessitated by the work must be implemented as a matter of priority.

**Re. Recommendation 5:**

The construction of the western bypass is completed. As this road construction project impairs one of the most important wildlife corridors of the Wollmatinger Ried, extensive compensatory measures were required. These were fixed as part of the plan approval decision for construction of the B33. The majority of measures have been implemented. After expansion of the B33 has been completed, the L221 will be demolished. The completion and consequently the subsequent demolition are not expected, according to the current planning status, before 2020. The building sites for the Kindlebild junction and the bridge over the railway line are currently being prepared as part of the B33 extension.

The relocation of the cycle path represents an important improvement. This used to pass by directly along the border of the nature reserve, and was a constant source of disturbance for the protected area. During the course of the road planning, the planners succeeded in relocating this cycle path to the north along the railway line, and so reducing the potential for disturbance. A community initiative has been started up on the Island of Reichenau which is campaigning for the cycle path to be returned to its route along the border of the nature reserve. The Freiburg Government Headquarters is currently in discussion with the Reichenau local authority and the community initiative. There will be no agreement on the part of the road building authorities, the nature conservation administration, and the City of Konstanz as the land owner to the relocation of the cycle path.

**Recommendation 6:**

The continued operation of the reception centre in the premises of the former Reichenau railway station is not guaranteed for the medium and long term. This question should be settled as soon as possible.

**Re. Recommendation 6:**

Back in 2009, the State of Baden-Württemberg already issued a pledge to the NABU to fund up to 1 million € to construct a new Nature Conservation Centre. The Reichenau local authority and the

City of Konstanz are making available a suitable leasehold site. The NABU is currently working on a comparative analysis to determine the correct dimensioning of the planned new Nature Conservation Centre with a view to ensuring that the Centre will be economically viable on a sustainable basis.

### **3. SITE MANAGEMENT**

No changes as against the 2013 reporting year.

### **4. BOUNDARIES**

As part of the construction project for the new B33, according to the plan approval decision, narrow and already pre-contaminated peripheral areas of the nature reserve were claimed for use in the project. This unavoidable use of nature reserve land is not expected to exceed 0.2 hectares. By way of compensation, an extension of the nature reserve amounting to at least 7 hectares is planned. As soon as the boundaries for this are fixed, this will be cartographically charted. In order to implement the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, in addition an extension of the protected area on the water side is under consideration (cf. Chap. 2 no. 4). However, as this will entail reaching an agreement with Switzerland, implementation is expected to take several years.

### **5. OTHER INFORMATION**

Competing uses (water sports, angling, aviation) still continue to cause problems in the core areas of the nature reserve: New trend sports such as stand-up paddling are almost impossible to control and result in serious disruptions outside the traditional water sports seasons. Large aircraft (hot air balloons, Zeppelin-NT) also cause considerable disruption to the waterfowl populations over large distances, and helicopters with special permission fly over sensitive areas of the nature reserve.