

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1  
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008  
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2018  
Period: 01.10.2017 to 30.09.2018**

State: Germany

Name of the area: **Naturschutzgebiet Wollmatinger Ried-Untersee-Gnadensee**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

**Central authority concerned:**

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**Berichterstatter:** Regierungspräsidium Freiburg,  
Höhere Naturschutzbehörde

<sup>1</sup> As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.  
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

**1. Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions.

**2. Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

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;

As to recommendation 1:

The issue of excavating the Schläuche and thus intervening into the self-dynamic development of the shallow zones was postponed for the time of negotiations of the „Round table for fishery in the nature reserves Bodensee-Untersee“ (see recommendation 2). The erosion and sedimentation processes continue for the time being.

2. all fishing activity must be halted in the Schläuche and the Hegnebucht “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;

As to recommendation 2:

Since the costs for an investigation programme concerning a robust and statistically safe assessment of the actual disturbance caused by fishing activities on waterfowl and the effect of a halted fishery zone on the economic basis of professional fishing would be high, the Ministry for Environment, Climate and Energy did not agree to the prepared investigation concept.

In the period under review, there were no meetings of the „Round Table for fishery in the nature reserves Bodensee-Untersee“ since the decision of the ministries concerning an extensive investigation had to be awaited. In the framework of the Round Table, the representatives of professional fishing had emphasized in the past that the further exercise of fishing in the nature reserves were of existential importance for them.

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.);

As to recommendation 3:

The importance of the reserve as summer and moulting area for waterbirds was regularly documented in the extended waterfowl monitoring (see chapter 6.3). Due to the low water levels in August, moulting waterbirds could hardly find a refuge in the reeds. On the contrary, dry sludge zones attracted unauthorised walkers which increased the disturbances. In order to counteract the disturbances, the surveillance activities were increased. This was all the more important as the floating protection and observation station “Netta” had to be removed from the area due to the low water level.

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;

As to recommendation 4:

In the period under review it was not possible – like in the previous years - to establish direct contacts between the nature reserve management and Swiss authorities to improve the protection of the shallow water

zone of the Ermatinger Becken and to harmonise cross-border co-operation. Unfortunately the promised Swiss attendance (Kanton Thurgau) during the visit of the European Council's expert was cancelled at short notice for personal reasons.

No steps were taken so far to extend the protected area on the water side provided in the management plan for the Natura-2000 area.

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;

As to recommendation 5:

The further roadwork of the B33 did not cause any direct avilment of the reserve. However, the Cycle Path Initiative undertakes serious efforts to make the former path between Kindlebild crossing along the reserve border and in the area of the green bridge within the reserve usable again. This would impair the effect of the green bridge. In addition, the path would then be public which would increase the danger of disturbances. Therefore the reserve management will not agree to such a path.

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.

As to recommendation 6:

The new NABU-Bodenseezentrum was inaugurated on 13 October 2018 by Franz Untersteller, Minister for Environment, and will now assume the tasks of the former Naturschutzzentrums Wollmatinger Ried. The Centre's economic basis is also secured thanks to a considerable increase of the state's funding made available for the maintenance of the Wollmatinger Ried.

**3. Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The site management is carried out since 13 October 2018 by the newly opened NABU-Bodenseezentrum. The staff continuity is ensured since the entire staff of the former Naturschutzzentrum Wollmatinger Ried was taken over.

**4. Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The planning for the extension of the B33 provides the compensation measure of adding certain peripheral areas between the nature reserve and the new road to the protected area. The proceedings for the enlargement of the protected area could not yet begin because no new survey of the surfaces was available. The extension of the boundaries of the nature reserve on the water side up to the state border as provided in the Management Plan for the Natura 2000 area must be harmonised with Switzerland. So far, no contacts with Swiss authorities could be established.

**5. Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

The increasing settlement activities and the continuing extension of the traffic routes cause constant changes in the environment of the reserve so that it is more and more isolated and emissions can penetrate up to the core areas of the reserve. A comprehensive nature protection approach which gives priority to the maintenance of natural bases of life, particularly in the protected areas, is desirable.

The following measures are here of high significance:

- a) Improve protection regulations for the Seerhein (National border Germany – Switzerland).  
The entire Ermatinger Becken with its shallow water zones in the border area between Germany and Switzerland offers excellent resting and hibernating areas for waterfowl thanks to the existing nutrition bases. The protection area setups are spatially not adjusted between Germany and Switzerland and have different protection targets. In coordination with Switzerland it should be examined whether an extension of the borders of the reserve „Wollmatinger Ried-Untersee-Gnadensee“ up to the national border would be possible so that sufficiently big water areas within the reserve also on the German side would be available to hibernating water-birds when the water level is low in wintertime.
- b) Maintain networking structures  
Great efforts are undertaken in the extension of the B33 to maintain the biotope linkage to the hinterland in the North which is essential for the protected area. These interlinking structures have a crucial significance for the maintenance of the biodiversity in the site particularly in view of the flooding movements which characterize the area.
- In the course of the extension of the B33, measures for avoidance, minimization and compensation are presently implemented. Expansions and adjustments of the reserve's borders are provided which should be implemented in the near future.
  - In the settlement development of the city of Constance and the local communities Reichenau and Allensbach, care should be taken to maintain sufficiently dimensioned and naturally designed interlinking areas. No disturbing infrastructure should be allowed within these network areas so that their function as ecological exchange channel is maintained.
- c) Shift away the cycle lane from the protected area  
In the framework of the B33 extension, a new cycle lane was built south of the railway line in order to replace the former cycle lane that run along the Northern border of the protected area, for the purpose of reducing disturbances emanating from this lane. This shift is important for the functioning of the green bridge over the B33.  
The former lane must not be allowed again for public use.
- d) Reduce disturbances penetrating into the reserve from outside  
Intensive leisure activities such as kite surfing, stand-up paddling etc., but also cycling (see No. 4) within the reserve borders cause considerable disturbances the effect of which is particularly intensive when there is no sight protection between sensitive areas of the reserve and the sources of disturbance. When large flying objects such as the Zeppelin NT, hot air balloons or drones fly over the bird refuges, waterfowl will take flight in big masses.  
Adequate measures should be taken to keep such disturbing effects away from the protected area.

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The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

## 6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

### 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

With a yearly average of 11.6 °C the temperature was 2.4 °C over the long-term mean of the years 1961 to 1990. Only in the period from mid-February to early March, the temperatures were significantly below the reference values although the minimum temperature fell only in three nights below -10°C. Average temperature occurred only in March. On the other hand, the monthly mean temperatures in January and April were more than 5°C higher than the long-term mean. This was followed by a continuation of the heat period until end of August with monthly average temperatures of 3.4 to 4.4°C above the reference values.

In the reporting year, the total annual precipitation of 687 mm was 162 mm lower than the mean value of the years 1961-1990. This precipitation deficit was even reinforced by a very irregular distribution: whereas the rainfall from November to January was above-average, there was a lack of rain from April to September. Particularly dry were the months of April with 6.6 mm instead of 68.1 mm and July with 32.2 mm instead of 102.1 mm of rainfall on an average.

Also the water level of Lake Constance had an unusual course in the year under review (see fig.1): During the entire winter semester which is normally characterized by low water levels, the water levels were much higher than the seasonal long-term average. From 21 January to 13 February, the Lake of Constance water levels were almost consistently above the seasonal maximum values measured in the past. After having reached on 24 January an unusual winter maximum value of 385 cm, the level dropped again on 27 March to this year's minimum value of 302 cm. This was followed by a fast increase – typical for the season – to 394 cm on 16 May. This year's level maximum of 415 cm was already reached on 15 June. Then the water levels dropped unusually early and fast and were only about 20 cm above the seasonal minimum values from 26 July onward.

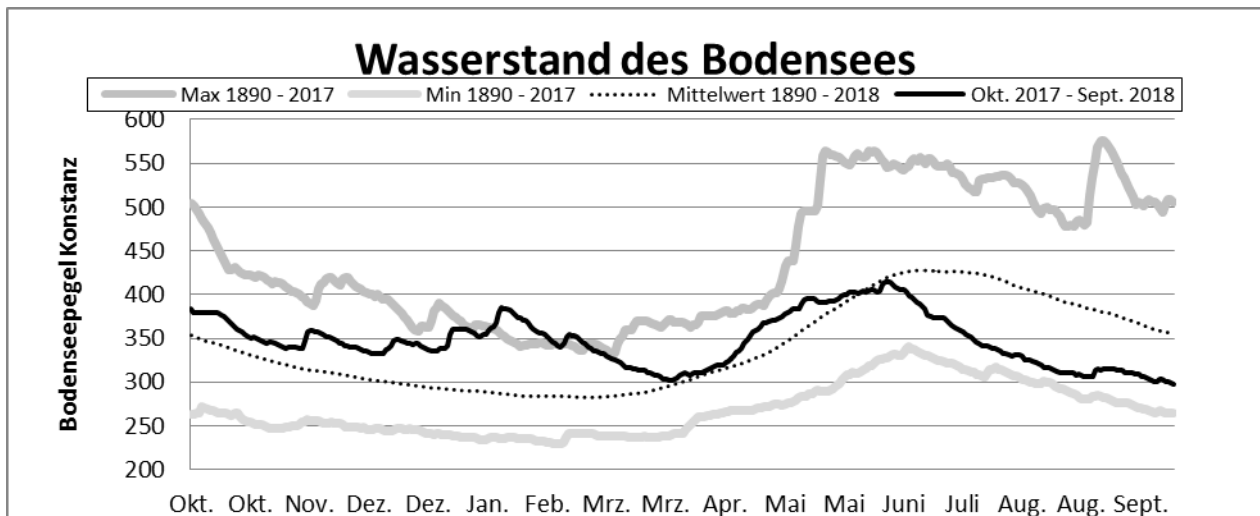


Fig. 1: Water levels of Lake Constance (Konstanz harbour water mark): from 1 October 2017 to 30 Sept. 2018) (continuous black line); mean values from 1890 to 2018 (dotted line); seasonal maximum and minimum values between 1890 and 2017 (grey lines).

### 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes

In spite of the unusual dryness and heat during the vegetational period, many relevant species achieved significant flowering results:

A positive development could be observed above all with the characteristic types of **moor grass meadows** (*Molinion*): New record values could be reported in the year under review for the **marsh gladioli** (*Gladiolus palustris*) with a total stock of 5,430 (2017 = 2,173; 2015 = 5,062) flowering plants, and for the **Chinese chive** (*Allium suaveolens*) with 215,821 (2017 = 85,784) flowering stems in the test areas. The **viper's grass** (*Scorzonera humilis*) which had decreased to 11 flower heads could regenerate to 281 flower heads.

Most of the species in soakages could recover from the decreases caused by the flood waters in 2016: **bird's eye primula** (*Primula farinosa*) developed 18,917 (2017 = 736), the **bladder gentian** (*Gentiana utriculosa*) 1,671 (2017= 28) and the **lax-flowered marsh orchid** (*Orchis palustris*) 127 (2017 = 58) flowering stems. However, all three species remained clearly below their maximum values. An above-average result was reached by the **summer ladies tresses** (*Spiranthes aestivalis*) with 1,455 (2017 = 113) inflorescences and the **purple lousewort** (*Pedicularis palustris*) with 569,614 (2017 = 478) pedicels.

A new record could be achieved by the Southern horsetail (*Equisetum x meridionale*) which is only registered in „Kindlebild“ with 334 (2017 = 26) detected plants. The **hedge hissop** (*Gratiola officinalis*) could recover from the poor result of the previous year with 8,800 vegetative shoots (2017 = 348). The only appearance known so far of the **Greater Spearwort** (*Ranunculus lingua*) at the reeds edge near Felbenrain had been extinguished since 2013, but in the year under review 5 blooming plants could be recorded in a ditch north of Wäglirain.

The early-flowering plants among the dry-habitat species showed a positive development: Das **green-winged orchid** (*Orchis morio*) could endure to last with 272 (2017 = 217) specimens and the **rare spring sedge** (*Carex ericetorum*) recovered with 63 blooming plants from its low stock of the previous year (2017 = 26). However, late-flowering species declined, presumably due to the summer dryness: the stocks of the **burnt orchid** (*Orchis ustulata* agg.) fell from 106 blossoms in the year 2017 to 10 in 2018, and the **keeled garlic** (*Allium carinatum*) decreased from 72 in 2017 to 33 flower heads.

From the **bug orchid** (*Orchis coriophora*) that had been weak last year already (2017 = 4), only one plant came into bloom in the traditional habitat, and the spontaneous distribution that was discovered in 2015 presumably fell victim to the floodwaters of 2016.

#### **Bibershof beach meadow** (report by Irene Strang)

The situation of the banks vegetation including the beach meadows depends largely on the fluctuating water levels of the Lake of Constance. In the reporting year, the water levels were particular in two respects: in autumn until winter 2017, the water level was far above average, and the beach meadows were in some places in the reach of surging billows. This enhanced erosion and is probably the reason why in Bibershof and many other places on the Untersee banks the **shore weed** (*Littorella uniflora*) decreased again. The stocks of the **creeping spearwort** (*Ranunculus reptans*) growing at somewhat higher areas remained stable on a low level. Only moderate losses were recorded for the **water forget-me-not** (*Myosotis rehsteineri*); for instance a stock with about 30 rosettes was washed away on the erosion brink.

Since the water level constantly remained below average since mid-June 2018, numerous annual herbs but also willows could settle on the open gravel areas. These will probably disappear when the next floodwaters come, but it is possible that some beach meadow species will re-conquer lower zones.

#### **Occurrence of neophytes**

Expansive newly immigrated plant species continued to proliferate favored by only little and short floods, by groundwater tables far away from the surface due lack of precipitations, and the poor vegetational cover. The stocks of most of the species established in the protected area could thus continue to spread despite targeted combating measures (see chapter 10.1.1)

In particular the **late golden rod** (*Solidago gigantea*) and less dominantly the **Canada golden rod** (*S. canadensis*) conquered new growth sites whereas the density of established stocks remained stable. The **grass leaved golden rod** (*S. graminifolia*) increased again. The **red touch-me-not** (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has after two years more than compensated the losses of the 2016 flood. The **Japanese knotweed** (*Reynoutria japonica*) which had appeared only in the northern periphery of the nature reserve and had been consequently combated has largely disappeared leaving only minor residual stocks. Only the occurrence of **Jerusalem artichoke** (*Helianthus tuberosus*) at the Reichenau beach barrier has remained practically unchanged since many years.

- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

#### **Birds (Aves)**

The monthly counts of waterfowl were continued in the winter months 2017/18. For many species of the beach and shallow water zone, the development of the water level was extremely unfavourable. End of January/beginning of February the water level reached the “all-time peak” since 1850. The

maximum daily value was only 35,000 individuals in October 2017. Nevertheless the daily values recorded for the following waterfowl species reached national and international significance: 7,400 **gaswalls** (*Anas strepera*) in November, 2,800 **Common teals** (*Anas crecca*) in November, 1,500 **pin-tailed ducks** (*Anas acuta*) in January, 5,100 **red-crested pochards** (*Netta rufina*) in February, 13,200 **common pochards** (*Aythya ferina*) in October, and 4,400 **tufted ducks** (*Aythya fuligula*) in January. In addition, up to 14 **Bewick swans** (*Cygnus bewickii*), 78 **whooper swans** (*Cygnus cygnus*) and 280 **Eurasian curlews** (*Numenius arquata*) hibernated in the reserve. The whooper swans and Bewick swans were forced by the high water level to leave the area prematurely.

The monthly waterfowl counts from May to August and complimentary controls showed maximum daily values of 16,800 moulting waterbirds spending the summer in the nature reserve. The lake's level dropped rapidly from July onwards which reduced the protected shallow water zone and caused displacement. Nevertheless the stocks of more than 3,000 **red-crested pochards** (*Netta rufina*) and almost 3,000 **gaswalls** (*Anas strepera*) underlined the particular importance of the protected area in summer-time.

Although the lake level seemed to be quite favorable for the breeding birds in the reed bed, the breeding success of diving birds and ducks remained far behind the expectations. Probably the reed zone offered only limited breeding opportunities due to the below-average water level. The **black-necked grebes** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) failed again to show any breeding success (2017=0, 2016=8 families), the number of **great crested grebes** (*Podiceps cristatus*) remained low in comparison to 2017 with 68 families and 113 young birds (2017=74, 2016=156 families), and for the **little grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) only 7 families with 9 young could be registered (2017=8, 2016=17 families). It was rewarding to verify the existence of a family of **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) with 2 young; a **common pochard** (*Aythya ferina*) looked after 8 young birds (whether or not their own species) and a **tufted duck** (*Aythya fuligula*) cared for just 3 young red-crested pochards. Only 8 families with 35 young birds were counted from the **red-crested pochard** (*Netta rufina*) (2017=16, 2016=11 families).

In the main, the populations of breeding birds in the reed bed area showed only little changes compared to the previous years; however, the population of the **little bittern** (*Ixobrychus minutus*) dropped to 2 territories (2017=7, 2016=3), the **Savi's warbler** (*Locustella luscinioides*) achieved 17 territories (2017=13, 2016=18). The **great reed warbler** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) with 28 territories remained nearly unchanged (2017=27, 2016=38). From the **bearded tit** (*Panurus biarmicus*) 34 territories were counted again (2017=34, 2016=41). At least 69 couples of the **common tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) bred on their rafts with little success (2017=76, 2016=64). Further 15 late hatches were abandoned prematurely due to the low water level.

### **Butterflies (Lepidoptera)**

The abundance of all butterflies in the protected area seemed to be strikingly small in the reporting year. This was confirmed by semi-quantitative counts of the three **large blue species** (*Maculinea spec.*): Between 10 June and 07 July 2018, just 65 specimens of the **scarce large blue** (*Maculinea teleius*) could be counted in the entire protected area (2017 = 346). From the **dark large blue** (*M. nausithous*) a total of 21 (2017 = 79) was verified between 18 June and 09 July 2018. B. Porer could verify on 05 July 2018 two flying males of the species **alcon large blue** (*M. alcon*). The search for eggs of this species conducted in August and September was unsuccessful as in the two previous years.

### **Dragon flies (Odonata)**

In a count of the **Siberian winter damselfly** (*Sympecma paedisca*) commissioned by LUBW, during two walking inspections on 03 and 19 September 2018, Martin Hoffmann succeeded in verifying a total of 32 adult individual specimens, half of them in the Kindlebild area. This was the lowest population since 2006 with 2 specimens.

In addition, one specimen of the **Common Winter Damselfly** (*Sympecma fusca*) could be observed on 03 September 2018 in the area „Zügwiesen“.

## **7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context**

### **7.1. Cultural heritage**

#### **7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage** no changes

### **7.2. Socio-economic context**

#### **7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context**

The high pressure on land around the nature reserve continues. In the area „Göldern“ near the Reichenau railway station and also in the surroundings of the airfield Konstanz, natural areas are transformed into industrial estates. The isolation of the nature reserve is thus more and more increased and the survival of demanding species is dramatically jeopardized. These problems will be further increased when new traffic routes separate the interlinking corridors from the nature reserve which must be expected in case that the cycling path requested by Reichenau citizens is built.

## 8. Education and scientific interest

### 8.1. Visitors – Information policy

8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)  
In the framework of the new construction of the NABU-Bodensee-Zentrum (see chapter 2 f), a new visitors' exhibition was established with the **Eurasian curlew** (*Numenius arquata*) in the centre-stage. Information boards point out to the European Diploma in a prominent place.

8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)  
In the reporting period, a total of 1,316 participants were informed in 104 guided excursions on the beauty and vulnerability of the Wollmatinger Ried. 462 visitors discovered the European Diploma area from the water side in 30 scientific boat trips along the nature reserve borders. In addition, 599 visitors of the exhibition NABU nature reserve centre Wollmatinger Ried were counted.

8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)  
The Council of Europe expert Dr. Brunner visited the nature reserve Wollmatinger Ried on 11/12 July 2018 to review the preconditions for a renewal of the European Diploma. The inspection was organised by the Regierungspräsidium Freiburg in cooperation with NABU. Representatives of the nature protection management, of local authorities, NABU and fishery participated as well.

On 13 October 2018, the new „NABU-Bodensee-Zentrum“ was inaugurated. Franz Untersteller, Minister of Environment, appreciated in his address the great importance of Wollmatinger Ried for the protection of species and the highly improved working conditions for the maintenance of the site.

### 8.2. Scientific research

8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)  
no changes

### 8.2.2. Scientific publications

Werner S., H.-G. Bauer, G. Heine, H. Jacoby & H. Stark (2018): „55 Jahre Wasservogelzählung am Bodensee: Bestandsentwicklung der Wasservögel von 1961/62 bis 2015/16“ Ornithol. Beob. Beiheft 13 (*55 years of waterfowl counting on the Lake of Constance: development of the population of waterfowl from 1961/62 to 2015/16*).

## 9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations  
no changes

9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)  
no changes

9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)  
no changes

## 10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

### 10.1. Improvements made

10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna  
Due to the water levels in winter, the mowing of litter meadows could not be fully carried out since in particular the islands of Langenrain and Kopf could not be handled with large equipment. Most of the pastures south-east of the site were mown twice. The grazing with Scottish highland cattle on 6 ha south of the sewage treatment plant was continued as well.  
Due to the low water-levels in summer, a premature litter meadow mowing in 55 ha could be started in order to combat nutrient enrichment, scrub encroachment, and spreading of neophyte. For this



purpose, a total of 54 selected areas with sizes between 0.1 and 5.7 ha were mown until 10 October 2018 at staggered points of time and space.

The known occurrences of the neophytes **Canada golden rod** (*Solidago canadensis*), **late golden rod** (*S. gigantea*), **grass leaved golden rod** (*S. graminifolia*) and **red touch-me-not** (*Impatiens glandulifera*) were combated mechanically one to three times. **Jerusalem artichokes** (*Helianthus tuberosus*) were mown in July with the brushcutter. Some small remaining occurrences of **Japanese knotweed** (*Reynoutria japonica*) were mown three times.

- 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)  
no changes
- 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)  
no changes
- 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)  
no changes
- 10.1.5. Waste management  
no changes
- 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems  
no changes
- 10.2. Management
  - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made  
no changes
  - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made  
no changes
  - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures  
no changes
  - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action  
no changes

## 11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

The European Diploma is an important additional argument to take nature protection concerns adequately into account when the pros and cons in the surrounding areas are weighted.

The Wollmatinger Ried was awarded the European Council's European Diploma for the first time in 1968. In 1973, the International Council for Bird Preservation declared the area European Nature Reserve, and since 1976 the reed landscape together with the adjacent lake bays rank among the wetlands of international importance on the basis of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971.

The Wollmatinger Ried is in addition protected by the European nature reserve system Natura 2000 as FFH and bird sanctuary. (FFH-Gebiet Bodanrück und westlicher Bodensee, SPA-Gebiet Untersee des Bodensees)

For the nature protection authorities in Baden-Württemberg, the European Diploma is so to speak "the icing on the cake" for various nature reserve categories.

The European Diploma logo is therefore used in various leaflets, signposts and information boards for the reed.

In the public, in local authorities and in the tourism sector of the region, the European Diploma has the meaning of a quality label emphasizing the high importance of the nature reserve.