



## Natura 2000 site Lendspitz-Maiernigg

The Natura 2000 site Lendspitz-Maiernigg was nominated in 2005 and is situated within the eastern part of Lake Wörthersee. Its 500 m long natural shoreline represents the last fully intact habitat in this anthropogenic area. The site was legally designated in 2010 and is thus a site of European importance for nature conservation. The 77.4 ha site is based on two landscape protected areas (Lendspitz-Siebenhügel and Maiernigg), which were already placed under protection in 1970. It includes 8 different wetland types, which provide a suitable habitat for several endangered animal and plant species.

*Figure 1: The Natura 2000 Site is situated at the lake*

*Wörthersee and incorporates the natural lake shore with the adjacent wetlands and alder forests. © ECO Archeopterix/Hecke*



Figure 2: Within the part of Lendspitz there are wet meadows still maintained (FFH-Types *Molinia meadows* and *Calcareous fens*. © E.C.O./Orsaria



Figure 3. Alder forests offer habitat for amphibians and the ground beetle species *Carabus variolosus nodulosus*. © E.C.O.

The area is valuable as a bird area: 180 different bird species have been observed and documented in the last 40 years. It is especially important for water bird species such as the common little bittern (Birds Directive Annex 1), the moorhen, the coot and the Savi's warbler. It also functions as a steppingstone habitat for migratory birds from the north in winter. Additionally, common kingfisher, red-backed shrike and five different woodpecker species such as the grey-headed woodpecker, the black woodpecker (Birds Directive Annex 1), the green woodpecker, the spotted woodpecker and the Eurasian wryneck can be observed in the area.

Also of European importance are the tiny and rare snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*, which hides in the reed belt and grazes algae from wetland grasses as well as the dice snake, a nonvenomous water snake, that preys on small fish in the shallow water zone of the lake.

Within the group of mammals, the beaver is a relevant species. It has been recorded within the area since 2004 and its trails and felt willow trees can be recognized especially in winter. Also, eleven different bat species use the area as feeding site. Mentionable among them is the lesser horseshoe bat, which is protected by the Fauna Flora Habitat Directive, Annex II.

During the GEO-Day of Biodiversity in 2015, 45 biologists detected 1000 different animal and plant species within 24 hours. In 2015, the current management plan was elaborated by E.C.O. Institute of Ecology. Since then, many conservation and awareness-raising measures have been implemented as part of the 'City meets Nature' project. The aim of the measures is to preserve and safeguard the natural character of the area and to protect and to develop habitats for the endangered species. The biggest challenge is to find the balance between nature conservation and recreational use.



*Figure 4: The lake itself was categorized as oligotroph waterbody with stonewort vegetation in 2015. In the frame of the project „City meets Nature – Habitat improvement for moor frog & Co “, distance pieces were set into the water to protect the reed belt. © E.C.O.*

The nomination of the area as a Ramsar site is in progress. This award for sustainably managed wetlands ('wise use') will help the city of Klagenfurt gain international recognition.