

AUSTRIA



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General

Austria - officially the Republic of Austria - is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is bordered by the Czech Republic and Germany in the North, Hungary and Slovakia in the East, Slovenia and Italy in the South, and Switzerland and Liechtenstein in the West. The territory of Austria covers 8.39 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 9.0 million, or 1.07 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

The greater part of Austria lies in the cool/temperate climate zone, where humid westerly winds predominate. In the East - in the Pannonian Plain and along the Danube valley - the climate shows continental features with less rain than in the alpine areas. Although Austria is cold in the winter (-10 to 0 °C), summer temperatures can be relatively high, with average temperatures of 25 °C.

The terrain of Austria is highly mountainous, lying within the Alps. The Central Eastern Alps, Northern Limestone Alps and Southern Limestone Alps are all partly in Austria. Of the total area of Austria, only about a quarter can be considered low lying, and only 32% of the country is below 500 m+MSL (mean sea level). The Alps of western Austria give way somewhat into low lands and plains in the eastern part of the country.

Existing polders

The Group Polder Development (1982) identified one polder, called Vorarlberger Rheindelta Polder (Figure 1). The polder is located near the entrance of the Rhine River in the Bodensee. The crest level of the dike is 0.5 m above the highest lake level. There are three pumping stations. General characteristics of this polder are shown in Table I.

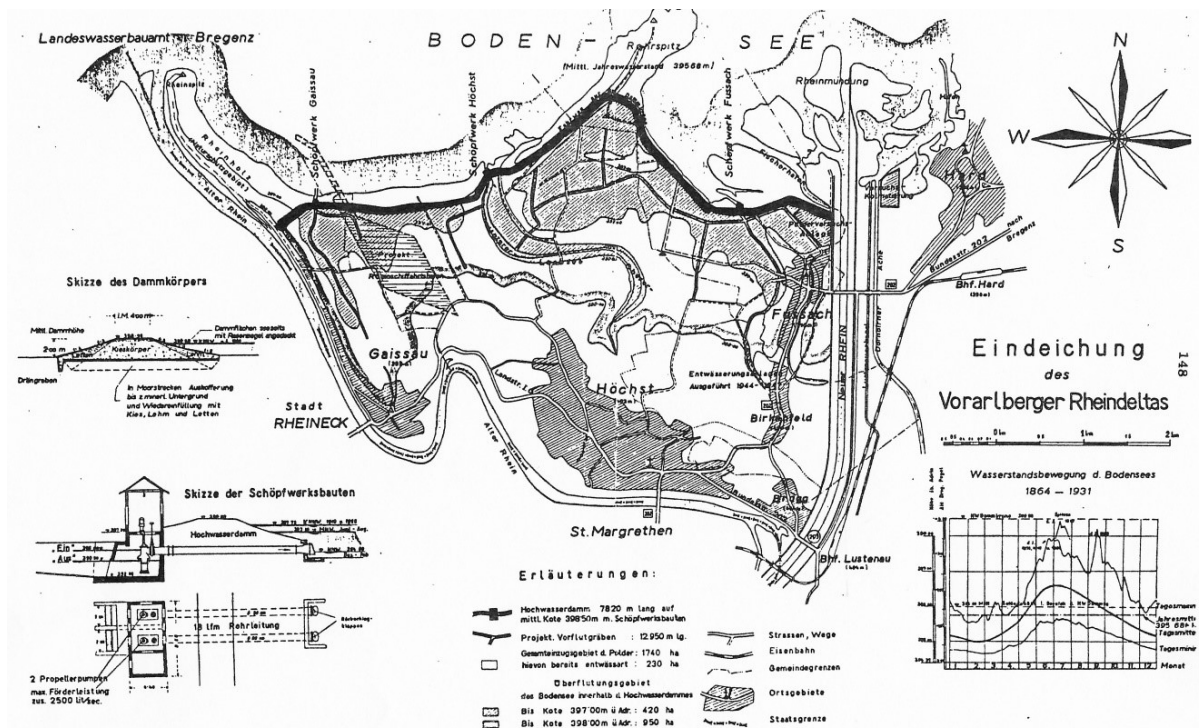


Figure 1. Vorarlberger Rheindelta Polder (Group Polder Development, 1982)

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

References

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982.

Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects. Delft, the Netherlands

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, 2018. *A shared river. Managing the Danube River Basin.* Vienna, Austria.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision.* New York, USA.

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Lelystad, March 2022

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Austria

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Voraldberger Rheindelta Polder	1964	1000	RLL	47° 29' N	9° 38' E	395	Rural area
Total		1000					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake