

**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)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2020

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: Switzerland	
Name of the area: Swiss National Park (SNP)/ Parc Naziunal Svizzer	
Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: Since 1967, last renewal 2012	
Central authority concerned:	
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¹ 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.

In the letter addressed to Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard on 11th July 2012 concerning the successful renewal of the European Diploma for the Swiss National Park (SNP), no conditions were mentioned.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations that 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. take all necessary measures to fulfil the UNESCO condition that the national park, which is the core zone of the "Biosfera Val Müstair/Parc Naziunal" biosphere reserve, be entirely surrounded by a buffer zone;

Building on the plan to expand the regional nature park and thus the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve into the municipalities of Scuol and Valsot (see Annual Report 2018), an assessment study was undertaken that showed the area's potential for sustainable management in accordance with UNESCO and federal guidelines. In addition, an evaluation a study was commissioned to investigate show the legal consequences for spatial planning.

Partners in this project are the municipalities of Val Müstair, Valsot, Scuol and the Swiss National Park.

For now, the municipalities of Zernez and S-chanf are not partners in this project, but they do have currently observer status and could participate in the project at any time.

The process of enlargement of the biosphere reserve will continue in 2021.

2. ensure that staff numbers are sufficient to comply with existing requirements and grant sufficient additional resources with a view to the celebration in 2014 of the 100 year jubilee;

Done

3. continue to raise awareness for the return of large carnivores among local inhabitants, municipalities and visitors, working in close cooperation with the Hunting and Fisheries Department of the canton of Grisons;

In 2020, a referendum took place in Switzerland on a new hunting law, which intended to delegate the management of wolves and other large carnivores from the federal government to the cantons. The new law was rejected, and large carnivores will continue to be strictly protected. Nonetheless, the local population must be involved in this issue. The SNP has applied to the federal government for a major project that will 1) record and document wolf presence in the entire Engiadina greater area; 2) regularly assess acceptance among the local population; 3) analyse the effects of wolves on other species (ungulates, red foxes, small mammals), and 4) conduct vegetation surveys to study the effects of large carnivore presence on the ecosystem in and around the SNP. The project will be carried out in cooperation with the Office for Hunting and Fisheries of the Canton of Grisons and academic partners. It will take place in the greater region of the SNP:

We would like to make a contribution to the ongoing discussion based on scientific grounds. The project is expected to be approved by the end of 2020 and to start in 2021.

4. initiate studies in collaboration with the different ministries and authorities concerned with the possibilities of minimising the impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road;

The measures implemented in 2017 have been successful. We have improved visitor safety by means of speed reductions at road crossings. Nevertheless, traffic noise is still a problem. The current situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic allowed us to further investigate noise (or now silence) near the road during lockdown in April and May 2020. It stimulated a new PhD project investigating the impact of traffic noise on (forest-breeding) songbirds. The study started in July 2020 and will provide us with new evidence on the impact of traffic noise on wildlife species in the SNP.

5. continue the close cooperation with the neighbouring Stelvio National Park;

Covid-19 has stopped many national and international personal contacts, also with the Stelvio Park ~~ss~~ management. Nevertheless, on the operational level (surveillance of poaching activities, bearded vulture breeding or exchange of data on marked ungulates), the collaboration has continued to work well throughout.

6. consider the extension of the European Diploma area to include the whole of the Biosphere Reserve.

Currently, the focus is on enlarging the area based on Swiss law to receive the status of a "Swiss Park of National Importance" by 2024. The process to reach the European Diploma could be started around 2030.

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.

In 2020 - probably for the first time in centuries - the 3 large predators bear, wolf and lynx have been present in the SNP at the same time. A real milestone in conservation! Moreover, the presence of the otter (*Lutra lutra*) could be confirmed. Thus, 4 apex predators have been present in the SNP this year.

The new director of the Swiss National Park, Dr. Ruedi Haller, started on 1st October 2019. As a longtime employee – Ruedi Haller started his SNP career in 1997 – he is familiar with most of the current important topics. Therefore, he could start work in his new role without a major orientation phase. On 1st January 2020, a new organizational structure was implemented, introducing a new department "Nature Protection and Nature Conservation Management" as one of the three pillars of the SNP. The others are "Research and Monitoring" and "Communication and Public Relations".

In January, the SNP received the official status as "Park of National Importance". The status allows the SNP to request financial support from the canton of Grisons, as well as from the municipalities. This process is still ongoing. Nevertheless, the current status is very promising: 16 of 19 municipalities have announced their support. The canton has submitted the budget to the legislative council, which will decide in December 2020 on the period over the next 4 years.

Obviously, Covid-19 affected the SNP management in different ways. First, the lockdown starting mid-March 2020 forced the administration staff into home office. Thanks to some adaptations to travel, the surveillance of the area was guaranteed and compliance with park rules ensured at all times.

The summer season 2020 was characterized by an increase of approx. 50% of guests in the area. On the one hand an advantage, because we were able to allow many visitors a fine nature experience. On the other hand, an extra effort for the staff, dealing with many unexperienced visitors, many of whom were aware neither of the high mountain conditions nor the rules of the SNP.

The effects on nature could not be analysed in detail yet and will require some work over the next months and maybe years.

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.

No changes

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.

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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
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

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.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 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.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

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

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

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
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
 - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
 - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

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