

State	Switzerland
Name of the area	Swiss National Park (SNP)/Parc Naziunal Svizzer
European Diploma for Protected Areas	Since 1967, last renewal 2012
Central authority concerned	Federal Commission of the Swiss National Park Franz-Sepp Stulz, President Steinigenweg 1 CH-1712 Tafers
Authority responsible for its management	Prof. Dr. Heinrich Haller Director of the Swiss National Park Chastè Planta-Wildenberg CH-7530 Zernez Tel. 0041 81 851 41 11 Fax 0041 81 851 41 12  E-Mail: heinrich.haller@nationalpark.ch Internet: www.nationalpark.ch

#### 1. Conditions

In the letter addressed to federal councillor Doris Leuthard on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012, concerning the successful renewal of the European Diploma for the Swiss National Park (SNP), no conditions were mentioned.

#### 2. Recommendations

##### 2.1. Reservat da Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair (new name)

"Prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour remplir la condition posée par l'UNESCO, qui demande que le parc national qui constitue le coeur de la réserve de la biosphère "Biosfera Val Müstair/Parc Naziunal" soit entièrement entouré par une zone tampon"

The Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair Reserve was definitively recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2017. The Reserve consists of the following three - equal - partners: the Swiss National Park (core zone), the Regional Nature Park Biosfera Val Müstair, and the Engadine buffer zone and transitional area (part of the Scuol municipality).

Following the previous year's institutional and personnel turbulences in the Regional Nature Park Biosfera Val Müstair (see 2017 annual report) relations have now stabilised. The valley population has clearly given its backing to the Nature Park, which has been given a new legal structure, and since June 2018 is under new management. The new manager is a local person, which allows us to hope that there will now be a period of continuity.

The Scuol municipality wishes to further its relation as a partner of the Biosphere Reserve. This is also due to the fact that Swiss subsidies can be more easily focussed on recognised domestic institutions. This area is therefore being examined for potential development as a regional nature park. At the same time a further expansion is envisaged, wherefore contact has been made with the neighbouring Valsot municipality.

The Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair Reserve functions as a consortium, which means that to reach political and management consensus constant dialogue is required. Communication with the local population is proceeding well; nevertheless the AkIdEn Project (acceptance, identification and engagement) has shown clearly that there is still room for potential development in this respect.

## 2.2. Human resources and "100-year SNP" jubilee

"Veiller à ce que le personnel soit assez nombreux pour satisfaire aux exigences actuelles et prévoir des moyens supplémentaires suffisants pour faire face aux célébrations du centenaire en 2014"

The National Park jubilee in 2014 was in every sense a resounding success, and now belongs to history.

## 2.3. Communication concerning large predators

"Continuer à sensibiliser la population locale, les municipalités et les visiteurs au retour des grands carnivores en travaillant en étroite coopération avec le service de la chasse et de la pêche du canton des Grisons"

Being a scientist who has previously spent many years on the subject of the lynx, the writer is concerned that the ground for large predators in the SNP (and the surrounding area) must be carefully prepared. As early as 1997 we took a step in this direction with the setting up of an ongoing permanent exhibition entitled "Uors in Engiadina/Auf den Spuren der Bären" in the Schmelzra Museum in S-charl (on the eastern boundary of the SNP). Since 2005 young brown bears have made transitory appearances nearly every year in the region of the SNP. After a lynx appeared in 2007/2008, an edition of our National Park magazine "Cratschla" was dedicated to the theme of the lynx. Furthermore, since December 2016 one wolf, the female F18, has been permanently present in the SNP and its surrounding area. Further individuals have been genetically identified within the surrounding area of the SNP, but (till now) no mating with F18 has occurred. Monitoring is being carried out in collaboration with the Cantonal Office for

Hunting and Fishing. Moreover we have launched a research project concerning the wolf and its ecological impact. Within the framework of a long-term inter-disciplinary study, which is above all of interest to the (Swiss) Federal Office for the Environment, we would like to document any changes associated with the wolf.

#### 2.4. Impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road

"Etudier, avec les différents ministères ou administrations concernés, la possibilité de limiter au minimum l'impact de la route qui franchit la Pass dal Fuorn"

The measures implemented in 2017 to improve safety along the Pass dal Fuorn road have proved successful. This refers mainly to the improved safety around the parking areas, but we assume that traffic calming has occurred to a certain extent, and certainly within the areas subject to the new 60km/h speed limit.

#### 2.5. Collaboration with Stelvio National Park

"Poursuivre l'étroite coopération avec le Parc national voisin de Stelvio"

Over the years the collaboration established between our two parks has been intensified and works satisfactorily.

The Stelvio National Park now consists of three independent territorial units. The SNP team works mainly with the directly neighbouring Lombard area, where wildlife population counts and territory controls are conducted jointly. Cooperation between the different units works well; the latest meeting with the authorities in Bormio took place on 25 October 2018 (in conjunction with a combined exercise to combat poaching).

#### 2.6. SNP Extension

"Etudier la possibilité d'élargir la zone diplômée à l'ensemble de la réserve de la biosphère"

As mentioned in paragraph 2.1. the Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair Reserve is still in the early stages; two of the three partners must still gain stability. Furthermore the possible expansion of the protection area in the buffer zone and development area in the municipalities of Scuol and eventually Valsot are not yet ripe for discussion. We recommend waiting for this situation to develop with the aim, in due course, of examining a possible award of the European Diploma to the whole protection area complex. Of course we would be very pleased to be granted new recognition in this sense; this must wait though for the time to be right.

### 3. Site Management

There were no problems within the National Park administration during the current year. The Federal National Park Commission (ENPK) continues its work under its president Franz-Sepp Stulz. An important task for the commission was the election of a new director, as the current director will be going into retirement in 2019 - after 23 years at the helm. On 15<sup>th</sup> November

2018, Dr. Ruedi Haller was elected as the new director of the National Park. He will take up his new post on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

No fundamental changes occurred in the natural environment of the National Park. It is worth mentioning that there were heavy snowfalls in the winter of 2017/2018; this led to an increase in the winter mortality of the ungulate population, which was reduced by almost a quarter. The summer was extremely warm and very dry, with heavy local storms. This combination led to debris flows and consequent damage to footpaths. Fortunately nobody was affected. Basically, it must always be emphasised that the Swiss National Park is a wilderness area whose principal role is to allow natural processes to take place, document them and report findings observed.

The financial problems mentioned in last year's annual report could be resolved to some extent, thanks to the goodwill of the federal authorities. Nevertheless there are further funding needs for annual operations and investments. The working group mandated by the ENPK is seeking further possibilities of generating additional funding.

#### **4. Boundaries**

No changes

#### **5. Other Information**

For our protected area, to be awarded the European Diploma over decades is an honour as well as recognition of its importance. Of course we take the opportunity to communicate this wherever and whenever appropriate (e.g. [www.nationalpark.ch](http://www.nationalpark.ch)).

Heinrich Haller is most grateful for the excellent collaboration during his long term of office as National Park director. The SNP is, as a nature area, institutionally and with regard to personnel, in good shape and equipped for the future. This positive appraisal is also reached in the newly published book "Am Puls der Natur". This publication, which came out at the end of October 2018, is dedicated to the outgoing director and gives an overview of developments in the SNP over the last 25 years. (Haller, R., M. Rapp & A. Hämmerle (Hrsg.) (2018): Am Puls der Natur. Der Nationalpark und sein Direktor im Spannungsfeld zwischen Forschung, Management und Politik. Nat.park-Forsch. Schweiz 108. Haupt Verlag, Bern).

The following sections (6.–11.) have not been filled in because the next renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas will be not until 2022.

CH-7530 Zernez, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018; Prof. Dr. Heinrich Haller, Director