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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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**Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for  
Protected Areas**

21-22 February 2018  
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**COMPILATION OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE  
2017 ANNUAL REPORTS**

*Document prepared by the Directorate  
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No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	1. Belgium, Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)9</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the European Union's LIFE programme;</li> <li>2) continue to acquire privately owned plots of land inside the reserve and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly owned nature reserves;</li> <li>3) continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve's European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision makers;</li> <li>4) continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse population in co-operation with the relevant European partners;</li> <li>5) ensure the sustainability of the measures taken under the LIFE Programme, which have had a very positive effect by providing the reserve with a guarantee of sufficient financial and human resources.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end.</li> </ol>	
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>2. France, Camargue National Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)5</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) study the possibility of reviving co-operation with other deltaic sites that have been awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania);</li> <li>2) grant sufficient additional resources, both financial and human, in particular with a view to the future setting up of a perimeter of protection as laid down in the law of 10 July 1976 on nature conservation, so as to guarantee management, surveillance and scientific monitoring of the reserve;</li> <li>3) ensure the strict application of limits to the discharge of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon, and pursue co-operation with rice growers in accordance with sustainable development principles, as well as to ensure the implementation of the five-year action programme as agreed by the different stakeholders;</li> <li>4) initiate studies for the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as <i>Jussiaea repens</i> (<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>) or <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>, and provide the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control;</li> <li>5) give a higher profile to the European Diploma and the work of the Council of Europe, particularly in information provided at public reception points and in leaflets on the Camargue National Reserve;</li> <li>6) control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve;</li> <li>7) prepare a plan for adaptation to climate change, including the rise in sea level.</li> </ol>	

	Conditions	1) guarantee the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2016.
	Achievements	<p>- A new management plan for the period 2016 – 2020 has been prepared. The plan was validated by different bodies (Conseil de Direction et Conseil Scientifique) and has got a favourable opinion from the Conseil Scientifique Régional Patrimoine Naturel.</p> <p>In 2017 there was notable improvement in the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as <i>Jussiaea repens</i> (<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>) or <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>, + <i>Fraxinus americana</i> particularly in the region Amphise and Capelière.</p> <p>- The new management plan (2016 – 2020) includes a plan for adaptation to climate change. In the frame of this plan the rise of sea level, the movement of dunes etc. have been monitored.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>- The lack of resources has not still permitted to revive the cooperation with other deltaic sites that have been awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania);</p> <p>- The national and regional financial resources granted to the National reserve are not sufficient to guarantee the extensive management, surveillance and scientific monitoring of the reserve;</p> <p>- Scientific studies show that the water of the reserve is contaminated by the discharge of agricultural water in the reserve (more than 60 contaminants were shown from the channel-system of Camargue out).</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The National Society for the Nature Protection (SNPN) is responsible for the management of the areas at boundaries of the National Reserve.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma is visible in the visitors centre. Since 2015, posters and leaflets with the logo of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma are also available for the public.	



<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Request the authorities to supply a copy of the management plan (2016 – 2020) to the Secretariat (last year's request).</li><li>- Encourage the authorities to pursue efforts for securing the necessary budget for ensuring an effective management and scientific monitoring of the reserve;</li><li>- Request the authorities to inform again the Secretariat of the follow up given to the studies revealing the reserve water pollution.</li></ul>
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Name of the awarded area	3. United Kingdom, Peak District National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.06.1966 / 28.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)11</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes, particularly through advice and brokerage of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations;</li> <li>2) halt and reverse the past degradation of heather moorland and blanket bog through moorland management plans, agri-environment schemes and with help from the Moors for the Future Partnership;</li> <li>3) step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species, particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland;</li> <li>4) negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites;</li> <li>5) implement with partners programmes to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, 2011-2020;</li> <li>6) maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on land owned by the National Park Authority; in addition, implement measures on authority-owned land to maximise its contribution to nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives;</li> <li>7) carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach;</li> </ol>	

		<p>8) implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner organisations, local communities and English Heritage to achieve targets;</p> <p>9) continue to provide encouragement to small-scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit;</p> <p>10) only authorise extensions of existing mineral quarries to meet essential national needs, for example, if the minerals are not available elsewhere or are needed to provide traditional building materials in the park; seek restoration of mineral quarries to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the national park;</p> <p>11) continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and the environment and supports the local economy; ensure that the National Park Authority meets the requirements of an application for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) complete the review of the national park management plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies it contains.</p>
		<p>A workshop was held to assess the effectiveness of the 2012-17 National Park Management Plan;</p> <p>Out of the 175 Actions in the Plan, approximately 145 (83%) have been completed or are on track.</p> <p>The 2018-23 Plan has been through a public consultation process and is scheduled to be adopted in May 2018, including an update of the National Park's Special Qualities.</p>

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The Authority continues to work to safeguard key habitats through negotiation of new agri-environment schemes and ensuring renewal of expiring agreements for priority sites-approximately 70% of the National Park is within agri-environment scheme agreements. However following the Brexit decision work has been ongoing to influence future policy and support systems which will secure and enhance the management of existing key habitats.</p> <p>The Authority, working through the Moors for the Future Partnership (MFF) continues to co-ordinate major landscape scale delivery across upland habitats, in particular with the launch of the €16m EU</p> <p>Practical guidance has been on conservation measures for birds (<i>Numenius</i>, <i>Vanellus Gallinago sp</i>). Partnership has begun with the University of Sheffield and RSPB focusing on Curlew and Snipe habitat requirements. In the Dark Peak surveys have shown a very positive response to moorland restoration by birds such as Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), with a reversal of past declines.</p> <p>Authority continues to implement its Cultural Heritage Strategy, working with partners and stakeholders including English Heritage. "Peak Land Lives" completed with 25 interviews of farming families.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The Authority secured a grant of £200,000 from National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative Fund to carry out landscape enhancement works to ameliorate the visual impacts of the high voltage electricity line.</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The Authority continues to champion the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark.</p> <p>The conditions and recommendations of the Diploma renewal are integrated into the National Park Management Plan and other corporate planning documents which guide the Authority's work. The Authority continues to highlight the importance of the Diploma by</p>	

	including the logo on all letters.
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.

Name of the awarded area	4. Austria, Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)7</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) review and, where necessary, improve the regulations of the protected area in order to strengthen the protection status; and devote a part of the management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park to the Krimml Waterfalls;</li> <li>2) continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural monument for future generations;</li> <li>3) avoid impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, especially in the areas around "Wasserfallboden" and "Schönangerl";</li> <li>4) maintain great vigilance regarding the development close to the falls, e.g. installations or extension of shops, as well as medical care and new touristic activities (e.g. ice-climbing);</li> <li>5) avoid as far as possible increasing light pollution;</li> <li>6) continue to pay close attention to the problem of path erosion; and ensure that visitors only use the existing paths;</li> <li>7) pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on regional birdlife, fungi (including lichens) and bryophytes, as a contribution to protect the area's typical biodiversity;</li> <li>8) strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially land owners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
		The Krimml Waterfalls will be integrated in the	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>action field running waters and wet habitats and in the chapter legal basis a separate sub-item was dedicated to the European Diploma. In all of nature conservation law administrative procedures, which take place in the surrounding area to the Krimml Waterfalls, always takes an rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument. The area of Krimml Waterfalls and the Krimml Valley are included in some scientific research projects of the Hohe Tauern National Park .</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>No efforts to avoid the spread of light pollution.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The general maintenance work on the footpath implemented and the balustrades were renovated.( Good cooperation and agreement with the Austrian Alpine Association). This year the visitors number increased slightly with 392.783 (2 thousand more than last year).</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Within the framework of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma Krimml Waterfalls, the exhibition "Panta Rhei was created by the National Park Hohe Tauern. In this exhibition the history of the European Diploma Krimml Waterfalls is presented. The exhibition was opened by the Federal President and can be visited until spring 2018. However there is no example to mention in the last year's report on the use of the EDPA logo.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.</li> <li>- Encourage again the competent authorities to step up their efforts to avoid of light pollution.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the logo of the Diploma.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	5. Germany, Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 25.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)5</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) pursue a reduction, or at least a limitation to no more than the current amount, of the concession of ground-water extraction and co-ordinate the ground-water extraction for irrigation on farmland technically and quantitatively with the activities and infrastructures of Wasserwerke Hamburg; carry out additional studies and monitoring in order to collect more information about the influences of all kinds of water extraction on species and ecosystems; and simulation modelling should be undertaken for all factors possibly influencing the groundwater level, the soil, the streams, the different types of vegetation including forests, the biotopes of red-list-species, and the natural dynamic of the whole ecosystem;</li> <li>2) pursue political recognition of the VNP's Lüneburger Heide Nature Reserve (NLH) and increase the public funding to the same level as that provided to Federal Nature Parks;</li> <li>3) reconsider the ongoing practice of agricultural funding and pursue recognition of all types of heathland cultivation and all heathland restoration activities as a kind of 'green land cultivation' with the same amount of funding, especially during the EU-funding period 2013-2020;</li> <li>4) pursue the continuation of funding for the rearing of the "Heidschnucke" (Heathland sheep) by Lower Saxony and the Federal Republic and recognise the "Dülmener Pferde" (Heathland horses) as worthy of subsidy by the rear-premium of Lower Saxony;</li> <li>5) develop a concept for connecting the large heathlands areas east and west of Wilsede by an ecological corridor;</li> </ol>	



		<p>6) pursue restoration of streams, their associated wetland biotopes and their buffer strips;</p> <p>7) reduce areas with cultivation of energy-crops to a level that does not affect the nature reserve's flora, fauna, groundwater and the scenic attractions;</p> <p>8) continue ecological forest management and convert mono-croppings of spruce into mixed forests including oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.);</p> <p>9) ensure that existing scientific data are included and respected in regional planning processes and also ensure that negative impacts on the nature reserve from outside the area's boundary are prevented; before licensing a wind farm, or any other project in the neighbourhood of the reserve, carry out sufficient and detailed studies taking into account the formulated VNP recommendations;</p> <p>10) complete the database of Lower Saxony concerning FFH-Species so that all species existing in the reserve are listed and considered in regional, national and federal planning procedures;</p> <p>11) create suitable ecological corridors between the nature reserve and the black grouse biotopes outside the reserve without endangering infrastructures such as like wind turbines;</p> <p>12) realise the concept of buffer zone areas with a high protection status in the neighbouring areas of the nature reserve;</p> <p>13) establish a corps of rangers (Naturwacht).</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>- Legal lifting of ground water was set to 12.1 million m<sup>3</sup>, no higher extraction rates, as these would damage the ground water table severely.</p> <p>- The ongoing practice of agricultural funding and</p>

		<p>pursue recognition of all types of heathland cultivation and all heathland restoration activities are not managed properly. Dry European heathland with <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and formations of <i>Juniperus communis</i> have to be considered as agricultural land. The case of the "100 tree rule" indicates a lot of problems in management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While there is financial support to the rearing of the heathland sheep, the heathland horses are still not eligible to grants.</li> <li>- An ecological restoration scheme was carried out on various streams in the nature reserve throughout the past years. Last working stages were carried out in 2017 and the program concerning the restoration of "Haverbeeke" brook was completed successfully. The restoration of wetlands is important to improve the habitat quality of highly endangered ground breeding birds such as curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) or common snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>).</li> <li>- Six part time rangers were employed financed from April to October, but there was still no public funding for this ranger service in 2017. In 2017 new guidelines concerning financing of reserve management were established by the State of Lower Saxony.</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<p>Shortcomings are noted in almost all the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An ecological corridor linking the heathland and west of Wilsede is still not created;</li> <li>- There is no single database that encompasses all up-to-date ecological data;</li> </ul> <p>There are still severe lacks of information concerning bats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No measures were taken by the regional authorities to create, improve or safeguard ecological corridors for the black grouse (<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>).</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		<p>In 2017 wolves attacked herded sheep flocks in the Lüneburger Heide nature reserve twice. Both attacks took place at day time while shepherds and their dogs were present and herding the sheep flocks. The shepherds could chase the wolves away. There is a lack of</p>

	<p>information on how to handle wolves. The nutria (<i>Myocastor coypus</i>) is a new invasive species that causes damage to wetland vegetation and mussels in brooks and ponds.</p>
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The EDPA logo is found in the VNP (Verein Naturshutzpark) homepage.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Encourage the authorities to pursue the efforts to comply with and implement the recommendations conditioning the renewal of the European Diploma;</p>

Name of the awarded area	6. Sweden, Muddus National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)2</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new "Laponiatjouttjudus" (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;</li> <li>2) continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;</li> <li>3) establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Lapponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;</li> <li>4) continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change;</li> <li>5) assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact);</li> <li>6) consider linking the Muddus National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Lapponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;</li> <li>7) reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention and National Park Service) with a</li> </ol>	

		view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	The management plan is available in English; In 2017 the Management Board (Laponiatjuottjudus) intensified the work on investigating the suspected establishment of lodgepole pine ( <i>Pinus contorta</i> ) in the National Park. During 2017 Laponiatjuottjudus has estimated the visitor flows in Muddus/Muttos by using data from visitor counters. The visitor cabins in the National park are equipped with books containing suitable information about the area that among others mentions the European Diploma.
	Shortcomings	The predator situation remains a problem. There is still no inventory. The management has not been granted access to existing database systems used by the former county management (CAB). Similarly to Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks:  Laponiatjuottjudus operated at a limited level due to the limited funding.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The new visitor entrance opened in Muddus in 2017	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The visibility of the European Diploma has been improved.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to explore the feasibility and the relevance of linking Muddus National Park with Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks;</li> </ul>	

	<p>- Urge the authorities to inventory the predators and to create a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area.</p>
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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>7. Sweden, Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)3</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the "Laponiatjouttjudus" (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;</li> <li>2) continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;</li> <li>3) establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Lapponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;</li> <li>4) closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing;</li> <li>5) set up a system for estimating the number of visitors, their profile and distribution over the year and initiate a research programme on the long-term impact of the different human activities (e.g. reindeer herding, fishing and tourism) on the landscape, and design a programme to monitor the effects of the climatic change;</li> <li>6) build and equip as soon as possible the visitor information centre in Stora Sjöfallet for the Lapponia World Heritage site and provide specific information on the different National Parks; establish a network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks and communicate</li> </ol>	

		<p>about the different categories of international designations;</p> <p>7) consider linking the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with the Muddus National Park and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;</p> <p>8) reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>The recommendations for Muddus EDPA and these parks are almost identical, and thus only the ones specific for Sarek-Padjelanta will be commented here.</p> <p>The Management Board (Laponiatjuottjudus) was cooperating with the authorities and working to encourage visitors and inhabitants to comply with existing laws and regulations in the parks. In 2017 they used three visitor counters in strategic places in Sarek and Padjelanta / Badjelánnda National Parks.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Similarly to Muddus National Park, Laponiatjuottjudus operated at a limited level due to the limited funding.</p> <p>The feasibility and the relevance of linking Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with Muddus National Park were not explored as this is a question to be considered by the Management Board.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		



<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information on the visibility and the use of the logo is provided. It is mentioned: „The Naturum Lapponia visitor information center in Stora Sjöfallet was officially opened in the autumn of 2014 and it consist of a large building including an exhibition area, a café and an auditorium.... We are planning to develop some suitable information materials that among others mentions and explains the EDPA nomination.”</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo; - Request the authorities to explore the feasibility and the relevance of merging Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with Muddus National Park.</p>

Name of the awarded area	8. Switzerland, Swiss National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)6</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3) continue to raise among local inhabitants, municipalities and visitors, the awareness of the return of large carnivores, working in close co-operation with the Hunting and Fishing Department of the county of Graubünden;</li> <li>4) initiate studies with the different ministries and authorities concerned on the possibilities of minimising the impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road;</li> <li>5) continue the close co-operation with the neighbouring Stelvio National Park;</li> <li>6) consider the enlargement of the European Diploma area to include the whole of the Biosphere Reserve.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>In 2017 UNESCO officially recognised the Engiadina Val Müstair Biosphere Reserve with the Swiss National Park (SNP) as core zone, without the imposition of any further conditions.</p> <p>In 2017, definitive measures were taken to improve the safety of National Park visitors in all parking areas and in those places where they have to cross the road. This included speed limits</p>	

		<p>and warning signs in the vicinity of parking areas situated beside the road.</p> <p>Collaboration with Stelvio National Park: Over the years the collaboration established between the 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 population counts and territory controls are conducted jointly.</p>
	Shortcomings	SNP Extension: At present any further increase in surface area is politically unlikely.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	There is no adequate information about visibility of EDPA logo.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the Recommendations.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the logo of the Diploma.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	09. Italy, Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.1982 / 26.11.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)10</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) begin implementation of the PATOM action plan for the protection of the bear population as soon as possible, facilitated by the administration of the PNALM;</li> <li>2) continue discussions on the inclusion within the diploma-holding area of the sectors adjacent to the PNALM deemed to be of major biological interest for large carnivores, especially the brown bears and wolves;</li> <li>3) complete the preparation of the economic and social development plan by the end of 2012, as scheduled by the PNALM administration, with a view to its early implementation;</li> <li>4) substantially increase the human and financial resources earmarked for scientific activities in the PNALM and tailor them to the complex problems which the Park will be facing over the next few years; ensure that its general capacities are such that it can carry out its conservation and monitoring assignments appropriately;</li> <li>5) consider the possibility of instructing all technical personnel to record any violations of the PNALM regulations;</li> <li>6) launch discussions on the need for controlled management of red deer, linking this to improving the state of conservation of the chamois population;</li> <li>7) make a special effort to support rural tourism activities around the PNALM periphery;</li> <li>8) launch discussions with local mayors on the issue of stock and wildlife feeding.</li> </ol>	

	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) that the PNALM National Park management plan be finally adopted within a maximum period of one year, i.e. before the meeting of the Group of Specialists in 2013;</p> <p>2) that strenuous efforts be taken so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. in pursuance of Italy's Framework Law on Protected Areas, peripheral zones are created on the territories of the Abruzzi and Molise regions by the end of 2013, and that regulations on hunting, which take account of the need to minimise disturbance to bears during the autumn, are introduced in these zones and applied with effect from, at the latest, the 2013-2014 hunting season;</li> <li>ii. the regulations prohibiting livestock farming within zone A of the National Park are applied absolutely and without delay, and that local elected representatives are made aware of this matter;</li> <li>iii. consultation begins without delay with the municipal authorities of the National Park municipalities on physical closure of those access routes to the diploma-holding area which are most critical from the viewpoint of the conservation of large animals; this consultation should lead to closure arrangements and appropriate regulations, taking account of the rights of local third parties, being adopted by the end of 2013;</li> </ul>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conservation measures for the Natura 2000 sites were approved by the Management Board of the Park and are now pending the approval of the Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>2. No peripheral zones were created. Specific hunting arrangements were set up for the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise regions. Livestock farming in the zone A is still monitored. Rules are being developed for farming activities compatible with the objectives of the Park. Visibility will be given</li> </ul>

		<p>to farmers applying these rules. 20 roads were closed</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appointment of a focal point for the monitoring of the bear.</li> <li>2. Discussions on the inclusion within the diploma-holding area of adjacent sectors lead to a mapping within the Diploma holding area.</li> <li>3. No changes</li> <li>4. Funds received in 2017 will be allocated to the monitoring of the Marsican brown bear and of other priority species.</li> <li>5. No changes</li> <li>6. No changes</li> <li>7. The Park participated in many awareness raising events involving local producers, local touristic actors.</li> <li>8. Feeding places were significantly reduced</li> </ol>
	Shortcomings	<p>The Management Plan referred to in the first condition is still not adopted.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 Management Plans are still pending the approval of the Abruzzo Region.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The forest of Val Cervara is now on the UNESCO World Heritage list under Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine).</p> <p>A second report on the presence of the bear in the Abruzzo Park was produced during the summer.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The logo of the European Diploma is used on the website of the Park and on the panels at the entrance of the Park and at the Visitor Center of Pescasseroli.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of most of the Recommendations.</p> <p>- Request the authorities to strengthen their efforts to comply with the conditions attached to the renewal Resolution.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>10. Germany, Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>29.11.1968 / 28.11.2019</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)2</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3) the Wollmatinger Ried is a refuge area for avifauna sensitive to disturbances, particularly during the moulting season. Increasing numbers of ferruginous ducks (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>), 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.);</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>6) the continued operation of the reception</li> </ol>	

		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.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>All fishing activities will be a bit halted in the <i>Schläuche</i> 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.</p> <p>Disturbances could be gradually reduced by interventions of volunteers at the conservation and observation station</p> <p>The construction of the new building for the NABU nature Conservation Centre Wollmatinger Ried was started in August 2017, opening is planned for the third quarter 2018.</p> <p>The extension of the area is now completed.</p>
	Shortcomings	In spite of its high publicity, thanks to the European Diploma, the Wollmatinger Ried is still under pressure caused by a great number of small measures. Competing uses (water sports, aviation) still continue to cause problems in the core areas of the nature reserve.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Throughout the nature reserve protection measures must be harmonised by developing co-operation between Germany and Switzerland, for example in the framework of the International Lake Constance Conference	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	High publicity devoted to the European Diploma. The European Diploma together with its logo are presented in all measures of Public Relation on maps, in the exhibition of the NABU Nature Reserve Centre Wollmatinger Ried and on all boards along the information trail Wollmatinger Ried.	
	- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the	



Conclusions and action suggested	recommendations.
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Name of the awarded area	11. Netherlands, Boschplaat Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.1970 / 30.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)9</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) sufficient financial resources need to be available on an ongoing basis in order to safeguard the interests of the Boschplaat's natural environment, especially monitoring, staff, public relations and communication;</li> <li>2) measures should be taken to restore the original dynamics in the eastern part of the reserve. The present function of the "Stuifdijk" (artificial sand dike) should be taken into consideration. New insights based on recent scientific research on restoring natural dynamics should be included in the management plan, including the consequences of the current rise in sea levels;</li> <li>3) communication with all those involved in the measures to be taken (which are still being contested locally) requires maximum attention and the deployment of the necessary resources;</li> <li>4) annual shipping incidents in the North Sea to the north of the Boschplaat are a real concern for both people and the natural environment. Better guarantees of safety with regard to the transport of hazardous substances and oil should be instituted;</li> <li>5) the number of motorised vehicles on the beach should be reduced.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>There are sufficient financial resources for public relations and communication. There are still concerns relating to having a sufficient number of skilled personnel for monitoring.</p> <p>A large-scaled three-day response exercise simulating a shipping accident involving an oil spill into the Wadden Sea was held in September. This exercise consisted of multiple parts. The first</p>	

		involved the managers of the nature reserves using innovative technologies to clean up oil in shallow water and rescue oiled birds.
	Shortcomings	Use of the EDPA logo and information are missing.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Natura 2000 management plan was accepted.</li> <li>- The contracting party and the island population are expected to be provided with the new Boschplaat Vision early in 2018.</li> </ul>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Not mentioned	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	12. Germany, Siebengebirge Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	22.09.1971 / 21.09.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)10</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) in case of changes in the management of the area, the leading role of the VVS (Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge), whose work to date has been fully satisfactory in the eyes of the Council of Europe, should be maintained;</li> <li>2) develop a new financial plan together with local communities and the Rhein-Sieg-District;</li> <li>3) continue the provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government;</li> <li>4) maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads;</li> <li>5) minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area and consider the setting up of a system of public transport for visitors;</li> <li>6) continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area so as to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity of the Siebengebirge as a protected area;</li> <li>7) encourage the continuation and extension of scientific research.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to draw up a management plan within three years in order to guarantee the preservation of the reserve and its cohesion within the larger area of the nature park.</li> </ol>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three communities of the Nature Park area, i.e. Bad Honnef, Königswinter and Sankt Augustin have benefited from what the other partners paid for. That is why the VVS has for a long time been negotiating with all communities to secure a reliable and long term financial basis for the</li> </ul>	

	<p style="text-align: center;">Achievements</p>	<p>Nature Park's work. Now, for the period 2017/18 we finally stand on the threshold of a solution, as all partners have agreed to contribute together ca. 200.000 € per year (personnel expenditure) for the management of the Nature Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The administration of Siebengebirge Nature Reserve is in final talks with the mayors, the Rhein-Sieg District Administrator and the North Rhine Westphalia Government regarding the details of the management.</li> <li>• Continued provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government; Considerable financial support has again been granted in 2016, including a prize of 79.000 € that the Nature Park has won in a government competition.</li> <li>• New roads have not been built nor are they planned.</li> <li>• In order to minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area Administration consider a watchful eye on private cars that (illegally) try to drive up to the Drachenfels. Strict controls and heavy fines have produced best effects.</li> <li>• The NRW forest authorities meanwhile have added 207 ha of state forest to the VVS wilderness area; the NRW Foundation another 90 ha on the Petersberg, so that the total wilderness area in the Siebengebirge where "nature is left to itself" covers 820 ha.</li> <li>• A diploma thesis has been published by Dipl-Geol. Christoph Schwarz: Die Geschichte der geologischen Erforschung des Siebengebirges which compiles a classified list of 431 species of diurnal butterflies and butterfly moths in the Siebengebirge.</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Shortcomings</p>	<p>The authorities must pay attention to private cars which illegally try to drive into the vulnerable area.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Threats of a possible Factory Outlet Centre (FOC) in the city of Königswinter</li> <li>2. Construction of a wind energy plant in the vicinity of the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve.</li> <li>3. 480 new stone signposts on hiking trails and 55 new signboards. This system so far only refers to the Nature Reserve. In 2017 we will make use of our prize (79.000 €, cf. 2.3) and expand this system to the whole</li> </ol>	

	Nature Park, also to lead visitors to attractions outside the protected area, thus to relieve it.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma requirements are stimulating good management and willingness to achieve goals. This status influences stakeholders during negotiations and help solve problems better.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li> <li>• Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo;</li> <li>• From the conservation point of view, to continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area and to increase the surface of the Siebengebirge Natural Reserve is one of the good way to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity.</li> </ul>

No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	13. Germany/Luxembourg, Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	26.10.1973 / 25.10.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)14</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) maintain and step-up consultation and collaboration between the parties concerned by the Our and Sûre basins, focusing on relations between the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the Rhineland-Palatinate Land;</li> <li>2) pursue public awareness-raising and information activities;</li> <li>3) encourage the swift creation of the Müllerthal-Kleine Luxemburger Schweiz Nature Park and incorporate it as far as possible in the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park;</li> <li>4) find a solution allowing aquatic fauna to pass or circumnavigate the obstacle of the Vianden hydroelectric dam;</li> <li>5) maintain vigilance with regard to leisure and sporting pursuits (camping, rock-climbing, canoeing, etc.).</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) at the initiative of the States concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible;</li> <li>2) engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park;</li> <li>3) define specifications and a road map for the drawing-up of a global management plan for the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park incorporating those of the nature parks on its territory; prepare the management plan before the next renewal of the European Diploma falls due and ensure the funding required for its implementation;</li> </ol>	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	



Name of the awarded area	14. France, Vanoise National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.03.1976 / 18.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)3</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) pay close attention to natural and landscape issues when development projects are carried out on the periphery of the park and avoid any direct or indirect impact on the core area;</li> <li>2) co-ordinate the park's "core" and "optimal buffer zone" objectives with the "green and blue infrastructure objectives";</li> <li>3) ensure that nature and landscape protection interests are fully taken into account when making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydropower concessions;</li> <li>4) actively pursue diagnostic and management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses mesh harmoniously with, and are in synergy with, protection of its natural assets;</li> <li>5) continue to strike a balance between the reception and service functions of refuges and refuge gates on the one hand, and their information and awareness-raising functions on the other hand, by pursuing the development of facilities for categories of visitors who require special attention, such as people with disabilities;</li> <li>6) supervise and strictly regulate air sports so as to reduce their adverse impact on fauna.</li> <li>7) consider submitting a joint annual report with Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy)</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) define a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park.</li> </ol>	
	Achievements	<p>The Park is heavily involved in management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses are in synergy with the protection of its natural assets, such as awareness-raising, trainings for farmers, support activities for farmers victims of wolf attacks, refuge</p>	

		<p>maintenance and management, pollinators conservation, research programmes, etc.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The implementation of the condition was implemented through the creation of a Charter of the NP which was supposed to be adopted by all administrative units located in the core area of the park. However, nearly all units have refused to sign and join the Charter. The buffer zone is thus defined by means of Prefectoral decree for the time being.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No mention of visibility activities.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More efforts to be deployed on raising awareness about the importance of the Charter and its acceptance by the local administrative units.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	15. Turkey, Kuşçenneti National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.03.1976 / 14.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)6</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement;</li> <li>2. ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;</li> <li>3. set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;</li> <li>2) submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;</li> <li>3) regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Siğirci Delta and Koçocay Delta</li> <li>4) continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it.</li> </ol>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revision of the Wetland Management Plan is still in progress;</li> <li>• There is no change in terrestrial and water surface. During 2015, some of the investments have been implemented in the national park, 10 new nests for the great white pelicans (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>) were built on the lake.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information boards were placed on the roads leading to the national park. Signs and information boards were renewed by Bandırma Municipality. A car parking area was designed. In addition, the sewerage system, roads and landscaping is renewed in Kuşcenneti village close to the national park.</li> <li>• A motor boat was bought, in this way controls have been easier on the lake regarding poaching issues. Besides, 2 lawn mowers and 2 leaf collecting machines were bought.</li> <li>• Forest guard officers were appointed to work in the national park. Besides, within the scope of a project 9 persons were employed between May and October in 2017.</li> <li>• In 2016 water tanks (60 tons) were constructed for the irrigation of the fields. In 2017 additional water tanks (40 tons) were created.</li> <li>• The roof of the visitor center is totally renewed.</li> <li>• The Administration provided logistical support to Balıkesir University, Environmental Engineering Department. Students who prepared a dissertation issued a Monitoring Water Quality in Manyas Lake.</li> </ul>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Revision of Wetland Management Plan is still in progress and is pending adoption.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10 new nests were built for the great white pelicans.</li> <li>2. The sign and information boards were renewed on the road leading to the park.</li> <li>3. Investments in machines were realised.</li> <li>4. Staff was increased.</li> </ol>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The Park Administration is working with the local and provincial authorities and local society. The improvement seems to be quite moderate.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for the approval of the wetland management plan;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA</li> </ul>	

	logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.
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Name of the awarded area	16. Germany, Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.03.1978 / 02.03.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)11</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) devise and implement maintenance procedures to control the increasing growth of bushes on outcropping rocks, resulting in a reduction of the extent of xerotherm rock locations and the adapted species inhabiting them;</li> <li>2) maintain strict control over boat traffic, particularly on the right bank of the Danube where numerous private boating tourists land on the exposed gravel banks during the summer months, when water levels are low;</li> <li>3) monitor the effects of boat traffic on the aquatic fauna;</li> <li>4) encourage the extensive use of fields and meadows, particularly by farmers and private owners;</li> <li>5) conduct regular audits of management effectiveness for biodiversity conservation and tourist control in the reserve.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The rock exposure concept prepared in 2006 has since been widely implemented. In 2016 mostly maintenance measures were carried out. However, an exposure of rocks or removal of bushes is not in compliance with the status of a natural forest reserve. In order to maintain the very high-quality of dry habitats in this area measures are necessary. A coordination meeting is planned with the responsible forest administration regarding this issue.</li> <li>2. Inspections were carried out by the river police and rangers. Due to provisions of the regulations governing the use of the nature reserve it is not possible to prevent landing on the gravel banks. Speed controls were done. Controls of barge tours</li> </ol>	

		<p>revealed infringements of the regulations in terms of speed limit, maximum number of passengers and landing on forbidden sites.</p> <p>3. Monitoring of the impact of ship and boat traffic on the water fauna wasn't investigated during the reporting period.</p> <p>4. In 2017 the monitoring of the vegetation, of the bird life, of rock breeders (peregrine falcon, eagle owls) were carried out.</p> <p>5. The effectiveness of the measures for channeling visitors is regularly checked. Additional measures are required to supplement those that have already been implemented.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Recommendation 2 is partly acceptable, because due to provisions of the regulations governing the use of nature reserves it is not possible to prevent landing on the gravel banks.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>First talks on the harmonisation of the regulations governing the use of nature reserves have already taken place.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	17. Greece, Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria)	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)3</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the relevant authorities should accelerate actions to extend the boundaries of the national park to cover a much larger area of the Cretan White Mountains;</li> <li>2. an expert on biodiversity should be appointed or contracted to carry out regular monitoring of the flora and fauna of the park;</li> <li>3. an annual budget should be allocated to the park, to be administered by the management board. The income from the entrance fee to the park may also be considered to finance monitoring projects, particularly recommendation 2 above.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The relevant authorities did not accelerate actions to extend the boundaries of the national park to cover a much larger area of the Cretan White Mountains. The procedure concluded in December 2014 and the revised presidential decree draft is currently examined by the Ministry's services as to be sent for approval and signature by the President of the Hellenic Republic. No annual budget was allocated to the park, to be administered by the management board. The income, from the entrance fee to the park was neither allocated to monitoring actions.</li> <li>2. All ecological and monitoring actions continued: The implementation of restriction measures against the insertion of domestic goats to the Samaria Gorge has continued. The efforts for the elimination of illegal hunting are an ongoing procedure.</li> <li>3. For the implementation of recommendation 3 about the management of the entrance fees by administration, the government tried some</li> </ol>	



		regulations. However given the uncertainty regarding the future of Management Bodies in Greece the third recommendation has not yet been fulfilled.
	Shortcomings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The relevant authorities did not accelerate actions to extend the boundaries of the national park to cover a much larger area of the Cretan White Mountains.</li> <li>2. No annual budget was allocated to the park, to be administered by the management board.</li> </ol>
Other highlights worth to be Mentioned	In 2017 the total number of visitors increased.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The logo of the European Diploma was placed on the information sign at the entrance to the National Park and on all the signs along the central path	
Conclusions and action suggested	Pursue the efforts for complying with the recommendations attached to the renewal of the European Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	18. United Kingdom, Minsmere Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)9</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the control of the invasion of bracken using mechanical means should be continued; if necessary very selective spraying of chemical products should be carried out and careful records of this kept;</li> <li>2) a contingency plan to deal with the issue of sea level rise and increased freshwater flooding of the grazing marshes should be drawn up; in the short term, the feasibility of preventing/limiting the risk of saltwater entering the reedbed and lagoon systems by building up existing internal banks should be studied; in the longer term, a strategy for sustainable management of the coast in conjunction with all key stakeholders should be developed; discussions with the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of freshwater flooding through modification of the Minsmere sluice should be continued;</li> <li>3) the reserve management plans (2008-2013 and 2013-2018) should be implemented;</li> <li>4) the purchase of land should be continued;</li> <li>5) vigilance with regard to alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing pirri-pirri bur (<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>), should be maintained, and the control of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>) should be continued;</li> <li>6) the role of the reserve as a demonstration site for a wide range of audiences, especially formal school parties, and for informal education/awareness-raising activities for children and families should be developed;</li> <li>7) a rotational fallowing regime on the freshwater sections of the coastal lagoons to increase invertebrate biomass for breeding and passage waders should be implemented.</li> </ol>	

	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bracken control continued to restore and enhance areas of lowland heather Heathland and dry acid grassland. Some treatment with Asulox was undertaken with full records maintained on reserve file. No mechanical bracken litter removal was undertaken this year.</li> <li>2. The Minsmere Coastal and Climate Change Adaptation Plan was initiated. It aims to develop a strategic plan for managing coastal and climate change at RSPB Minsmere. It will incorporate planned adaptation of habitats and species, as well as visitor infrastructure;</li> <li>3. All scheduled priorities of the reserve management plan were implemented.</li> <li>4. There was no purchase of land this year, but the RSPB has been negotiating with a partnership consortium with respect to a significant land purchase that would extend the Minsmere and Dingle Marshes reserves complex. It is hoped to complete this purchase in time for the next annual report.</li> <li>5. Regarding the management of invasive species a special control and management of pirripirri bur (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>) was implemented and should be maintained, and the control of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>) should be continued.</li> <li>6. The Administration implemented a very good eco-educational programme that consisted of many actions and awareness raising events.</li> <li>7. No rotational fallowing was carried out on the scrape this year because the monitoring data in this part of water body showed that the number of invertebrate biomass and the number of breeding and passage waders did not fluctuate.</li> </ol>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights	Visitor numbers for the period were 112,228 a slight decrease on the	

worth to be mentioned	<p>previous year – thought to be a consequence of poor weather during the spring. The presence of BBC Springwatch gave visitors an added dimension to their visit and some schools were given tours of the BBC village and filming studio.</p> <p>The construction of a nuclear reactor is planned in the south of the reserve.</p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The Reserve continues to support learning and sharing best practice and developing strategy and management.</p>
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for the control and eradication of invasive species.</li> <li>- Request the authorities to report in 2018 on the development plan of a nuclear reactor to the south of the Reserve.</li> </ul>

Name of the awarded area	19. United Kingdom, Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	26.05.1983 / 25.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)12</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) set up and implement the new-style reserve plan and organise the required prior public consultation;</li> <li>2) continue to maintain the native tree/shrub gene bank, as well as the tree nursery, to guarantee the genetic origins of trees planted in the reserve;</li> <li>3) following the results of the fieldwork for site condition monitoring of upland features of interest, adapt the current deer management to limit trampling impacts from deer on dry heaths;</li> <li>4) monitor the evolution of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>) population and its propagation within the area;</li> <li>5) continue to limit the development of recreational facilities in the core area of the reserve and maintain the existing facilities to the present standard; if possible, investigate ways to improve the standards of visitor facilities;</li> <li>6) improve car park facilities for hill-walkers in Glen Torridon;</li> <li>7) continue to integrate and implement safety measures in management of the area, particularly checking visitor facilities for hazards and revising the reserve's fire plan.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The new Reserve Plan has been completed, reviewed and will soon be a working document. An operational plan which outlines the detail on how each individual</li> </ol>	

		<p>project will be delivered was reviewed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The Reserve supports a thriving western pinewood, regenerating naturally with the planted woodlands well on the way to resembling the ancient remnants in structure and variety of species. This approach to woodland restoration has resulted in 1000 hectares of near continuous native woodland in Wester Ross.</li> <li>3. All of habitat work has been achieved in the presence of a well-managed deer population without the use of deer fencing.</li> <li>4. The adaptive management approach and targeted research has helped improve important habitats and species' resilience to climate change.</li> <li>5. The native tree gene bank is being maintained.</li> <li>6. Hazard auditing of all facilities is completed either monthly or quarterly. The existing visitors centre has now been refurbished and was officially opened on 9th May 2015 along with the refurbished interpretation, trail network and a wildlife hide.</li> </ol>
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The European Diploma is promoted on the Beinn Eighe page of the National Nature Reserve website. The logo is shown with a link to information pages on the Council of Europe website.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma is promoted on the Beinn Eighe page of the National Nature Reserve website. The logo is shown with a link to information pages on the Council of Europe website.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations.	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>20. United Kingdom, Purbeck Heritage Coast</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.1984 / 20.06.2019</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)10</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) work should continue on the inventory of natural areas calling for more adequate protection, as should research on these sites, particularly in the marine reserves, where the periodic inventories of fauna and flora should be continued;</li> <li>2) any progress to reduce intensive arable use on the immediate edge of the cliffs would be welcome;</li> <li>3) work should continue to restore eroded paths, in particular through finding innovative solutions such as those used at Lulworth Cove;</li> <li>4) efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport by visitors (bus, train, bicycle, walking and riding) should be increased;</li> <li>5) measures should continue to be taken to address risks of oil, chemical and other pollution from shipping and marine waste in general;</li> <li>6) new resources should be made available to ensure the integrity in perpetuity of the newly designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and its effective presentation to the public;</li> <li>7) the Heritage Landscape Management Plan for the Lulworth Estate should be implemented;</li> <li>8) co-operation and the establishment of partnerships in management planning, action and exchange of information between all major bodies involved with conservation and management should continue as it is the key method for future management of the coast.</li> </ol>	

	Conditions	<p>1) the terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and British Petroleum (BP) are being strictly adhered to, and BP should continue to work to the highest standards;</p> <p>2) the extension of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries must conform to the “exceptions” principle that they should only be permitted if they do not impair the character of the Purbeck Heritage Coast as a result of any one or a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. their scale and length;</li> <li>ii. their negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities;</li> <li>iii. the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work;</li> </ul>
	Achievements	<p>1. The terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and British Petroleum are being strictly adhered to, and BP continues to work to the highest standards.</p> <p>2. The extension of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries conforms to the 'exceptions' principle that they should not be permitted unless they do not impair the character of the Heritage Coast</p> <p>3. Any progress will be welcomed to reduce intensive arable use on the immediate edge of the cliffs: The vast majority of the Purbeck Heritage Coast’s cliff top land is in Environmental Stewardship with a focus on extensification.</p> <p>4. Work should continue to restore eroded paths by using local stone in an innovative way as done at Lulworth Cove.</p> <p>5. Efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport to visitors should be increased: Dorset County Council leads work to</p>



		<p>develop the potential of the existing park and ride site at Norden near Corfe Castle. The Dorset AONB Partnership has won an award to develop new cycling routes which promote healthy travel and local produce.</p> <p>6. Measures should be taken to address risks of oil pollution from shipping: Ship-to-ship transfers in open water are now illegal. No significant spills have been reported in 2016.</p> <p>7. New resources should be made available to ensure the integrity in perpetuity of the newly designated World Heritage Site: The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership continues to gain support from the local authorities, communities and other stakeholders across its length.</p> <p>8. Appropriate management should be exercised and sufficient resourcing for this should be ensured, for the proposed South Purbeck National Nature Reserve: Known as Durlston National Nature Reserve, this site is owned and well managed by Dorset County Council and is deemed to be in favourable ecological condition.</p> <p>9. The Heritage Landscape Management Plan for the Lulworth Estate should be implemented: The Lulworth HLMP continues to be implemented.</p> <p>10. Co-operation and the establishment of partnerships in management planning, action and exchange of information between all major bodies involved with conservation and management should continue: The Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Partnership continues to deliver this function.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>All conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area. An increase of the state budget would be an appropriate response to this issue.</p>

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Reserve continues to support learning within and beyond the RSPB. Reserve staff participates in the national RSPB Visitor Experience Workgroup, sharing best practice and developing strategy.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations.</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	21. United Kingdom, Fair Isle National Scenic Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)10</a>	<p>1) the needs and aspirations of the local community, as detailed in the FIMP, should be fully taken into account, as should the fragile socio-economic situation;</p> <p>2) all efforts should be made to solve the problem of the disposal of plastic in general and agricultural baling plastic in particular.</p>	
	Conditions	<p>1) in recognition of the internationally important seabird colonies and associated marine environment currently experiencing severe pressure, the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments should use the powers invested in them through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to establish the protected marine area which has been called for in successive diploma renewals. A new protected marine area should be in conformity with the Fair Isle Marine Action Plan (FIMP);</p>	
	Achievements	<p>The establishment of a framework for planning and implementation is underway under the guidance of island residents, and with the full commitment of the community and its partners.</p> <p>A Demonstration &amp; Research MPA Steering Group has been set up to engage all the principal stakeholders.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>A critical first task was the recruitment of a Project Officer. This requires funds (estimated at £120,000) for a 3-year initial period</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Fair Isle Electricity Company (FIEC) has developed to an advanced stage a community led project called the Fair Isle Unified Low Carbon Electricity Storage and Renewable Generation project. This project will transform the island's infrastructure providing a dependable 24-hour power supply.</p>		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations.

**No annual report was received in 2017**

Name of the awarded area	22. France, Scandola Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) complete, by the end of 2011 at the latest, and implement as soon as possible, the new management plan and include recommendations and objectives for effective monitoring of new, emerging and existing activities;</li> <li>2) continue the efforts already made in order to provide the manager with the necessary funds to manage the site in an ambitious manner commensurate with its reputation and outstanding character; increase the operating budget and the scientific research budget;</li> <li>3) move towards an increase of the Barnier tax (the revenues from which are used to finance the management of protected marine sites) through a review of the tax which could include extending it to everyone who visits the site, increasing the amount of the tax, changing the way it is collected and/or monitoring the number of visitors carried by boat trip operators;</li> <li>4) continue to draw on the work of the scientific committee, in order to manage the site in a effective way; continue to ensure that the reserve serves as a reference point by including it in international programmes;</li> <li>5) deepen and widen research, especially on climate change which has an impact on animal communities and ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial; publish the methods and findings in order to contribute to providing solutions to environmental problems in the Mediterranean;</li> <li>6) allow only fishing with highly selective gear</li> </ol>	

		<p>and introduce medium- or long-term bans on trammel nets in areas populated by deep-water stands of <i>Cystoseira Profondes</i> and other species, at depths of between 30 and 90 metres, and any other fishing gear (present or future) that has an unsustainable impact on marine ecosystems;</p> <p>7) maintain and raise the awareness of the need to respect the environment in the Scandola Nature Reserve among boat trip operators; any operators which fail to do so before a certain date should not be allowed into the integral section of the reserve.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) undertake, between now and 2012, the planned extension of the marine part of the Scandola Nature Reserve, which should mean a significant enlargement of the site and more specifically of the integral section of the reserve. This project could be included in the works done in the framework of the implementation of the 2006 Law on National Parks, Natural Marine Parks and Natural Regional Parks and/or thoughts carried out within the regional analysis of Natura 2000 marine sites. In the meantime, take steps to reduce the impact of mooring on the <i>Posidonia</i> beds;</p> <p>2) introduce stricter rules in order to better control tourism-related activities, especially nautical activities, which cause major disturbance to species, in particular certain fish species and osprey, and to anticipate the impact of new economic activities; impose an immediate ban on jet skiing in the reserve, whether supervised or unsupervised;</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.

Name of the awarded area	23. Italy, Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)12</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) implement the management plan for the Casentino Forests National Park and reinforce co-operation with the national park in order to co-ordinate all the activities, especially in terms of research;</li> <li>2) the nature reserve should continue to stand out as the reference for nature protection in the region;</li> <li>3) care should be taken to ensure that the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve and the adjacent biogenetic reserves continue to be managed as a cohesive whole;</li> <li>4) special attention should continue to be given to protecting Monte Falco in order to avoid, in particular, the construction of any new ski slopes;</li> <li>5) the necessary funding should be provided in order to maintain the very high standard of scientific research;</li> <li>6) any further damage in the buffer zone, such as the laying of new roads or significant improvement work on the ski slopes, should be avoided;</li> <li>7) the number of visits should not be increased and they should be restricted to researchers and people with a genuine interest in the site;</li> <li>8) the possibility of extending the European Diploma to include the biogenetic reserves should be studied.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
		1. Cooperation and collaboration with the Park in research activities in the RNI and adjacent	



	Achievements	<p>RRNNBB, is getting on. Particularly this year, together with the Park and Viterbo Tuscia University, thanks to the National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise, the nomination to insert the reserve in the World Heritage site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was submitted to the UNESCO 2016. Inspection visit by IUCN took place in October.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The Pratovecchio UTB has maintained and expanded its relationships with Universities and research institutes to the multidisciplinary study on the Reserve. Through conferences and articles in the press and television the characteristics and significance of the Integral Reserve have been disclosed at regional and national level.</li> <li>3. The Sasso Fratino Reserve and surrounding biogenetic reserves, are managed by the Office of Pratovecchio that pays particular attention to their integrated management. In particular, it aims to limit or remove all interventions even on the bands of the Biogenetic Reserves bordering Sasso Fratino in order to create a buffer zone.</li> <li>4. Constructions of new ski slopes on Monte Falco are not expected.</li> <li>5. The Pratovecchio UTB has activated also for the current year, the necessary resources for research developing in the RNI and adjacent Casentino Natural Reserves.</li> <li>6. No project to expand the existing sky slopes is expected in the next future. The project for the re-naturalization of the former ski resort site in Gabrendo mountain, situated in the Biogenetic Natural Reserve of Campigna, ended. No other changes in the status of sites in the Reserve adjacent to Sasso Fratino RNI were detected.</li> <li>7. Visits in the Integral Reserve are restricted and authorized only for reasons closely linked to research and University training aiming to ecosystems conservation.</li> <li>8. The opportunity of extending the European Diploma to the biogenetic reserves adjacent</li> </ol>
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		to Sasso Fratino is under study.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	24. Spain, Doñana National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)13</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) all efforts should be made to restore the good ecological state of the river at the level of its catchment (river basin or water basin), within the meaning of the Water Framework Directive; all appropriate measures should be taken in order to make water use and other activities, especially agricultural activities, in this catchment (basin) compatible with this aim;</li> <li>2) a specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be drawn up;</li> <li>3) the implementation of the action plans for the conservation of the flagship species, in particular the Iberian lynx and the Imperial eagle, should be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be drawn up if needed;</li> <li>4) concerning the Port of Sevilla development projects, the Spanish authorities should avail itself of the best international scientific expertise and also take account of the relevant international conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Bern Convention, and work closely with the relevant international bodies, including the European Union and the European Environment Agency;</li> <li>5) the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011;</li> <li>6) the extension of the Doñana 2005 Project to riparian vegetation, correcting erosion problems or extending its scope to adjacent areas of agricultural marsh, should be undertaken;</li> <li>7) the possibility of developing co-operation</li> </ol>	

		<p>with other European Diploma sites which are deltas, such as the Camargue National Reserve (France) or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania), should be explored.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Port of Sevilla development projects have no significant environmental impact on the Doñana ecosystems. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a complementary study to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report;</li> <li>2) the Andalusian Government, responsible for the management of the national park and also for water management, should ensure the high quality of water entering the national park and eliminate the illegal extraction of groundwater; in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, it should monitor the status of the aquifer underlying the national park and surrounding lands, the extent of groundwater extraction and the water quality;</li> </ol>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The two conditions are still dealt with, and mainly met with. Though the importance of the hydrological issues on the status of the Diploma area cannot be emphasized enough. Within the recommendations, most are under consideration and successful work is on-going. The cancellation of the plans for the Port of Seville must be mentioned. A new management plan is also in place, as of August 2nd 2016</p> <p>In 2016, the Guadalquivir Hydrological Plan corresponding to the Second Cycle of Planning (2015-2021), drafted in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, has been definitively approved. This Plan, among other actions, includes the Doñana 2021 project.</p> <p>The objective of Doñana 2021 is to launch new actions of hydrological restoration in the</p>

		<p>estuary, especially in the left bank of the Guadalquivir, as well as to improve the knowledge and management of the water masses around the Doñana Natural Area.</p> <p>The cooperation between Doñana and Camargue continues. During 2016 Doñana has hosted a French student who has made a diagnosis of the implementation of the Manual of Accessibility of the Government of Andalusia in the public use facilities of the Natural Space. In addition, during the month of May a delegation from Camargue was received, which visited the Natural Space as part of the cooperation program.</p> <p>In addition, Doñana maintains lines of exchange and collaboration with numerous spaces in Europe and the rest of the world, which undoubtedly enriches the management of this natural space.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed Materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>25. Germany, Bayerischer Wald National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.06.1986 / 18.06.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)4</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non-intervention in large areas of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring;</li> <li>2) pursue consequently a non-intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the older part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the newer part, thus working toward the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the national park by 2027;</li> <li>3) continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone);</li> <li>4) pursue and develop the dialogue with local communities; develop synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the re-establishment of the Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the Sevilla Strategy;</li> <li>5) pursue the collaboration with the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, both national parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border;</li> <li>6) maintain the public transportation "Igelbus" network, secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in co-operation with Šumava National Park.</li> </ol>	

	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="762 353 1401 703">1. The policy of large-scale non-intervention in the processes of nature with the goal “Leave nature to nature” and the ongoing monitoring of biodiversity and various environmental parameters have been secured on a long-term basis by the statutory regulations covering the Bayerischer Wald National Park and are being consistently implemented by the National Park Administration.</li> <li data-bbox="762 745 1401 1128">2. The Recommendation was improved and as from 1st December 2017, the non-intervention zone was extended (184 hectares were added reaching , now 16,477 hectares). With this step, the National Park Administration is consistently pursuing the mandate to continuously extend the area of the nature zone in a uniform manner by 2027 with the aim of developing 75 % of the National Park as a non-intervention zone.</li> <li data-bbox="762 1171 1401 1756">3. Targeted measures to control and combat bark beetle development on the periphery of the National Park, as well as collaboration conducted in a spirit of trust with the authorities entrusted with management of the state forest and care of private woodlands in the vicinity, have reliably prevented infestations from spreading to neighbouring private woodlands. Since 2016 standardised bark beetle monitoring has been carried out in the woodlands along the borders of the National Park. The results provide the basis for a coordinated approach in forest protection measures along the borders inside and outside of the National Park.</li> <li data-bbox="762 1798 1401 1951">4. Dialogue with the National Park local communities and associations could be further intensified and cooperation in the field of tourism development was further enhanced.</li> <li data-bbox="762 1993 1401 2022">5. The collaboration with the Šumava National</li> </ol>

		<p>Park that was resumed in a spirit of trust early in 2014 was further enhanced. A permanent member of staff responsible for German-Czech cooperation, on the basis of 50 % for the Bayerischer Wald National Park and 50 % for the Šumava National Park was recruited.</p> <p>6. The cooperation between Germany and the Czech Republic continued. Joint activities and events took place: scientific articles, publication, exhibition opening ceremonial, signing of a cooperation agreement for a joint path concept.</p> <p>7. The continued operation of the “Igelbus” local public transport service is still secured by a mixed financing system with the participation of the National Park, municipalities and the State of Bavaria. Timetables are coordinated with the local public transport service on the Czech side (green Šumava Buses). Extending the scope of the local public transport service on the Bavarian side and adding a cross-border electromobility component are still in preparation.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The latest findings of large-scale non-intervention and research results were presented at the 2nd International Conference on Forests held on 26 – 29.04.2017 and discussed with experts.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	



Name of the awarded area	26. Spain, Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)13</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) implement the national park's management plan in accordance with the land use and management plan (PRUG) drawn up in 2004 and Law No. 5/2007 of 3 April on the Network of National Parks;</li> <li>2) finalise the feasibility study on moving the Pineta Valley municipal campsite and examine the available options;</li> <li>3) pursue the scheme to make the Añisclo Canyon open to pedestrians;</li> <li>4) in collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France), implement the co-operation measures set out in the Agreement on joint activities of the two national parks;</li> <li>5) study the proposal to extend the park and organise the consultation study.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>All Recommendations are sufficiently addressed and the MP adopted in 2015 is carefully implemented, including the cooperation with the Pyrenees NP.</p> <p>The managers of the area are dealing as efficiently as possible with complex issues such as a slope detachment and slide in the Añisclo Canyon, which has caused a shift in the second tunnel of the Añisclo road, subject to Recommendation No. 3</p>	
	Shortcomings	No shortcomings noted	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>A reduction in the ice surface area and thickness of the Monte Perdido glacier due to recent climate change must be highlighted.</p> <p>The Park benefits from strong wildlife monitoring programmes, including from outside companies and by the Park staff itself.</p>		

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No precise information provided, all the more as the Park benefits from a number of high level international and European designations.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	27. Sweden, Store Mosse National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)14</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) pursue the hydrological survey of the national park and complete the management plan on the basis of the results obtained;</li> <li>2) study the impact and causes of the changing inflow of water to Lakes Häradsösjön and Kävsjön, and see if it has any influence on birdlife;</li> <li>3) monitor the situation of bark beetles (<i>Ips typographus</i>) in the spruce forest surrounding the national park, using the same methods as in other protected areas. If necessary, consider further action to be undertaken with landowners around the European Diploma/national park area;</li> <li>4) promote scientific research in the park more actively, for example by repeating the bird count done in 1972 or investigating the increased density of pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) in some areas;</li> <li>5) pursue the work on extending the protected area, with the aim of covering the entire hydrological system that affects the park.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>All Recommendations are clearly implemented and most of them are not valid anymore.</p> <p>The Park benefits from a very good budget envelop and its managers are allocating directly funds to new emerging issues (bird species and flora conservation) and projects in this direction are planned and implementation started.</p>	
	Shortcomings	Budget allocation after 2018 is considered to be unclear due to recent elections.	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Park Managers consider there is a need to inform more about the award and the network of awarded areas across Europe
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li><li>• Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo;</li><li>• Request the authorities to secure the budget of the Park.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	28. Sweden, Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)15</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) study the possibility of giving the Bullerö area national park status in the future and consequently update the management plans of the two reserves;</li> <li>2) assess the proliferation of (toxic) algae in the archipelago in summer and take appropriate measures to reduce their impact;</li> <li>3) continue to control the sources of disturbance in the reserves, particularly in the bird sanctuaries;</li> <li>4) pursue the efforts to limit the population of American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>).</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	The Parks seem to implement the recommendations No 2 to 4. The proliferation of toxic algae in the archipelago is being assessed on a regular basis and the sources of disturbances in the reserves and the bird sanctuaries are being supervised. The efforts to limit the mink population have increased.	
	Shortcomings	The management plans for the two nature reserves have not yet been updated. Talks with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency about establishing the area as a national park are due to restart during the year.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A		
To what extend	Good on-line visibility of the ED logo.		

the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li><li>- Encourage the authorities to pay attention to the need for an update of the Parks Management Plan.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	29. Italy, Montecristo Island Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)16</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) in co-operation with the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, finalise and implement the Territorial Information System (TIS) for the planning of management initiatives;</li> <li>2) under the TIS, map the vegetation types present in the reserve, and in particular quantify the spread and distribution of <i>Ailanthus</i> populations on the island with a view to control measures;</li> <li>3) limit the spread of <i>Ailanthus</i> as far as possible through selective systems and explore the possibility of eradicating it;</li> <li>4) pursue efforts to regenerate the population of oak trees by monitoring and conducting regular checks on their development;</li> <li>5) maintain the island's goat population at its current level and take steps to protect the other components of the ecosystem which are under particular threat from the goat population;</li> <li>6) continue to apply the quota of 1 000 visitors a year recommended when the European Diploma was awarded and pursue the feasibility study on setting up a remote surveillance system; maintain arrangements for supervising groups of visitors;</li> <li>7) pursue discussion and investigations with a view to replacing the diesel generator and using renewable energy sources on the island;</li> <li>8) gain more in-depth knowledge of the flora and fauna;</li> <li>9) inform the secretariat of the progress made in securing approval of the reserve's</li> </ol>	

		management plan by the Tuscan regional authorities.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>All Recommendations were subject to the implementation of specific measures, including the update of the Reserve's Management Plan in 2010.</p> <p>The Reserve benefits from numerous Life projects. Their implementation supports limiting the spread of invasive alien species (Recommendation No. 2 and 3), the regeneration of oak trees (Recommendation No. 4); the control of the population of goats (Recommendation No. 5) and improving the knowledge of the flora and fauna in the reserve (Recommendation No. 8).</p>
	Shortcomings	The sustainability of the measures implemented though the numerous Life projects needs to be ensured.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Activities implemented in relation to the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ED and good logo visibility.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to secure the budget ensuring the sustainability of activities implemented so far thanks to numerous LIFE projects.</li> </ul>	



Name of the awarded area	30. Germany, Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)4</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the peat eco-museum in the outlying area of the reserve will constitute a new attraction. It should provide information about protection issues, and appropriate facilities – in particular a tall tower with a panoramic view – should be installed. Funding should preferably be sought on a partnership basis;</li> <li>2) the scale of the projects carried out by a small permanent team is considerable. The special effort made to provide guided tours and cater for school parties deserves support. It is necessary to find means of obtaining such support in consultation with the education authorities;</li> <li>3) the B465 trunk road that cuts across the Ried is now less of a problem, thanks to the measures taken. In the medium or longer term, the downgrading of the road should make it possible to eliminate motor vehicle traffic, in favour of pedestrians and cyclists;</li> <li>4) the areas cultivated with maize on the slopes surrounding the peat bog should be restricted, for example by buying up land. This would also have a beneficial impact on the quality of the water;</li> <li>5) the major effort made to buy up land in the outlying area should continue. The problem concerning the slopes of Albers, where five hectares that have been purchased are still being intensively farmed, needs to be addressed;</li> <li>6) the proliferation of high-voltage power lines over the outlying area is blighting the landscape. Requests that they be buried must continue to be reiterated, even if the costs are high.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Recommendations 1 to 3 are successfully implemented and efforts deployed to ensure the measures sustainability.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Intensive efforts are currently being made to implement Recommendations 4 and 5, but there are still efforts to be made, in particular in relation to the acquisition of the hillside areas around Albers.</p> <p>The issue of the proliferation of high-voltage conductors is still valid and unfortunately, regardless of the contacts made with the utility company, no progress is achieved.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The managers of the area inform that in particular thanks to former recommendations of the Council of Europe, the Wurzacher Basin and the surrounding ridges could still be kept free from wind power plants.</p> <p>The managers report on very good progress in the wildlife monitoring and cooperation with stakeholders and farmers.</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Diploma logo use has been improved, both on-line and on the spot, as well as in publications issued by the area.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to deploy more efforts for the conservation of peat bogs.</li> </ul>	

No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	31. Spain, Teide National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)5</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the areas around the cable car should be restored in line with the Proyecto de restauración de la Rambleta del Teide;</li> <li>2) efforts to eradicate populations of moufflons and wild rabbits from inside and outside the park, with special emphasis on removing the invasive animal pressure from areas located outside the park should be continued;</li> <li>3) the roadworks cabin near Riachuelo Reserve, close to the TF-21 road should be removed, thus implementing the 12.4.4 provision of the Teide National Park Management Plan (plan rector de uso y gestión);</li> <li>4) the remaining buildings near the Sanatorium (el sanatorio) should be demolished and ecological restoration of the area should be undertaken;</li> <li>5) the monitoring of the effects of global climate change on the park's ecosystems should be improved so as to anticipate potential damage and possibly take adaptation measures;</li> <li>6) genetic and ecological studies on endangered endemic or indigenous plant species should be continued in order to ensure that plans to restore these species are carried out; the extension of these programmes to all endangered species should be considered;</li> <li>7) the access of visitors to the park should be strictly controlled, and the access plan (plan de acceso) adopted as required by the management plan;</li> <li>8) the public use plan (plan de uso publico)</li> </ol>	

		should be adopted and implemented.
	Conditions	
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	32. Germany, Berchtesgaden National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 18.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)7</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the following period and, to this effect, provide the necessary financial and human resources;</li> <li>2) include in the plan a provision for continuing a comprehensive long-term research programme, in close collaboration with other alpine protected areas and other relevant networks;</li> <li>3) prepare sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives, as integrated parts of the new management plan and taking into account the background of climate change; special attention should be given to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. military activities;</li> <li>ii. recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in co-operation with the mountain guide organisation; providing specific training courses for the guides;</li> <li>iii. visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts;</li> <li>iv. mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply;</li> <li>v. water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities;</li> </ol> </li> <li>4) consequently pursue the transformation of spruce forests into mixed forests until the integration of the intervention zone into the core area is finalised;</li> <li>5) continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle proliferation, but without enlarging the bark beetle management zone, and maintain wildlife pressure at an acceptable level;</li> </ol>	

		<p>6) anticipate and foster the natural return of large carnivores in the park area and communicate with the public about the benefits this may bring; develop a strategy and action plan to deal with this issue, including cattle protection measures and the training of shepherds;</p> <p>7) pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration (Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung) and the Nature Park and develop synergies with the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas;</p> <p>8) build and equip the park centre “Haus der Berge”; secure the personnel resources to fully realise its potential as a source of information, as an education centre and for the promotion of the park’s goods and services;</p> <p>9) further promote the development of the public transportation system within the park and adjacent protected territories; develop a strategy to reduce the private vehicle traffic to and within the park.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>All Recommendations are carefully considered and the management authority works on their achievement.</p> <p>Intensive bark beetle control in the Park gives results and is on-going. Game management is enforced as well.</p> <p>Research on the impact of climate change on the area biodiversity is on-going, with special attention paid to the natural processes in the Park.</p> <p>Transboundary co-operation is intensified, also</p>

		thanks to a new Interreg project.
	Shortcomings	The management plan preparation and adoption is still on-going. The authorities are concentrating their current efforts on the preparation of the Natura 2000 Management plan.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		The Berchtesgaden National Park uses the European Diploma logo on its website. It is also presented in the new National Park brochure.
Conclusions and action suggested		The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>33. France, Ecrins National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.06.1990 / 17.07.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)14</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) partnerships with the park's local authorities, intermunicipal bodies and local area plans should be strengthened in order to develop the necessary synergies for implementing a model policy for preserving the heritage with a view to sustainable development;</li> <li>2) the mechanisms for the continuous reporting, cataloguing and dissemination of heritage data should be improved, with particular attention being paid to cultural data and data relating to local know-how, and any expertise developed by the park authorities and its partners under the charter should be reported;</li> <li>3) the park's role as an environmental watchdog should be established, within networks of institutional partners, in response to the need to permanently monitor changes associated with global warming;</li> <li>4) further efforts should be made, in association with local players, to develop partnerships emphasising the methodological support, evaluation and technical support tasks of the national park, with a view to ensuring that activities are environmentally integrated;</li> <li>5) closer partnerships should be forged with the national forestry department, the local forestry authorities and the managers of privately owned forests (CRPF) to encourage more effective information sharing and the practice of exemplary multifunctional forestry management;</li> <li>6) efforts should be made to improve existing methods and tools for monitoring the</li> </ol>	



		<p>physiognomy of the local area as well as awareness-raising tools, notably with a view to identifying areas of future work and alerting local players to major changes in the landscape;</p> <p>7) close attention should be paid to the development of various forms of leisure and sporting activities, for example through better monitoring of numbers of visitors and by encouraging users to adopt practices that are more respectful of species and habitats;</p> <p>8) efforts should be made to monitor motorised and non-motorised flights over the core section of the park and to control the need for helicopter transport by holding discussions with mountain stockbreeders, owners and operators of mountain huts about the need to reduce the impact on species and the environment in the areas concerned;</p> <p>9) co-operation and solidarity measures geared towards rural communities should be pursued, in connection with the national strategy, in order to better reconcile the return of major predators with stock-keeping activities;</p> <p>10) the charter should be finalised and then the charter itself, as well as the conventions and programmes adopted under it, should be periodically assessed and adjustments made if necessary.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>The Charter of the Park was adopted in 2012 and is extremely well accepted by the administrative units in the buffer zone. Almost all of these units have joined the Charter.</p> <p>All Recommendations are being implemented or have already been implemented, including</p>

		the establishment of innovative tools for cooperation with local actors and stakeholders for their integration in the park management.
	Shortcomings	Climate change continues to heavily affect the Park glaciers and the summer melting of the glaciers in 2017 was the worst since 2003.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Park is expecting to be listed in the IUCN Green List in 2018.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Use of the Park website to disseminate the information on the ED; activities in relation to the ED are included in the activity report of the Park, logo is used, original Diploma is visibly placed in the Park visitors entrance.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	34. Italy, Maremma Nature Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 18.05.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)9</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) develop, in collaboration with the local authorities concerned, an approach to the management of the Ombrone by river basin, pursuant to the EU Water Framework Directive, with a view to attaining good ecological status for the watercourse within the meaning of that directive;</li> <li>2) finalise, within a maximum of two years, the extension of the Park to include the marine environment under conditions to be decided in agreement with local players;</li> <li>3) designate the Trappola (Ombrona Delta) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;</li> <li>4) considerably increase human resources in the Park responsible for field inspections and ensure a level of funding consistent with the increasing needs of optimum management of the diploma-holding area;</li> <li>5) step up technical support for local enterprises involved in developing integrated agro-environmental activities and promoting local products and services;</li> <li>6) develop action to promote the protection and enhancement of the Park's anthropological heritage;</li> <li>7) prepare a plan for the management of the wolf population.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>The Trappola area has been included in the wetlands areas of Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>The wolf is back to the park, research projects</p>	

		<p>are underway dealing with the species conservation.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The extension of the park to the marine environment is still not executed, although the authorities inform on progress in the scientific data gathering which will back the application of the designation.</p> <p>The Ombrone river management is still being considered, including due to lack of funding. However, some progress is achieved thanks to the coordination and consultation with relevant stakeholders at regional level.</p> <p>Human resources for the area are still insufficient.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>Very good visibility, valorisation and awareness-raising activities!</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Despite many visibility activities implemented, no mention of the visibility of the ED.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to secure financial resources in particular in view of the extension of the Park to the marine environment.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	35. Portugal, Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 18.05.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)4</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) continue to take all precautions to ensure that no non-native species of plants and animals are introduced;</li> <li>2) continue to improve the accommodation and the radio/phone system, which provides the capacity for wardens to contact their authorities in Madeira and their families;</li> <li>3) continue the studies to survey the effect of the eradication of the alien species of the flora and fauna for the next few years;</li> <li>4) make efforts to eliminate the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull (<i>L. m. atlantis</i>) on Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora;</li> <li>5) increase the awareness of the importance of the geological heritage;</li> <li>6) continue the programme of reconstruction of the remaining unrestored rubble walls.</li> </ol>		
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Selvagens Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 15/86 of 21 May 1986.</li> </ol>		
	Achievements	<p>R1. About the introduction of non-native plants or animals, no changes or deterioration of the environment occurred.</p> <p>R2. To improve the accommodation for wardens, a VSAT phone system, as well as a satellite internet system, have been installed. Small maintenance work was carried out at the biological stations of Selvagem Grande and Selvagem Pequena, to provide a better logistic support to the visitors.</p>		

		<p>R3. Various research projects developed in 2017, namely the “Explorations de Monaco” on scientific explorations at sea.</p> <p>R4. There is a constant effort to prevent the breeding of yellow-legged gull on the islands (Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora).</p> <p>R6. Most of the remaining unrestored rubble walls of the plateau are now well preserved and maintenance efforts are considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Island.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Regarding the condition included in the Resolution on the award of the ED, no change in the legal status of the Reserve and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur in the near or far future.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The management plan of the area was updated by the regional responsible authority in 2017 and the islands were designated as SAC and SPA, with expanded offshore area.</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Reinforced use of the ED logo, including at important events throughout 2017.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li> <li>- Welcome the update of the management plan of the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve. Yet Competent Authorities are invited to provide a summary of the content of the management plan in English cause all documentation is in Portuguese.</li> </ul>	

No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	36. France, Mercantour National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.1993 / 03.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2008)17</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) as part of the tasks entrusted to it under the Law No. 2006-436 of 14 April on National Parks, National Marine Parks and Regional Natural Parks, including contributing to the policy of protecting the natural, cultural and landscape heritage and developing initiatives aimed at gaining knowledge of and monitoring that heritage, pursue the fundamental research programme to assess the impact of predation by wolves on wild ungulates, in co-operation with the different partners concerned;</li> <li>2) draw up the charter provided for by the Law of 14 April 2006 on national parks, stipulating the protection objectives in the park's core area and the development aims of the "peripheral zone", now known as the "inclusion area" of the park;</li> <li>3) maintain the investment of financial and human resources in scientific knowledge and support for research, inter alia, capitalising on the data yielded by the different research programmes by networking them and streamlining the existing databases and their use;</li> <li>4) promote the implementation of projects in partnership with local municipalities and stakeholders;</li> <li>5) pursue co-operation with the Maritime Alps Nature Park (Italy) with a view to establishing a transfrontier protected area.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	



Name of the awarded area	37. Italy, Maritime Alps Nature Park (previously Argentera Nature Park)	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.1993 / 03.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)20</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) pursue co-operation efforts to secure financial support for research work on biodiversity protection and sustainable development;</li> <li>2) examine the opportunity to ensure the protection and the management of the park's adjacent areas, in particular the territory of the municipality of Vinadio and the special nature reserve of Phoenician Juniper, by setting up a "contiguous area" in accordance with the national law on protected areas (Law of 6 December 1991, No. 394), and step up, as far as possible, a territorial management project for the area;</li> <li>3) organise information and awareness-raising activities for local stakeholders, particularly on sustainable tourism development projects. Even those located outside the park boundary should be avoided if they have a potentially negative impact on the protected area, since the priority is conservation and sustainable tourism throughout the whole area;</li> <li>4) pursue co-operation with Mercantour National Park (France) in order to set up a transfrontier protected area.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) following the environmental impact studies carried out in the framework of the project to build a private micro-hydroelectric power plant in the Meris Valley, keep watch over possible further development of the project and, if the project is to go ahead, the Council of Europe Secretariat must be immediately informed and no decision taken before a special on-the-spot appraisal has been carried out;</li> <li>2) the same condition for the project concerning the piping of hot spa water from Terme di</li> </ol>	

		Valdieri down the valley;
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) plans for building hydropower station and piping hot spa water have been abandoned</li> <li>2) a close cooperation with the French partner, i.e. the Mercantour Natrional Park through various project</li> </ol>
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	A special attention paid to flagship and conflict wild animal species	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	A broad portfolio of well-targeted activities has been promoting the ED concept there	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations attached to the Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	38. Austria, Wachau Protected Landscape	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)11</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the existence of the Jauerling protected zone should continue to be guaranteed;</li> <li>2) the river should be maintained at its present level, guaranteeing the survival of the last alluvial forests;</li> <li>3) work on restoration of the terraces and integration of the irrigation network should continue;</li> <li>4) strict standards should be imposed on river tourism traffic, to ensure that it meets appropriate quality requirements for the Wachau;</li> <li>5) the refurbishment of the Spitz quarry should finally be started; works should be staggered until 2019;</li> <li>6) the moufflon population should be brought within a limit compatible with natural regeneration of the forest, without systematic recourse to protection fences;</li> <li>7) efforts should be continued to preserve the apricot orchards;</li> <li>8) steps should be taken to ensure that consultation on how to protect the Wachau against flooding takes place in co-operation with the local authorities concerned, in order to avoid separating the river from the hinterland by a substantial dyke.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein be abandoned definitively, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma;</li> </ol>	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An idea of building a dam on the Danube fully abandoned</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of involving volunteers in the fieldwork</li> <li>• Floodplain forest restoration using native/local species, thus improving the woody tree genepool</li> <li>• The final version of the UNESCO site plan has been presented to the public in March 2017</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project on old side branches connections has not been abandoned</li> <li>• Some issues (namely Recommendations No. 4,5,6,7 and 8) will have to be continuing and carefully watched including medium-term ones</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The ED site managers ask for an expert visit/on-the-spot appraisal in 2018	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Launching the new regional webpage (in German) should be appreciated	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of some recommendations;</li> <li>- Recommend an on-the-spot appraisal visit in 2018.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	39. Russian Federation, Oka National Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)2</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to continue the efforts made over the last five years to provide the awarded area with sufficient resources to ensure the proper conduct of scientific research;</li> <li>2) to conserve habitats of the Desman population: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the reserve should be extended south-eastwards in the Lopata zone, as far as the river Pra, in order to include some typical water meadow habitats not yet represented in the reserve, a number of oxbow lakes and a portion of the Oka river bank;</li> <li>ii. the prime Desman habitats, currently located near but outside the diploma-holding area, should also be incorporated into the diploma site;</li> <li>iii. furthermore, efforts should be made to encourage the handover to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section;</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) adequate resources should be provided for the purpose of raising the level of public education and information and developing links with local communities, while making full use of the reserve's assets and the large amount of available scientific data. Additional efforts should be made by the authorities with a view to making suitable educational material available, particularly to a young audience;</li> <li>4) the measures to regenerate habitats of the Desman in the Oka plain should be continued;</li> </ol>	

		5) management plan for the reserve should be produced and implemented as soon as possible.
	Conditions	1) any regionalisation or privatisation measures must not affect the reserve's current protected status;
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• key taxa/ecological group inventories and survey have been continuing (72 species newly found there) as well as monitoring on 38 plots</li> <li>• Dasman preferred habitat restoration continuing at some sites</li> <li>• A lot of communication, education and public awareness implemented</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R2i, 2iii respectively to be fully implemented</li> <li>• R3. No update information on this point with respect to what reported in 2016. There's a slight decrease in the number of visitors (from 9000 in 2016 to 8000 in 2017) and conferences (from 5 in 2016 to 4 in 2017). Further, no answer is provided with reference to the financial part.</li> <li>• R4. No information is given on the measures undertaken to regenerate the habitats of the Desman in Oka plain.</li> <li>• R5. No information on the management plan.</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>A participatory approach to local communities implemented which is crucial for the future.</p> <p>Approval of the 2016-2020 years programme of scientific research and environmental monitoring.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The ED has been promoting the site and ED logo has been regularly used during various activities</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendation;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Encourage the authorities to pursue their efforts to comply with conditions.</li><li>- The competent authorities are called to take urgent action in order to develop the management plan for the Oka Biosphere Reserve, which is still missing. This recommendation should be turned into condition in the draft decision.</li><li>- More efforts should be made to facilitate the extension of Oka Reserve as in Recommendation n.2 for the conservation of the habitats of Desman population. The competent authorities are also called to speed up those processes for which documentation is available (purposeful work on preparation of documentation for the transfer of the marked area).</li><li>- It is still unclear in which way the condition regarding any regionalisation or privatisation measures not affecting the reserve's current protected status has been accomplished. This condition should stay unless clear information is given on this aspect.</li></ul>
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Name of the awarded area	40. Russian Federation, Teberda National Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)1</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the management plan should be finalised and implemented;</li> <li>2) every effort should be made to provide the reserve with the funding required to maintain and, if possible, improve its functioning;</li> <li>3) information and education activities should continue to be further developed as far as possible. The new museum in Teberda should serve as a showcase of the reserve's exceptional heritage value;</li> <li>4) scientific research activities should be pursued and any results that have environmental management purposes should be published. The reserve's management should be given the necessary means to facilitate the access of scientists and foreign visitors to the work of the diploma site in the appropriate languages;</li> <li>5) co-operation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia should be pursued and stepped up with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area;</li> <li>6) the authorities should ensure that the Caucasus Polygon, which was officially established in February 2010, becomes effective.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the tourist facilities in the protected area near Dombay will be neither extended nor developed. The co-operation between the reserve manager and the company running the tourist facilities on joint technical projects should be supported;</li> <li>2) it will continue to be prohibited to drop off skiers by helicopter;</li> <li>3) any regionalisation or privatisation measures must in no way adversely affect the reserve's</li> </ol>	



		current protected status;
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the above recommendations have been implemented</li> <li>• The finances available for the ED site doubled</li> <li>• A new information centre launched there</li> <li>• At this moment, there are 205 staff members managing the PA</li> <li>• Huge development in science and research including the international cooperation</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No information on the management plan provided by the report</li> <li>• Land privatisation in adjacent areas negatively affect the ED side</li> <li>• Cooperation with the transboundary PA in Georgia has not started due to political reasons</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The ED has increased the image of the site	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and some recommendations;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to pursue their efforts for complying with all the recommendations.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	41. Hungary, Ipolytarnóc Protected Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)15</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) recognising the site's high potential for further discoveries of geological interest, research – especially the palaeontological excavations – should continue; all appropriate measures should be taken to preserve and, if possible, exhibit the natural resources; the results of scientific research should be made publicly available;</li> <li>2) the site should take an active role in the management of the Slovak-Hungarian transborder Novohrad-Ngrd Geopark, in order to preserve and interpret the natural assets of the region and to become a focal, multilingual information point for geotourism;</li> <li>3) the entrance to the protected area should have an appropriate gateway displaying information in order to control tourism within the site and the buffer zone; the buildings along the geological trail should be further integrated into the landscape; the power line that runs between the village and the visitor centre should be replaced with an underground cable;</li> <li>4) gradual replacement of the exotic trees with indigenous species should be continued by assisting the natural succession process through ecologically sensitive land management practices; the control of game – causing considerable damage to vegetation and protected animal species – should be continued;</li> <li>5) the balance between open spaces and wooded areas on the western side of the conservation area, close to the nearby settlement, should be maintained to preserve the mosaic structure of the landscapes there.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	

	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are significant efforts by the ED site managers to fulfil the above recommendations and they are quite successful;</li> <li>• The ED site management provides jobs to local people;</li> <li>• Continuing efforts to reduce or eradicate invasive alien woody plant species;</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding on the transboundary UNESCO geopark between the Hungarian and Slovak partners does not include the respective nature conservation agencies</li> <li>• Power line's replacement to be implemented by 2020</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The current information technology (smartphone app on the geotrial, high-tech animations) and remote sensing ones (drones) have been used for communication, education and public awareness where an attention is given to the ED logo	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress but encourages the authorities to pursue their efforts for the implementation of the remaining recommendations.	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>42. Hungary, Szénás Hills Protected Area</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)16</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the management of the area should be carried out in close co-operation by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company; the activities of the finished LIFE Programme, such as the conversion of black pine forests, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring, should be continued jointly; the area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site's national and European importance;</li> <li>2) inside and near the area, permission should be given only for such game population management operations as are strictly consonant with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the area, particularly as regards eradication of the moufflon and reduction of the populations of large herbivores to a level compatible with the preservation of the dolomitic grasslands and natural woodlands; these population control operations should be planned on the basis of accurate population monitoring;</li> <li>3) the fence enclosing the protected area must be maintained in good condition to prevent technical sport activities from encroaching upon it and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation;</li> <li>4) visitor reception capacity should be increased by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, to make the public more aware of the importance of preserving the habitats in the area; measures should be taken to prevent motor vehicles from crossing the area; the visitor centre at Pilisszentiván should be restored and modernised;</li> <li>5) regulations must be worked out for horse riding</li> </ol>	

		<p>paths in the area; also a mountain bike trail should be designated so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area;</p> <p>6) the protected landscape status of the two areas adjoining the special protection area, which were also the subject of the diploma application, should be maintained to keep them functioning properly as buffer zones; construction in these areas should not be allowed;</p> <p>7) urbanisation pressure must be handled properly; any new development plans of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba should be examined carefully;</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quite comprehensive range of communication, education and public awareness activities has been implemented there: in addition, a new staff member in charge of the topic appointed</li> <li>• Co-cooperation between the above bodies has been continuing</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes in some recommendations, namely No. 5, 6, 7 and 8</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of some recommendations;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to increase the various stakeholders' involvement in the ED site management.</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to strengthen their efforts for implementing the remaining recommendations.</li> </ul>

Name of the awarded area	43. Belarus, Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)6</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) sufficient resources need to be generated both by the government and by the reserve to protect effectively the biodiversity resources and to continue scientific research. In addition to extra-budgetary sources of income, other sources should be tapped, especially in co-operation with NGOs such as Okhova Ptushak Beloarusi (Belorussian BirdLife) and the WWF;</li> <li>2) further efforts should be taken to prevent negative effects from the fragmentation of the reserve by the M3 road and to preserve the integrity of the core area;</li> <li>3) further study of the dynamics of the mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration between the core and the buffer zones should be carried out in order to follow the progress of the effects of hunting on the current situation and manage the populations accordingly;</li> <li>4) continue with the efforts between the appropriate ministries to ensure that the development of tourism is well controlled;</li> <li>5) in order to mitigate possible risks and hazards connected with climatic changes and possible large- scale disturbances on the reserve, the study programme on these topics should be continued.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the protection regime and ownership of the land should be kept unchanged;</li> </ol>	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the above recommendations fulfilled</li> <li>• The staff member number has been increasing</li> <li>• Sustainable forestry using the FSC</li> </ul>	

		certification
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although tourist attendance has been controlled, it would be useful to know its carrying capacity</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	A special attention has been paid to science, research, inventories and monitoring	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The ED logo has extensively been used by the ED site staff	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	44. Netherlands, De Weeriben-De Wieden Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 03.06.2020
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2015)2</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) implement a monitoring programme to evaluate the effects of the new connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden, the construction of which was finished by the end of 2014, at least on important and/or endangered species, considering the exemplary role of the project;</li> <li>2) monitor the further development of fish stocks, with an emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements;</li> <li>3) limit the impact of fishing by defining a maximum number of licenses or limiting the catch; define methods to avoid secondary catches of otter or other species; and ensure the further development of a management plan for fish stocks covering all species, as requested in the previous resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma;</li> <li>4) carefully observe the development of boating on the Kalenberger Gracht and set limits (for example a maximum number and/or size of boats) or provide for measures in case of increasing numbers of larger boats;</li> <li>5) continue with the designation of adjoining areas as extensions of, or buffer zones to, the protected areas, especially to the north (Rottige Meente) and south-east (Staphorster Veld), and create a connection between the two separate parts of De Wieden Nature Reserve between the Zuideindiger Wiede and the Bovenwiede;</li> <li>6) review contracts with business owners and landowners with regard to habitat management, and especially the duration of these contracts, to ensure that management</li> </ol>	



		<p>can be directed by the responsible authorities and to prevent long-term and irredeemable contracts through which the reserve authorities have limited leverage;</p> <p>7) observe possible threats which may occur due to the intensification of agriculture, changes in water management or construction of wind farms;</p> <p>8) secure adequate funds to convert the Ossenzijl information centre, at least in part, into an educational centre geared towards young people.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) urge the responsible authorities to adopt the joint Natura 2000 management plan, by the end of 2016, as an official and binding document which will be considered as covering the requirements of the European Diploma;</p>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very comprehensive and information-rich report submitted to the Council of Europe</li> <li>• Most of the above recommendations fully or at least partially have been implemented</li> <li>• The Natura 2000 site management Plan was finalized in 2017</li> <li>• There are efforts by local farmers to establish a biological corridor between the two separate parts of the De Wieden Reserve</li> <li>• The Weerribben National Park Visitor Centre renewed and is accessible for disabled people</li> <li>• Young rangers group being very active</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on angling within the Weerribben NP are missing</li> <li>• Extension of the NP or establishing the buffer zones have to be implemented</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The issue of the Lelystad Airport is utmost importance for the future of the ED site: the outputs of the EIA on the above project (if any) have not been mentioned</p>	

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and recommendations.</li><li>- Keep the Group of Specialists informed of the further development of the Lelystad airport.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	45. Finland, Seitseminen National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)8</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular five-year intervals;</li> <li>2) continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity;</li> <li>3) Metsähallitus should continue to bring together people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster the transfer and exchange of knowledge; scientific research should actively continue;</li> <li>4) deepen co-operation with local stakeholders, especially in the nature tourism sector;</li> <li>5) provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) implement the new master plan for the Seitseminen National Park and evaluate by 2014 if there is a need of a new updated management plan.</li> </ol>	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost all the above recommendations have been fully implemented or are underway</li> <li>• The Government purchased additional 35 hectares to the NP</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No information on forest restoration within the NP available</li> </ul>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The ED site is managed as the Natura 2000 site		

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed Materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	46. Finland, Ekenäs Archipelago National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)7</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan;</li> <li>2) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals;</li> <li>3) continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved; and</li> <li>ii. the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species;</li> </ol> </li> <li>4) continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure;</li> <li>ii. further develop customer service and interpretation; and</li> <li>iii. raise the public's awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park;</li> </ol> </li> <li>5) review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years;</li> <li>6) deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	1) within one year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan (master plan), which itself will include plans to enlarge the national park.	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the above recommendations fully or</li> </ul>	

		<p>partially implemented thanks to the clear efforts made by the national park Administration staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area to be added to the NP has been protected before the NP's enlargement itself</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The ED site is managed as the Natura 2000 site	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The NP Administration has been using the ED logo since it was awarded the ED.	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	47. Belarus, Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2013)1</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) continue the move from economically driven to ecologically driven management by reducing the forestry activities in the regulated zones and special habitats in other parts of the National Park, by excluding parcels with old trees in all zones (including the buffer zones) from logging, and by presenting data on harvested wood volumes in the annual reports;</li> <li>2) working with the Government of Belarus, ensure that the National Park authorities have the responsibility for the management of a. the zones of special significance for specific habitats outside the strictly protected areas, b. the buffer zones and c. the game zones within the boundaries of the National Park;</li> <li>3) start discussions between the National Park authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture to compensate an agricultural area of 2 000 ha recently excluded from the National Park, by including abandoned agricultural areas elsewhere – also in the buffer zones – and by promoting a gradual extensification of agricultural activities leading to semi-natural habitats (hayfields and low-intensity, grazed meadows with only moderate or no use of fertilisers);</li> <li>4) working with the Government of Belarus, increase budgets for both applied ecological research and nature conservation activities in view of the principles of sustainable management either currently present in, or to be included in, the management plan; special attention is needed both within the National Park and its buffer zones for a. hydrological restoration of all wetland (bog and marsh) ecosystems surrounding the forest, b. water and soil quality in river valleys</li> </ol>	

		<p>and c. semi-natural traditionally managed or abandoned farmland;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5) reconsider the management of large herbivores with a view to reducing the winter food supply so as to prevent abnormally large population densities (overpopulation), rather than reducing excess numbers by continued or increased hunting practices; this is motivated by aiming to alleviate possible damage to both forestry and agriculture;</li><li>6) continue research on the genetic aspects of the bison populations, applying the results to further investigate the restoration of a transboundary migration corridor with Poland;</li><li>7) carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) concerning mass tourism in the heart of the National Park, including a reappraisal of the boundaries, location and zoning of "Father Frost's Manor", and the effects of traffic and pollution, taking into account the increased accessibility of the National Park; in the annual reports state how any concerns demonstrated by the EIA are being addressed in practice;</li><li>8) monitor and evaluate the ecological side effects of a. the new bypass road, b. the use of fauna tunnels (eco-tunnels) by various species (such as herpetofauna, badgers and large herbivores), c. the expected regional economic investments, d. the increasing agro-tourism developments and e. the additional recreation initiatives around the outskirts of the National Park; and report annually on the results of the monitoring and evaluation;</li><li>9) intensify the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of actual activities such as agriculture (drainage, water quality, use of chemicals), forestry (logging, removal of dead wood, bark beetle effects) and hunting (introduced species, hunting bag statistics), including neighbouring zones outside the</li></ol>
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		<p>National Park, in order to adjust the management plan or to substantiate environmental impact assessments;</p> <p>10) consider a specific adaptation of the prohibition of all activities in the strictly protected zones so as to control the invasive alien species, thus enabling the control of deer (<i>Dama dama</i>) escaped from hunting enclosures and the felling of old red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) trees and seedlings that disturb the natural forest ecosystems;</p> <p>11) prepare a new detailed topographic map (1/50 000) of the National Park and surroundings, indicating the functional zoning (with the buffer zones, game areas, checkpoints, educational trails, etc., all marked) and including the location of the bypass road (with legends in different languages).</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The logging and removal of timber in old-age (+100 years) stands is not conducted in 90 % of these stands. The data presented in the report is scant, and provides just estimates of approximal volumes. The recommendation is still valid.</li> <li>2) Interaction and monitoring is on-going – unclear if achievement, or business as usual.</li> <li>3) In 2014, the EDPA was enlarged with 150 ha former farmland, and 14 ha forest, substituting for the 2000 ha excluded from the park. Recommendation would be to monitor the impact of the inclusion compared to the loss.</li> <li>4) Co-operation with NGO's on monitoring and research is financed, and should be instrumental for this recommendation.</li> <li>5) Winter feeding practices are diminished.</li> <li>6) Research on Bison population and trans-boundary exchange is on-going, but establishing this migration route is awaiting results of genetic results.</li> </ol>

		<p>7) Visitors are monitored, and numbers limited to a maximum number according to the regulation of the park.</p> <p>8) No increase in number of recreation activities, numbers agro-tourism initiatives reported.</p> <p>9) Monitoring responsibilities shared with several authorities – thus difficult to gather.</p> <p>10) IAS under control and programmes of eradication established.</p> <p>11) New map published, the recommended scale is not legally possible.</p>
	Shortcomings	See comments on the achievement of the recommendations 1, 3, 9 and 11.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities for more action in order to comply with recommendations 1, 3 and 9;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	48. France, Port Cros National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)8</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ensure that the development of the new Grand Parc consolidates the protection of Port-Cros and that it in no way undermines such protection; and keep the relevant Committee informed about how the situation develops;</li> <li>2) ensure the early implementation of formal protection for Porquerolles, with its adjoining marine area, which is a vital complement to Port-Cros;</li> <li>3) consolidate and co-ordinate the protection of the surrounding marine area initiated under Natura 2000, and seek a regional solution to the problem of waste water from boats;</li> <li>4) actively work on enlarging the Port-Cros National Park by introducing a partnership zone on the mainland and an adjacent maritime zone, and initiate the consultation procedure for drafting the Park's Charter, ensuring maximum involvement by local stakeholders;</li> <li>5) continue to assess the impact of recreational activities, introduce indicators for environmental load and pressure capacity indicators in order to prevent the tolerance threshold of the land and sea habitats from being exceeded, and monitor the development and impact of new sports activities in order to regulate them as soon as they emerge; define and implement the necessary tools for achieving this objective and involving all partners in their implementation;</li> <li>6) continue to monitor commercial fishing and regularly adapt the regulations and voluntary</li> </ol>	

		<p>agreements with fishermen in order to ensure sustainable use of this local resource; assess the impact of angling and tailor the regulations if necessary;</p> <p>7) provide visitors with more visible information on the fact that they are entering a natural protected area at the ports of entry and by displaying notices in the shuttle boats, and place greater emphasis on the European Diploma;</p> <p>8) continue to monitor and control invasive alien species such as <i>Carpobrotus</i> spp., <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>, black rats and feral cats, and actively participate in the Mediterranean alarm network on new high-risk species;</p> <p>9) involve the Park more actively and visibly in measures concerning sustainable development and moderate use of such resources as fresh water and energy;</p> <p>10) clarify the formal and actual responsibilities and tasks of the National Park and those of the other local players such as the municipal, departmental and maritime authorities;</p> <p>11) promote local reappropriation of the Park by developing partnerships with local political, economic and voluntary players.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	According to the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>49. Ukraine, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)1</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) continue efforts to provide the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with more appropriate funding and to raise more additional funds from external sources;</li> <li>2) accelerate liaison with the authorities of Romania so as to complete the process of establishing a transfrontier Biosphere Reserve within the next two to three years;</li> <li>3) pay more attention to the elaboration and implementation of clear strategies and actions plans for the development of co-ordinated green activities around the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, working in close co-operation with the local stakeholders and in line with the presidential guidance;</li> <li>4) provide the Council of Europe with adequate and detailed figures, information and data on the legislation concerning the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in Ukraine and the enforcement of that legislation in the country, especially with regards to Article 6 of the Bern Convention; the State Party should be urged to report on this issue to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention at its next meeting, and encouraged to strengthen its efforts on reducing the poaching activities in and around the Diploma-holding area;</li> <li>5) devote priority efforts to the monitoring and conservation of the European mink and to the control of the population of the American mink within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve;</li> <li>6) follow up the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations made in the reports on inventory and monitoring, and on the challenges and solutions for the management of the Carpathian Biosphere</li> </ol>	

		<p>Reserve, published in 2008 and 2011, giving the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve the capacity to undertake these;</p> <p>7) strengthen co-operation with the local socio-economic stakeholders, including the forest and the tourism sectors, and develop specific awareness pilot activities targeted on them; these activities should address the issue of climate change, and promote local adaptation measures to global warming, including alternative socio-economic measures, such as schemes for green tourism, carbon sequestration and payment for ecosystem services.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) There is a working plan for increasing of funding, from more than one source – should be monitored.</li> <li>2) The trans-boundary activities are on-going, and slowly the co-operation with the Maramures Biosphere Reserve is developing at a slow rate, but promising, with several MOU's signed.</li> <li>3) Though a moving target is under consideration.</li> <li>4) Data on the wolves in the EDPA not presented, so this recommendation is still valid.</li> <li>5) The European Mink is present, the American absent. But it is not monitored for financial reasons.</li> <li>6) Though under way, must be followed.</li> <li>7) Formal regulations constitute a basis, but development concerning coordination of activities is still needed.</li> </ol>
	Shortcomings	See above comment on the achievement of the recommendation 4.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The management of meadows, through hay-making and restoring hydrological situations is improving the conditions for the rare flora of these habitats.	

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The ED-logo is constantly used in presentations and produced material. There have been several big conferences in the UNESCO-context where the EDPA-status is signaled.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing in most of the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to improve the monitoring schemes especially regarding the situation of the wolf and situation of the European Mink population.</li></ul>



Name of the awarded area	50. Slovak Republic, Poloniny National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)19</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) give the management of the diploma-holding area greater responsibility for forestry and hunting matters and involve it in the corresponding decision-making process;</li> <li>2) consider the signature of a simplified agreement between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities;</li> <li>3) pursue efforts to upgrade human resources, in particular by taking on more technical staff and wardens, and very substantially step-up funding, at least doubling the annual ratio per hectare for the period of validity of the diploma;</li> <li>4) give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park;</li> <li>5) strongly consider the designation of a hunting district within the park as a strict cynegetic reserve;</li> <li>6) pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style; the park might devise a charter of architectural rules for local authorities;</li> <li>7) start experimenting with the selective felling of beech forest in a state-owned woodland unit; the national authorities shall inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) finalise and adopt the management plan for the park within two years of the renewal;</li> </ol>	

		<p>2) start work on devising a new blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the diploma-holding area, taking greater account of the biological imperatives dictated by its European significance, within one year of the renewal. The national authorities shall supply a strategic plan for the sustainable development of the woodland during the next period of validity of the diploma and inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made. This blueprint shall include revision of the current hunting allocation in the diploma-holding area, ensuring that the functional units each cover a surface area of 3 000 to 4 000 hectares, consistent with the biology of large herbivores;</p> <p>3) create a functional network of protected areas during the next period of validity, meeting international standards in this area and complying with the national Law on Nature and Landscape Protection (notably sections 28 and 30);</p> <p>4) pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a future purchasing plan with specific objectives, indicating the funding to be assigned to this purpose each year;</p> <p>5) set up a scientific programme inventorying and monitoring the large carnivore populations in the diploma-holding area; the national authorities shall submit the scientific protocol for that programme for opinion to the Group of Specialists on the Diploma within one year of the renewal;</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <p>1) Apparently in place and approved by authorities and local stakeholders.</p> <p>3) Establishing an “EFA” is a starting point to reach this recommendation, and this process has to be followed, and reported by the authorities to the Group of Specialists.</p> <p>4) Re-formulating the condition, to include land-</p>

		<p>leasing, compensation, contractor measures etc. on-going, and should be allowed under C 4.</p> <p>5) Possibilities to fulfil the condition in place – future monitoring.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>2) In place, up and running.</p> <p>3) Apparently on the way.</p> <p>4) Is fulfilled.</p> <p>5) Efforts are made, and opportunities are in place.</p> <p>6) Well in place</p> <p>7) Started</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Condition 2) Too early to determine whether this condition is met. Hardly any apparent positive changes to the percentage of different forestry within the EDPA, nor evidence for changes in size of hunting units.</p> <p>Recommendation 1) No changes, but considered as good enough.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The visit of independent expert M. Usher clarified the importance and relevance of the award for the park.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for complying with the conditions (and recommendations) attached the renewal of the European Diploma especially regarding the development of the forest management strategy.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	51. Poland, Bieszczady National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)18</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) extend the perimeter of the diploma-holding area by including in the park the territory currently separating its two cores;</li> <li>2) implement a programme to study and monitor the status and development of large predators throughout the Bieszczady National Park and the three neighbouring parks of Cislansko-Wetlinski, Dolina Sanu and Nadsanski; recruit for the purpose a zoologist who will report on this programme to the diploma-holding area's scientific team;</li> <li>3) step up co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and the municipalities with a view to forging a common vision and setting common objectives for spatial planning and development, taking account of the biological and landscape significance and sensitive nature of the sites;</li> <li>4) draw on the activities and expertise of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, particularly for the application of its articles on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (4), spatial planning (5) and forestry (7);</li> <li>5) consider strengthening co-operation between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the government concerned shall undertake to adopt a management plan for the diploma-holding area, within no more than two years of the renewal of the period of validity;</li> </ol>	
		Condition	

	Achievements	<p>1) There is a Protection Plan for the years 2011-31 and the management plan was approved 2016</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>2) Partly met with the recommendation, although problems working over the Polish-Ukrainian border.</p> <p>3) Meetings are taking place, and co-operation on the targets are on the agenda.</p> <p>4) Co-operation within the three-state Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" is meeting the recommendation.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>R1. To include the forests between the two core areas has proven to be fruitless, but the whole area is included in Natura 2000.</p> <p>R2. There are no legal possibilities for the Polish side to monitor ungulates and large predators in the Ukrainian Nadsański Landscape Park but the BdPN receives information about the state of animals in this area as a part of cooperation in the International Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians". Furthermore, no information is given on the recruitment of a zoologist responsible for the issue.</p> <p>R3. More information is needed on the involvement of the other two local municipalities in the activities of the Park.</p> <p>R4. Little information is still given on the activities and expertise of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The total size of the strictly protected area within the EDPA has increased to 70 %.</p> <p>Largest number of visitors ever – 513 000 – were recorded on foot trails in the park during open season.</p>	

	<p>A suggestion to include a most valuable beech forest in the protected area failed, but public consultation was held, and showed positive results.</p> <p>The report covers the last four years, and concludes a lot of work being carried out, in order with the recommendations.</p>
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The European Diploma logo is on the official website <a href="http://www.bdpn.pl">www.bdpn.pl</a> and on the new information boards which were installed in the park area since last renewal. The Diploma logo used extensively at meetings and seminars etc.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations and the condition.</li> <li>- The approval of the 2016-2018 Action Plan by the Minister of the Environment is very welcomed as well as the enlargement of the protected area. Yet, a copy of the Action Plan is still missing and more information is needed on its implementation. Competent Authorities are asked to provide details on the AP.</li> <li>- Competent Authorities are called to better investigate the reasons why local communities do not approve the enlargement of the Park and strengthen the measures to better involve these communities in the vision and objectives of the Park. Competent authorities are also called to clarify whether Natura 2000 conservation measures in "Bieszczady" area have been adopted and implemented.</li> <li>- Competent Authorities of the Park are called to take measures to involve all municipalities in the activities of the Park and strengthen raising awareness activities and consultation aimed at clarifying the added value of the Park and of the EDPA recognition.</li> </ul>

Name of the awarded area	52. Slovak Republic, Dobročský National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)11	<p>1) promote awareness-raising activities, mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. updating the exhibition on the Dobročský National Nature Reserve in the Pred Skalickou cottage;</li> <li>ii. in co-operation with the forestry authorities, installing an information point on the Dobročský National Nature Reserve in the Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská Valley, near Čierny Balog;</li> </ul> <p>2) implement other activities listed in the management plan, particularly research and monitoring.</p>	
	Conditions	<p>1) pursue the process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests, mainly in the buffer zone of the Dobročský National Nature Reserve, in compliance with the management plan;</p>	
	Achievements	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1) Actions in place, and seem to have had good effects.</p> <p>2) Research and monitoring is carried out, results should regularly be communicated to the Group of Specialists.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>Condition</p> <p>1) Small scale transforming of forests carried out, mainly as responses to "calamities". This seems to have been primarily sanitation actions, and doubtful if they have contributed to any extent to the meeting the condition.</p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Extensive number of visits from expert groups. Also high-level meetings in the EDPA with officials and external decision makers.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Difficult to evaluate if there has been a change in visibility in the period, but the logo has been extensively used, and in information material it has been obvious that the area is an EDPA.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the authorities to report more comprehensively on the actions undertaken to comply with the condition attached to the renewal of the European Diploma.</li></ul>



Name of the awarded area	53. Russian Federation, Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)13</a>	<p>1) continue work on optimising the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve area, which could be expanded by incorporating unmanaged woodland along the state border and adjacent to the south and west boundaries of the reserve, including parts of the Kamennoye and Minozero lakes. In exchange for the forest tracts along the state border (sections 4 to 14 and 27 to 29), the reserve could give the local authorities the woodland adjacent to the motorway and railway as land suitable for the development of road and rail services;</p> <p>2) provide sufficient resources to ensure the proper functioning of the reserve. Financial support is needed to carry out fundamental research and strengthen environmental education activities. Special funds are needed to publish a special jubilee edition to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve, and to build new tourist paths in the reserve.</p>	
	Conditions	<p>1) as the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve has no buffer zone and the woodland north-east of the reserve has been given to logging companies, create a 200- to 300-metre wide protective zone where no felling is allowed along the boundary of the diploma area, especially the north and east boundaries of Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve;</p> <p>2) support the reserve in its efforts to create a system for remitting part of the money due for the water intake from the reserve. The clear water taken for municipal purposes amounts to 8 to 9 million cubic metres per year and Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve does not receive any compensation. Compensation in the form of subsidies for nature conservation should be granted to the reserve;</p>	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	The report from the authorities does not consider the last Resolution renewing the European Diploma. No information is provided regarding the conditions and recommendations.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to request the authorities to report on the conditions and the recommendations attached to the Resolution <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)13</a> renewing the European Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	54. Russian Federation, Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)12</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) provide sufficient resources to ensure proper functioning of the reserve. Financial support is needed to carry out basic research and establish the necessary infrastructure for the development of ecological education, as well as for strengthening the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve protection capacity;</li> <li>2) carry on systematic efforts to extend all the reserve territories, especially their buffer zones and to establish and/or restore ecological corridors between these territories;</li> <li>3) continue efforts to search for new valuable steppe territories which could be joined to Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve or constitute stepping stones or ecological corridors between the existing territories of the reserve;</li> <li>4) encourage further co-operation projects with international participation – such as the “Yaroslavna” project – in the sphere of nature and landscape conservation and sustainable development;</li> <li>5) continue work on the optimisation of territory of the Belogorye Biosphere Reserve. This reserve might be expanded through incorporation of new steppe ecosystems, which would strengthen the interest of the diploma-holding area. Possibly consider the extension of the European Diploma to the Belogorye Reserve.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Additional funding raised from two external actors.</li> <li>2) Documentation arguing for an extended biosphere reserve submitted to the ministry of Natural Resources.</li> </ol>	

		<p>3) A new area suggested strengthening the infrastructure of steppe habitats.                      5) The Belogorye reserve is working independently for optimizing its territory.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>For political reasons the action regarding recommendation 4 has been suspended.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>All the grass areas described in the management plan were mowed during the last two years, though no more staff available, nor increased funding.</p> <p>In 2017 76 scientific articles published by staff of the EDPA.</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to report on any plans which could threaten the area in the next or far future;</li> <li>- Competent Authorities are invited to take measures in order to stop the increasing phenomenon of construction in the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	55. Netherlands, De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	09.09.1999 / 09.09.2019
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)6</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the annual reports must include a specific paragraph on all developments in relation with Lelystad regional airport;</li> <li>2) the authorities of the surrounding municipalities and the province must be persuaded to decrease external impacts on the reserve by reviewing urbanisation and zoning plans where appropriate;</li> <li>3) the optimal functioning of the two visitor's centres (Almere and Lelystad) should be ensured by increasing the budget for personnel, particularly with regard to the recruitment of communication experts;</li> <li>4) the further integration of adjacent green areas such as Hollandse Hout into the reserve management should be completed; priority should be given to rebuilding the railway along a new route to the south of this zone and opening a new railway station at Lelystad-Zuid;</li> <li>5) the visual impact of the urbanisation in Almere should be further minimised with the aim of a better gradual integration of the city into the open landscape by fully respecting the border and buffer zones of the reserve and by still further lowering the agreed building heights and volumes;</li> <li>6) the recommendations of the ICMO (International Committee on the management of large herbivores in the De Oostvaardersplassen) report related to the management of the reserve and the further extension of the reserve should be implemented by building a corridor to Horsterwold; all efforts should be concentrated on establishing the De Oostvaarderswold as a multifunctional</li> </ol>	

		<p>corridor with combined importance for nature conservation, recreation and water management; the existing windfarms along the future Oostvaarderswold corridor should be reviewed to reduce the risks of bird collisions and make it appear as “wild” as possible; new developments, infrastructures and investments in the future corridor zone other than those related to its specific ecological functions should be avoided; future ecological interconnection potential should be maximised by constructing wildlife crossings and tunnels where necessary.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) With regard to new information received concerning the development of the Lelystad regional airport, despite the condition attached to the award in 1999, any development of the airport must not have any negative impact on the reserve; this is to be confirmed once the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure, including public consultation, has been finalised, and this should examine in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. all alternative locations with least disturbing effects on the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and its surroundings;</li> <li>ii. all flight routes and heights and their risk of disturbing the fauna making use of the reserve and its surroundings as well as the risk of collision of birds with airplanes;</li> </ul>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Condition: The flight paths in and out of the airport have been determined, and none of the low-flying ones concerns the EDPA. All recommendations have been met, though some still need to be monitored onwards.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Moving the airport favourably away from the EDPA was unsuccessful.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The establishment of Oostvaardersplassen as a Natura 2000 site has made many actions concerning information, visitor management etc possible.</p>	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the authorities to report on the disturbances created by the infrastructures and operation of the Lelystad airport;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

**No annual report was received in 2017**

Name of the awarded area	56. Czech Republic, Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)1</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reassess and guarantee the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan;</li> <li>2) Arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management that promotes the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area through close co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the departments active in the field (agriculture, forestry and Bílé Karpaty departments) as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved;</li> <li>3) Eliminate non-indigenous species, namely fallow deer, from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas and further develop consultation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment in order to control big game populations;</li> <li>4) Continue the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of existing hardwood forests;</li> <li>5) The European Diploma should be more visibly associated with the image of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (for example, in the information centres, in publications and on the website).</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Keep at least the existing access to the Radejov hunting reserve for the visitors and decrease the population size of the non-indigenous game species, such as fallow deer, control the pressure exerted by game so that the forest may regenerate, draw up a hunting plan in conjunction with the administration of the protected area, and finally refrain from</li> </ol>	



		<p>building any new facilities (e.g. hunting lodge);</p> <p>2) Amend agri-environmental funding rules in accordance with the protected area's management plan in order to secure financing of management needed to attain objectives set.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.</p>	

**No annual report was received in 2017**

Name of the awarded area	57. Czech Republic, Karlstejn National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)5</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) continue the restoration of non-forested areas of forest steppes and xerophilous calcareous grasslands through appropriate management; make funding available to conclude contractual agreements with the goatherds and/or shepherds in order to guarantee grazing, and thereby maintenance, in the long term;</li> <li>2) continue the restoration of the broad-leaved forests by gradually eliminating conifer plantations; in the interests of allowing natural regeneration, avoid reintroducing non-native game species such as mouflon or fallow deer;</li> <li>3) make it compulsory to draw up land-use plans (spatial development) and explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation; also stimulate the establishment of regular consultation procedures with relevant local and regional authorities, scientists and NGOs;</li> <li>4) improve signposting, notably by translating the texts into English, and possibly into German, and by displaying the European Diploma logo on the signs;</li> <li>5) stimulate the development of high quality visitors' centres and organise environmental education for the wider public; encourage local authorities to disseminate information on the merits of the nature reserve and its position in Europe in appropriate places (such as railway stations, camping sites, municipal halls, museums, etc.);</li> </ol>	

		6) ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the reserve's staff, including administration, research, surveillance, education and training, as well as habitat management.
	Conditions	
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	58. Czech Republic, Podyji National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 21.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)4</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ensure, in collaboration with the operator of the hydroelectric power station at Vranov, that the negative amplitudes in the flow regime from the dam sluices are reduced and that a minimum residual flow rate is guaranteed;</li> <li>2) secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019;</li> <li>3) control the development of leisure activities, and in particular avoid the use of the River Dyje for water sports;</li> <li>4) intensify co-operation with the Thayatal National Park to harmonise the fishing regulations within the two parks and reduce the negative effects of fishing in the core zones;</li> <li>5) develop relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park, in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan;</li> <li>6) pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones;</li> <li>7) grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter;</li> <li>8) undertake research on the influence of the artificial barriers on the ecosystem of the Dyje River. Mitigation measures on the riparian ecosystems should be adopted.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	N/A	

	Achievements	<p>1) Hydrological regime respected.</p> <p>2) Is still being implemented.</p> <p>3) OK</p> <p>4) A research project modelling the impact of fishing on the biota will start in 2018.</p> <p>5) Successful co-operation on-going.</p> <p>6) Dealt with, and work is being carried out.</p> <p>7) All municipalities connected to sewage treatment plans.</p> <p>8) Is on the way.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>59. Romania, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)17</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned (Moldova, Romania and Ukraine) should be continued and strengthened and the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area should be considered in the framework of the trilateral agreement signed by the three countries concerned, under the auspices of the Council of Europe;</li> <li>2) the possibility of reactivating the co-operation between other European Diploma sites which are deltas (Camargue National Reserve (France) and Doñana National Park (Spain)) should be explored;</li> <li>3) the monitoring of the ecological services and of the socio-economic activities carried out on the reserve (fishing, hunting, shipping, agriculture, forestry, logging, tourism) should be strengthened in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystems and the value of the reserve; special attention should be paid to the shipping activities (movement of boats and speeding) as well as to illegal fishing and hunting.</li> <li>4) potential external threats should be continually monitored, especially the likely adverse transboundary impact on the ecosystem of the whole delta of the works related to the Bystroe canal in the Ukrainian sector;</li> <li>5) the usefulness of banning hunting, or of managing hunting on a demonstrably sustainable basis, on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, especially in the most sensitive areas, should be studied;</li> <li>6) a system for better management of natural</li> </ol>	

		<p>fisheries resources should be explored for the benefit of the local people, in order to reduce the categories and number of intermediary actors/stakeholders; the fish resources should be managed by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority;</p> <p>7) information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be made readily available to the public;</p> <p>8) the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private operators in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment) and assist with information on organising and developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve, such as ecotourism, bird watching and handicrafts;</p> <p>9) the restoration programme of the existing buildings should be continued, using traditional materials and natural local products; the cultural value of the reserve, especially the different ethnic roots of the populations, should be enhanced with the engineering and technical input of specialised institutes;</p> <p>10) an external review and assessment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's Conservation Strategy (for example, priorities, management objectives, operational objectives and financial requirement) should be organised in 2010, ten years after its declaration, with the support of international expertise;</p> <p>11) the necessary funding should be provided in order to improve the capacities/performance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority; a feasibility study on the creation of a financial mechanism should be undertaken so that all commercial activities and uses (not only tourist activities)</p>
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		<p>contribute to the financing of the reserve;</p> <p>12) the adoption of the legal framework (master plan, Law on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Law on the Protected Areas) should be accelerated;</p> <p>13) noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is in operation, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to analyse carefully the requests for new wind farms in the neighbourhood of the reserve.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>1) Has been started, and co-operation with both Ukraine and Moldova is going on.</p> <p>2) A MoU was signed in 2017 between the Danube Delta and Camargue.</p> <p>3) The monitoring is included in the monitoring programme being carried out.</p> <p>4) Likewise.</p> <p>5) Since 2013 hunting has been banned, apart from restricted hunting regarding the potential threat from spreading diseases.</p> <p>6) In a Governmental decision from 2015, the Reserve authority manages the fishing.</p> <p>7) All info presented on the website.</p> <p>8) In many ways working</p> <p>9) Survey of the situation planned.</p> <p>10) Should have been organised in 2010, but happened in 2015.</p> <p>11) Though not exactly as recommended, functioning is OK.</p> <p>12) Unclear if recommendation followed.</p> <p>13) On-going.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>R1. No mention of the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area.</p> <p>R2. No information has been given with reference to possible cooperation with the Donana National Park in Spain.</p> <p>R10. No real update on the work to review and assess the Danube Delta BR's conservation</p>



		<p>Strategy (last information is related to 2015).</p> <p>R13. No detailed information on the way the surveys on the development of wind farms in the neighborhood area of the BR are conducted.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>From July 2017, the Law 82/1993 was modified by the Government of Romania, and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority is from this year subordinated to the General Secretariat of the Government. Accordingly, the staff table has been modified.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information provided</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to coordinate the monitoring and the reporting with UNESCO reports with a view to improve their effectiveness;</li> <li>- Competent Authorities are called to strengthen efforts toward the establishment of a cross-border protected area between Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova.</li> <li>- Competent Authorities are called to take urgent action in order to improve both the legal framework and strategies for the conservation of the Danube Delta's biodiversity and ecosystems as declared in the report.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>60. Austria, Thayatal National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>28.05.2003 / 28.05.2018</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)17</a></p>	<p>1) as soon as the results of the study on the ecology of the Thaya River and how it is affected by the Vranov Dam operations are received, the Thayatal National Park, as well as the Podyji National Park in the Czech Republic, should undertake to translate the proposed measures into action. The ideal flow rate of 2.4 cubic metres per second already set by the Czech experts must be achieved;</p> <p>The Vranov river power plant was refurbished and a small auxiliary power plant, Vranov 2, was added, almost immediately downstream from the main dam by a preexisting weir. This project guarantees a minimum flow rate of 2,8 m<sup>3</sup>/sec.</p> <p>2) in view of the four or five artificial sills across the Thaya, consider renaturalisation work to recreate rocky rapids over a longer stretch of the river. In terms of priority, the sill immediately upstream is most in need of improvement;</p> <p>The provincial government of Lower Austria has worked out measures to improve the passage for fish and other aquatic organisms across the weirs along the border stretch of the river, and has coordinated these plans with the Czech river administration Povodí Moravy. For the weirs in Hardegg, fish ladders are being suggested. The two weirs by the Neuhäusel castle ruins are to be partially removed.</p> <p>3) ensure that transfrontier projects and activities involving both the Thayatal and Podyji National Parks are increasing in scope and are well funded and intensified, particularly with a view to taking essential measures on the impact of the Vranov Dam;</p> <p>The Thayatal Nationalpark currently participates</p>	

		<p>in three INTERREG projects. The „Dyje/Thaya 2020“ project includes creating a cross-border fish spawning site in the river as well as a study to reduce the introduction of fine sediment by the Fugnitz tributary and the coordination of fishing regulations along the border stretch of the river. With „Connecting Nature AT-CZ“ (2017-2020) the Nationalpark Thayatal is the lead partner for a large project that combines 11 partners in the support of so-called green infrastructure (joining previously isolated habitats, protective measure for moors, biodiversity research at the Thayatal/Podyjí national parks)</p> <p>4) given the spontaneous establishment in the park of new species such as the otter and beaver and the current study on the wild cat, there is a need to document the presence of roving animals as fully as possible and consider the full potential of the park's habitats;</p> <p>Monitoring surveys were already taken for a number of animal categories. This is being done in close coordination with Národní park Podyjí but also with the Natura 2000 area surveys conducted by the Lower Austrian provincial government. Regarding recently incoming species wide-spread camera-trap monitoring was conducted as part of our research of wildcats. Specific studies have reviewed the breeding of Eurasian Sea Eagles (White-tailed Eagle, <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>) and the potential migration of Raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor</i>) and Raccoon Dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>) into the area. Sightings of roving species, e.g. Moose (<i>Alces alces</i>) and already established species, Eurasian Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) and Eurasian Beaver (<i>Castor fiber</i>), were collected.</p> <p>5) develop the use of the Kaja Castle ruins in the park's education programmes as an example of how historical monuments can be incorporated into education on the environment.</p>
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		<p>The Kaja castle ruins are now an integral part of the national park experience for many visitors. There are specific programmes for student groups as well as adults that combine a trip through the national park with a visit to the ruins.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The national park was extended with three parcels of land at the periphery of the existing park area. Its total area now stands at 1358,5 ha.</p> <p>The national park administration builds accommodation to house students and youth during project weeks in the vicinity of the existing visitor centre.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Starting in 2016 and now fully under way, the widespread dieback of ash trees (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) due to infestation by the fungus <i>Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbus</i> has reached the national park and has devastated the population of these trees. For safety reasons, large numbers of ash trees along one of the most popular hiking paths had to be cut. It is expected that ashes will be largely diminished in the park for the foreseeable future and a return of this species in significant numbers is entirely uncertain.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The systematic and planned removal of Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>) and Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) according to the management plans has continued. Of originally 400 ha of spruce and pine stands that were established in the course of commercial forestry before the establishment of the national park, only 150 ha of this tree species remain that are foreign to the natural forest communities of this region. Completion of this management measure that was already included in the original strategy for the park is planned for 2030.</p> <p>Likewise, the eradication of stands and individual specimen of Black Locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>), technically an invasive species, continues on an annual basis with an improved method to suppress regrowth from the roots.</p>	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma is a source of motivation to continue the efforts towards efficient and effective nature conservation and protection. This diploma has also contributed to strengthen the cooperative efforts with the nearby Wachau diploma holding area. Last but not least, the Diploma is a contribution to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between Austria and the Czech Republic.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

**No annual report was received in 2017**

Name of the awarded area	61. Estonia, Matsalu National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)16</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) co-operation with farmers should continue, and where possible increase, particularly in the form of support for traditional uses like grazing or mowing;</li> <li>2) the national park's management should continue to play a social role to help the local people within the park's boundaries develop activities compatible with the aims of the park, such as bird-watching, handicrafts and restoration of the historical heritage;</li> <li>3) potential external threats from industry, agriculture, tourism and development should be continuously monitored and a buffer zone in which hunting is prohibited should be established around the national park;</li> <li>4) continue the programme for the elimination of alien species;</li> <li>5) reinforce the programme of scientific studies.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the ongoing land reform process shall not in any way change the present characteristics of the national park or be detrimental to the park's biodiversity;</li> <li>2) maintenance of the meadows, particularly the coastal ones, shall continue to be given high priority;</li> <li>3) the national park's management shall have the necessary funds to continue its monitoring, enforcement and environmental education activities;</li> </ol>	

		4) private open land shall not be developed in any way that would be incompatible with the aims of the park;
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	62. Hungary, Tihany Peninsula		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2018 / 28.05.2003
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2012)15</a>	<p>1) translate the management plan into more detailed and practical measures;</p> <p>The development of the management plan is still in progress and will be complemented in order to comply with the Natura 2000 requirements. Detailed proposals for good agricultural practices will be included.</p> <p>2) strongly enforce the ban on new buildings on the site;</p> <p>The National Park Directorate has been able to reinforce the ban on new buildings on the site with the help of the municipality and other state authorities.</p> <p>3) pursue the planning and construction of the visitor centre near Lake Belső;</p> <p>The Lavender House Visitor Centre was opened on the 1st June 2011 and welcomed over 200 000 visitors so far.</p> <p>4) continue to manage and control visitor pressure;</p> <p>The authorities have faced a significant increase in the number of tourists on the nature trails. They have tried to reduce damages caused by numerous visitors in the area by mapping out routes, by developing new nature trails and small areas surrounding the village with many viewpoints.</p> <p>5) keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas (meadows with hedges and bushes);</p> <p>Mechanical and manual activities continue to keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas.</p>		



		<p>6) encourage farming and wine-growing practices consistent with the conservation of natural and landscape assets;</p> <p>Good practises in farming and wine-growing have been encouraged by law. The national park experts participate in controlling how farmers receive state-subvention for nature friendly farming practices.</p> <p>7) encourage the transfer of management rights on fishing in Lake Belső to the Balaton Uplands National Park;</p> <p>The management rights of Lake Belső were transferred to the Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate in 2013.</p> <p>8) encourage the transfer of State properties to the Balaton Upland National Park and pursue the acquisition of private land;</p> <p>Because of the very high land prices on Tihany Peninsula, the National Park Directorate has not been able to buy new land.</p> <p>9) continue to control invasive species such as the Ailanthus;</p> <p>Mechanical and manual activities continue to control invasive species. A detailed survey was carried out on the spread of invasive non-native species.</p> <p>10) develop co-ordinated management with nearby protected areas such as the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Kűlső and Felső marshes.</p> <p>The authorities apply the same management with reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Kűlső and Felső marshes as with the other parts of the protected area.</p>
	Conditions	N/A

	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

Name of the awarded area	63. Slovenia, Triglav National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)8</a>	<p>1. ensure that, when the new zoning is in place, any further change of zones should be in favour of increased protection;</p> <p>The Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, the 1st and 2nd are central zones, the 3rd is peripheral zone. The surface of the central zone is now 63.900 ha which is 8.568 ha larger than before and the total park area is bigger because of the enlargement in its south part. The new law encourages the transformation of the 2nd zone into the 3rd or the 1st zone with the condition that the central part does not decrease. The main opportunity is to transform the zonation towards the 1st zone (wilderness) and keep the 3rd zone for sustainable use.</p> <p>2. the land-use planning regulations related to new constructions and renovation work should be strictly applied;</p> <p>Spatial planning at local level is exclusively under the jurisdiction of municipalities. Seven of the eight municipalities have adopted the land use plan. The plan of the municipality of Kranjska Gora is still in preparation. The public Institute of the Triglav National Park takes an active role in the drafting process of a municipal spatial development plan and a municipal spatial order.</p> <p>3. work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater should be continued, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human occupation;</p> <p>There are 36 mountain huts in the Triglav National Park and by the end of 2017, 16 of them have wastewater treatment plants. By decree the proper treatment and discharge of the wastewater in all huts should be settled by the end of 2021.</p>	

		<p>4. schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming and the presence of large carnivores such as bears, wolves and lynx should continue to be developed, to ensure their continuing presence and an increase in their population;</p> <p>The authorities have been implementing a project on the mitigation of potential conflicts between wolf and humans since 2015 with two sets of measures: the purchase of preventive tools such as electric fences and donation to farms facing with damages on livestock caused by large carnivores. Fencing of grazing animals combined with a regular presence of Slovenian NGO members was recognized as an effective preventive measure since no livestock losses have been detected. It was expected that the implementation of such measures will continue. However, according to the results of comprehensive winter monitoring (snow tracking) within the National Park during the winter time 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, no wolf presence was confirmed therefore no mitigation measures were needed. Furthermore, several educational and awareness raising activities (e.g. guided school visits, exhibitions, etc) took place in the last three years in order to increase the acceptance for large carnivores by the general public and different users of the Triglav National Park area.</p> <p>5. the best integration possible of the various activities conducted in the park should be ensured, for example the integration of farming and nature protection;</p> <p>In 2017 the authorities continued to work on launching a brand for local products – ‘Sign of Quality’ – testifying that the product was produced within the Triglav National Park. A strategy for the development of high-altitude pastures in Bohinj was prepared last year. The strategy is now ready to be discussed and get the approval of the Bohinj Municipal Council.</p>
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		<p>6. all measures aiming at converting artificial spruce forest to climax mixed forests and at increasing the area of protection forests should be pursued;</p> <p>The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration; human induced one is recognized as an exemption only in order to improve the naturalness of altered forest stands or to increase their stability and resistance. The recently adopted Management Plan (2016-2025) requires that some forest stands with significantly changed tree species structure should be gradually improved. However, even artificial, some conifer forests in Triglav National Park (e.g. high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are also important from nature conservation point of view (e.g. glacial relics such as Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) which presents an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in the Triglav National Park.</p> <p>Due to bark beetles infestation, intensive interventions are required in order to limit further the spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands. It is expected that the abovementioned pressure on coniferous forests will continue also in 2018.</p> <p>7. a detailed management plan and practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation should be developed and implemented;</p> <p>Traffic and transportation management are included in the recently adopted Management Plan.</p> <p>A web portal on sustainable mobility was developed. Hop on hop off buses continued to operate during the summer.</p> <p>8. the extension of existing installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping should be prevented. Renovation and upgrading should be accepted only if they take the protection of nature and the landscape into account. Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national park</p>
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		<p>and ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives;</p> <p>The new law forbids the construction of new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing ones in the whole territory of the park. Maps showing where sport activities are allowed are included in the Management Plan recently adopted.</p> <p>9. the best possible integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings through respecting the traditional local style should be encouraged;</p> <p>The authorities are running interdisciplinary expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions for construction works.</p> <p>10. the transition of ownership in the park should be followed closely; an active policy of acquisition of land, which is important for the protection of nature and the activities carried out in the park should be developed.</p> <p>According to the Triglav National Park Act, the Public Institution of the Triglav National Park has a public authorisation to exercise a pre-emption right on agricultural land, forest land, water areas and urban or built-up land in the name of the state of Slovenia. This year a pre-emption right was exercised on 6,19 ha of land.</p>
	Conditions	<p>- a new law should provide the adequate legal basis for the conservation of the Triglav National Park as soon as possible;</p> <p>The Triglav National Park Act was adopted in 2010. In 2017, an Act Amending the Triglav National Park Act was adopted. It brings the following changes: water reservoirs in existing recreation centres can be built, park municipalities can plan smaller spatial</p>

		<p>arrangements in those areas where spatial plan act should be drawn up, roads in special protected areas such as natural monuments and natural reserves can be designed and constructed even where the use of roads is not possible due to natural disasters, water reservoir at ski centre Triglav on Pokljuka can be constructed.</p> <p>- the management plan should be finalised and formalised as soon as the new law on Triglav National Park is passed;</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Triglav National Park Management Plan for the period 2016 – 2025 in May 2016. The 2017 annual programme of work was prepared according to the Management Plan.</p>
	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be Mentioned	The Triglav National Park entered to the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism and gained the Slovenian Green sign.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma for Protected Areas is mentioned as a milestone in the history of the Triglav National Park and the Diploma logo is included into the presentations to the general and specialised public.</p> <p>The Diploma logo is also on the publications produced by the Triglav National Park such as Svet pod Triglavom. The Diploma logo and a short description of the meaning and importance of Diploma are also on our new web site. The European Diploma was mentioned and its logo was used in all important events of the Park.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	64. Netherlands, Naardermeer Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)7</a>	<p>1) the efforts to improve the hydrological conditions of the reserve must be continued by focusing on reducing the pumping out of drinking water in the Gooi hills and completing municipal sewerage plans in order to increase the quality of infiltrated water;</p> <p>The pumping out of drinking water is at a sustainable level and is not affecting the water level of the Reserve. One possible threat is the recently planned development of small scale ground water winning by the Gooische Hockey Club to irrigate their hockey fields. The plans were revealed in November 2017. We immediately undertook action towards the club by taking part in the planning process.</p> <p>2) the decreasing area and quality of reedbeds (phragmites and other pioneer vegetation) should be subject to specific research and increased management efforts;</p> <p>A Water Plan enabling to raise the water level by 10 cm in winter time is in the process to be adopted and is expected to address the decreasing area and quality of reedbeds.</p> <p>3) nature restoration and development around the Naardermeer core area is to be fully completed; to that end missing lands (notably in polders south of the lake) should be made available to Natuurmonumenten, mainly in view of the long-term maintenance of optimal water level management and the restoration of biodiversity. The province and the Dutch Government Service for Land and Water Use are urged to make greater efforts to finalise the Naardermeer recovery plan (1993);</p> <p>Although it was not yet possible for Natuurmonumenten to acquire all the missing</p>	



		<p>lands and this way completing the Naardermeer Recovery Plan, it was possible to buy a large property in the south-western part of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve, the so-called De Jong grounds. Next to that, Natuurmonumenten has a fair chance to buy and trade several properties on the north side of the Naardermeer, in the Overscheensepolder. When both projects are finished (by 2020) the Naardermeer Nature Reserve will be almost totally surrounded by nature restoration areas.</p> <p>4) regional planning processes should avoid further habitat fragmentation in the corridor landscapes towards the IJmeer, the IJsselmeer, the Vecht River, the Ankeveense Plassen and the Gooi hills. The realisation of the Dutch ecological main structure, its “wet axis” and “robust connections” with the Naardermeer as a core area must be given high priority.</p> <p>The landscape concept of a wet axis crossing The Netherlands was somehow revoked by a past government, but it is hoped that soon it will be returned if under a different name. Some important measures were nevertheless implemented aiming at reducing the barrier effect caused by the major roads that delimit the Reserve: ie larger ecological zones around the Reserve, the creation of a corridor between Naardermeer and Ankeveense plassen which resulted in the arrival of the European Otter.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) the authorities concerned are urged to respect the integrity of the open polder area surrounding the Naardermeer and to abandon all projects related to the motorway connection (A6-A9) which would have negative effects on the diploma area;</p> <p>The A6-A9 project was abandoned. In 2006 the decision was made to widen the current A1 motorway instead of connecting A6-A9 with a new motorway. Nevertheless attention will be paid to any eventual revival of these plans.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>8 ecological passages under the rail road which divides the Naardermeer in two separate parts</p>

		will be created by August 2019
	Shortcomings	<p>Little information is still given on the progress in the achievement of the conditions attached to the recognition of the Diploma.</p> <p>C1. No update is given on the 2006 decision to widen the existing A1 motorway instead of connecting the A6-A9 ones and whether and in which way it has been implemented (what progress after 2013?). No information is also given on the systems developed, if any, to minimize the effects of this project on the environment.</p> <p>Not clear what kind of monitoring programmes, if any, are used to detect and avoid any threats to the open polder area surroundings the Reserve.</p> <p>R3. The Naarddermeer Recovery Plan hasn't been finalized yet because of the impossibility to buy all missing lands. Further, progress has been made in acquiring large properties surrounding Naarddermeer Nature Reserve. Yet, the process is still ongoing.</p> <p>The presence of the New Zealand Pygmy Weed aggressive alien species in a pond of the area with potential negative effects on native plants. Monitoring programmes aimed at identifying all species in the area need to be strengthened.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		<p>The current defosforsation installation will be replaced at the beginning of 2018. This new installation removes fosfates out of the water to make sure the right conditions for underwater vegetation are available.</p> <p>The Naarddermeer NR has been working with the Regional Water Authority and the Province on a restoration plan concerning the surroundings of the NR. Yet, more information is needed on the content of this plan and the relative timetable for its adoption and implementation.</p> <p>The elaboration of a Water Plan, including a new water level agreement, is expected to start in 2018. More information is needed on the content, effects and benefits of this plan, apart from the Water level agreement, and the timetable foreseen for its adoption.</p>

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Due to the European Diploma both the Regional Water Authority and Natuurmonumenten were very aware of the necessity of getting a new defos-installation. Both parties, along with the local and regional governments, have agreed to take all the steps necessary to protect the water vegetation the Naardermeer is famous for.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations.</li><li>- The cancellation of the project concerning the connection of A6-A9 motorways is very welcomed. Yet, Competent Authorities are asked to give more detailed information to the project of widening the A1 motorway (analysis of the effects on the surrounding environments and proposed solutions to avoid negative impacts, timetable foreseen starting from 2013).</li><li>- It is very welcomed the project of drafting a Water plan including the water level agreement and it is recommended to provide more information on the process for their adoption and the specific contents of these documents.</li><li>- It is recommended to strengthen efforts towards the identification and monitoring of the alien species in the area (as the New Zealand Pygmy Weed) as well as the measures to guarantee the presence of those species newly appeared (European Otter)</li><li>- It is recommended to speed up the procedures for the acquisition of the properties surrounding the area in order to complete the Naardermeer Recovery plan. More information is needed on the causes impeding the purchasing of the said properties so far.</li><li>- Information on the use of the EDPA Logo is still missing and it seems no appropriate visibility of this recognition is given to the public. The competent authorities are asked to improve their communication and raising awareness activities on this point.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	65. Italy, Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore e Massaciuccoli	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.06.2005 / 15.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2010)3</a>	<p>1) care should be taken to ensure that new activities or developments do not harm either the natural or landscape heritage;</p> <p>No information provided.</p> <p>2) the deer- and boar-culling measures should be continued;</p> <p>While the measures for controlling the population of deers and boars have shown disappointing results in 2014 and 2015, the situation significantly improved in 2016 and 2017. There is however still an important gap compared to the objectives. The increase in the capture of deers can be explained by the entrustment of an external company on the territory of a military base located within the boundaries of the Diploma holding area. Its action proved to be very efficient and is expected to continue in 2018.</p> <p>3) consideration should be given to nature conservation in water management, especially when implementing hydrological measures;</p> <p>No information provided.</p> <p>4) more active consideration should be given to natural assets in the management of areas outside the nature reserves, especially in forest and agricultural areas;</p> <p>The natural assets are taken into account by the application, during the cuts, of measures which respect the period of nesting of the fauna and the soil (litter and micro morphology of the dunes); the landscape is also more taken into account by an evaluation of the visual effect of the cuts in the short, the medium and the long term. In this regard the Park, which manages</p>	

		<p>3000 ha of forest heritage in the Tenuta di San Rossore, has decided not to proceed with clearcuts in the pine forest in 2017. At the same time, the Park was finally able to start reforestation of 6.8 ha of old cuts that had not yet been reforested in the last years due to lack of funds. The Park could evaluate to take back the clearcuts (forest regeneration cuts) once all the old cuts have been reforested.</p> <p>5) the implementation of measures to minimise the negative impact of risks to the Massaciuccoli Lake, especially from pollution caused by agriculture, should be speeded up and further efforts made to improve the quality of the lake's water;</p> <p>No information provided. Reference is made to the continuation of projects and good practices started in the past.</p> <p>6) the measures to better protect coastal dunes and to raise awareness of their importance should be continued and strengthened;</p> <p>Good management practices for coastal dunes, including cleaning up continue. The trend reversal compared to desertification effects due to trampling continues to be observed. Dune cleaning activities with tourists, schools and volunteers continue.</p> <p>7) the efforts to combat invasive exotic species should be continued;</p> <p>No changes concerning <i>Yucca gloriosa</i> and <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>. The control of <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> resumed following the decision to resume the use of the Glyphosate weed killer, in a formulation and with a method that does not provide for dispersal in nature (injections into the trunk).</p> <p>8) use should be made of every opportunity to improve wildlife crossing corridors under or over roads and railways;</p>
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		<p>No changes. The efficiency of the corridors recently created is monitored.</p> <p>9) noise pollution in recreation areas should be minimised;</p> <p>The repression of emissions in the more critical area of "Marina di Torre del Lago" continued, in constant coordination with the Prosecutor of Lucca</p> <p>10) the process of relocating craft activities to the area around Massaciuccoli Lake should be completed.</p> <p>No information provided.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>Despite the improvement of the financial situation, the Park continues to have no full-time Director. The Park made an agreement with the Park of Maremma so that its Director dedicates 2 days a week to the Park of Migliarino San Rossore Massaciuccoli. The staff is always fewer and in the short term replacements by new hires are not expected.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The financial control bodies have finally validated the economic and financial reports of the Park which were approved by the Tuscany Region. Henceforth, the Park is emerging from a situation of strong limitation of expenditure that has persisted from 2013 to 2016. Investments for the future might now be envisaged.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information provided.</p>	

<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Relevant authorities are asked to secure the necessary budget for the running costs of the park (staff and maintenance of the infrastructures) and to ensure that human resources are in capacity to safeguard the European interest of the area.</li><li>- Park authorities are asked to continue the various actions to protect biodiversity, with the recommendation to implement implementation of hydrological measures for water management and intended to limit negative impacts of agricultural origin on the Lake of Massaciucoli.</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>
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No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	66. Italy, Gran Paradiso National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 18.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)3</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ensure that funding is chiefly provided by the state, the regions and the provinces, and that it is properly integrated with other resources;</li> <li>2) with essential tasks, especially strategic issues; provide the national park with adequate staff at executive level to enable the director to deal</li> <li>3) actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town planning proposals and decisions;</li> <li>4) integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;</li> <li>5) continue to encourage farming activities that are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation;</li> <li>6) avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the national park;</li> <li>7) establish a scientific advisory council or other mechanism to provide input from the scientific community regarding the management of the park.</li> </ol>	
	Conditions	1) the park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.	
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		



Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.

Name of the awarded area	67. Romania, Piatra Craiului National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 27.09.2021
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2011)2</a></p>	<p>1) secure the budget of the national park so that the national park administration is able to manage the park appropriately and has all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis;</p> <p>An administration contract with the National Forest Administration secures 90% of the national park budget. The remaining 10% are provided by the visitor fees, the selling of products at the Visitor Centre, the guiding fees, etc.</p> <p>2) complete the construction of the headquarters and other infrastructure, especially the exhibition room and other tourist facilities, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;</p> <p>The Visitor Centre in Zarnesti was opened in April 2016 and has welcomed until now over 10 000 visitors. An information point at Curmatura and 4 information kiosks were also built. The tourist facilities were improved with a cycling network (42 routes with over 200 km) and new marked trails.</p> <p>3) elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local architecture and landscape; this exemplary programme should be implemented with the help of relevant specialists and contribute to making this region a model for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;</p> <p>The management plan of Piatra Craiului National Park establishes several principles for the sustainable development of human settlements to preserve the local architecture and traditions:</p>	

		<p>1. Keep the existing parcels in the historical format; 2. Encourage the preservation and reconversion of the existing constructed parcels; 3. Encourage the use of historical architecture, adapted to the modern needs; 4. Fit the new buildings into the local landscape and climate; 5. Keep the existing vegetation; 6. Use of local materials and traditional crafts.</p> <p>4) pursue the scientific work and monitoring of biodiversity in every sector of the park; those activities should assess the status and trends of species and habitats, considering the national park as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;</p> <p>Several monitoring protocols aiming to the improvement of the conservation status of species and habitats of European importance in the Piatra Craiului National Park are in place. In 2016 a Natura 2000 site protecting birds and encompassing the National Park territory was established.</p> <p>5) regarding both central and local forest authorities, more attention should be paid to the enforcement of the forest law on the national park's fringe and in the surroundings of the park; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;</p> <p>In 2017 the Park Administration organised 207 control actions to enforce the forest law, 124 of them with the help of authorities. The result was 12 contravention fees for a total of 67.000 lei. The "Forest Radar" regulation was established in 2014. As a result the illegal logging and transport has decreased since then at national level.</p> <p>6) pursue the efforts made by the national park administration to address the litter</p>
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		<p>and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities facilitated by this administration; a detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years.</p> <p>In 2017 the Park Administration organised 6 garbage collection campaigns, with the help of volunteers, along the 25 km of touristic trails/ The local authorities in Dambovicioara are regularly collecting the garbage, and set up some resting areas along the road with garbage bins for the tourists.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.</p> <p>The management plan was approved in December 2013 through the Governmental Decision No. 1057/2013.</p> <p>Following the implementation of a Sector Operational Program Pillar 4 project, «The revision of Piatra Craiului National Park's Management Plan» and based on the results of field studies some activities were included in the revised Management Plan in order to maintain or bring the species and habitats of European interest in a favourable conservation status.</p> <p>The revised Management Plan was approved by the Scientific Council of Piatra Craiului National Park and it was sent in October 2015 to be approved by the National Environmental Protection Agency. By the end of 2015 the revised plan was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest and is still waiting for the final approval.</p>
	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	N/A

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma logo was broader used on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons of the award of the European Diploma.</p> <p>All the 3 logos (National Park, European Diploma and National Forest Administration) can be seen on the park official papers and inside the visitor centre, on the indoor glass wall, on all the panels installed in the field, on our tourist maps etc.</p>
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.</li><li>- Encourage the authorities to get the Management Plan of Piatra Craiului National Park approved by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest.</li></ul>

Name of the awarded area	68. Romania, Retezat National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2008 / 02.07.2023
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2013)4</a>	<p>1) the Romanian authorities should secure a sufficient budget for the national park and allocate the funds early enough in the year to ensure favourable working conditions for the staff, the completion and maintenance of the park's infrastructure, more information for visitors and the improvement of tourist facilities;</p> <p>Even if the central public authority for environment didn't finance at all the park's activity, the National Forest Administration has ensured a reasonable financial support to enable perform the basic activities without financial constraints.</p> <p>2) the competent Romanian authorities should work together to harmonise the different national and international designations in order to achieve efficient joint management and to implement joint scientific research and monitoring programmes;</p> <p>In 2017 the authorities had to harmonise the purposes and objectives of a National Park – (IUCN designation category II) with those of a Biosphere Reserve (IUCN category VI) following the request from the MAB Secretary General to comply with the conditions of the Madrid Action Plan.</p> <p>3) the management plan should be approved as soon as possible, and at least an executive summary should be translated into either English or French;</p> <p>The existing management plan for the Retezat National Park was reviewed and sent for analysis to the Ministry of Environment in September 2016. It was returned with several remarks and recommendations in December 2016. In September 2017 the authorities designed and</p>	

		<p>submitted a project proposal which would aim to the elaboration of the second edition of the park's management plan.</p> <p>4) the park, in close collaboration with the mountain rescue services Salvamont, should maintain or renew, when necessary, the tourist infrastructure (trail marking, information signs, etc.); a particular effort should be made to solve the problems of the toilets in the camping areas and near the huts;</p> <p>There are about 90 information and guiding panels on the park's territory, as well as at the entrance points. Dry toilets near the remote parking place at Gura Bucurei were built.</p> <p>5) the park should maintain pressure on local communities to prevent construction of inappropriate buildings either in the park or in its immediate vicinity; and</p> <p>The current legislation regarding the construction of new buildings in the park is very strict. However as the competences of the authorities are limited to the park territory, they cannot control the construction plans in the areas surrounding the National Park.</p> <p>6) the park rangers should monitor the pastures in order to identify early possible changes due to over grazing and/or under grazing; before the next evaluation, the park should carry out a new study on the pastures; the changes in terms of species composition, erosion, etc., should be analysed in relation to the type and amount of grazing.</p> <p>The project proposal submitted in autumn 2017 aiming to revisit the Management Plan (see recommendation 3) includes a series of studies on the conservation status of habitats and species. Conservation measures will be elaborated as a result of the mapping exercise. The existing monitoring plan will also be reviewed to include the new conservation</p>
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		measures.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information is provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing certain recommendations;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to adopt the Management Plan;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	



<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>69. Bulgaria, Central Balkan National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.10.2009 / 21.10.2014</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)1</a></p> <p>Appraisal visit report T-PVS/DE (2014) 4 <a href="http://bit.ly/2nOBchd">http://bit.ly/2nOBchd</a></p>	<p>1) Re-establish a Park directorate with a Director as soon as possible and secure a regular budget for the coming years</p> <p>A Director was appointed in 2014. The running budget for staff and maintenance of buildings is secured and provided entirely by the State budget. Specific projects are funded through EU's structural funds.</p> <p>2) Take the necessary measures to harmonize the international designations before applying for a new category; in particular modify the design of the Biosphere reserves to make them fully operational and compatible with the Seville strategy or take the necessary steps to remove them from the UNESCO MaB list.</p> <p>In June 2017, the decision for the extension and renaming of the previous four into one new type of Biosphere Reserve was taken. All nine previous nature reserves of the park constitute the core zone. The remaining parts constitute the buffer zone. The territory of adjacent municipalities (Trojan, Karlovo, Sevlievo, Anton and Pavel banya) compose the transition zone of the Biosphere Reserve Central Balkan.</p> <p>3) Modify the conditions for summer grazing in the park; make the necessary changes in order to allow long-term pasture concession and set up a programme for renovation of the corresponding infrastructures (shelters, dairies, etc.).</p>	

		<p>As an EU member, Bulgaria has to implement the Common Agriculture Policy and the interest in summer grazing in the National Park increased sharply. The grazing process is regulated by the Management Plan and the Annual Plan for grazing and use of hay. According to the legislation, the renovation of the pasture infrastructure is possible when it is clear who the owner is. Most of the shelters for herdsman in the park are with unclear ownership. New ones cannot be built.</p> <p>4) Provide new water sources or rehabilitate and increase the capacity of existing ones in order to avoid erosion caused by daily large concentrations of cattle around them. Study the possibility for controlling the growth of the Junipers without burning them.</p> <p>The creation of new and rehabilitation of existing water of pasture areas in the park are planned within the current programme period.</p> <p>The manual removing of bushes from the pastures is permitted in the framework of the last two annual plans. Unfortunately it is put into practice by only few users of pastures.</p> <p>5) Continue to support the on-going study of the grazing impact in the Park and implement its conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>The study on grazing impact and grazing capacity of the pastures in the park will be conducted in the new Park Directorate project implemented in the current programme period. This will include the elaboration of the methodology for monitoring the condition of grassland habitats in pasture regions and enable more effective control and planning of annual use of pastures.</p> <p>6) Undertake negotiations with the</p>
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		<p>Bulgarian Tourist Union regarding the maintenance and improvement of the mountain huts; look at their ecological impact, especially regarding the energy and water supply, as well as the waste and waste water management.</p> <p>In the recent years all huts in the park have started to use renewable energy sources – mainly photovoltaic systems, solar water heating systems and energy from water in the streams. Most of the hut managers implement programmes for waste management based on separation of the rubbish. All hut managers transport the waste to the collection points in the settlements near to the park.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) Finalise and approve a new management plan as soon as possible, with no alteration of the conservation regime in the different zones of the Park and with similar conservation conditions. In particular it should not allow an increase of the overall capacity for summer grazing and continue to forbid goat grazing in the Park as well as commercial timber.</p> <p>With a decision of the Council of Ministers of 24 March 2016 the actualised Management Plan of Central Balkan National Park (2016 – 2025) was approved and came into force on 5 April 2016.</p> <p>Zoning regimes and norms in the park remain the same as stipulated in the first Management Plan 2001 – 2010. In the Updated plan there is a significant increase with around 10 thousands ha of the area of Human limited impact zone.</p> <p>Thus wildlife corridors between strict nature reserves were created, livestock grazing and other economic uses were forbidden in the Human limited impact zone.</p> <p>2) Change the regulations regarding the</p>

		<p>EU subsidies for the next period, starting 2014, in order to make them compatible with the new Management Plan.</p> <p>According to the rules for the implementation of agri-environmental measures of the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 – 2020 there is a significant change in livestock eligible for support. Only sheep and cattle and not horses anymore are considered as eligible.</p> <p>3) Finalize the designation of Natura 2000 areas around the Park following the Bird and Habitat directives, and adopt a management plan for the areas located in Stara Planina which must be coordinated with the Management Plan of the National Park</p> <p>The territory of the park is fully overlapped by SPA Central Balkan and SCI Central Balkan with the same boundaries as the park. The regimes of the territory are fully determined by the Protected Areas Act and the Park Management Plan.</p> <p>The Park Directorate will participate as a stakeholder in the elaboration of the Management Plans of 5 Natura 2000 sites surrounding the National Park.</p>
	Achievements	<p>The Park Directorate built in 2016 a new visitor center in the area of Vezhen hut and a new complex for interpretation on forest theme, not far from the town of Apriltsi. Both centers are within the park.</p> <p>The park also acquired new information boards, new information signs indicating the entrances of the protected area and the boundaries of the reserves.</p>
	Shortcomings	

<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The newly established Central Balkan Biosphere reserve is recognized by a part of local communities as an opportunity for sustainable development and they rely that this will help to slow down the negative demographic trends (ie depopulation and aging of the population).</p>
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Despite the creation of two new visitor centres and the investment in new information boards, no information is provided regarding the advertisement and the use of the European Diploma.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing certain conditions and recommendations set in the appraisal visit report of 2014;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>

No annual report was received in 2017

Name of the awarded area	70. Armenia, Khosrov Forest State Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2013)2</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to develop appropriate efforts for preventing and minimising illegal activities, including poaching of large mammals within the reserve;</li> <li>2) to develop and implement awareness and training activities for local people, visitors and members of the staff of the reserve, particularly in relation to the management of litter and other waste;</li> <li>3) to implement the sustainable tourism strategy fully and to monitor related activities;</li> <li>4) to pursue inventories and mapping of species and habitats, not only in the Emerald Network but preferably on the whole territory of the reserve;</li> <li>5) with the Armenian authorities, to guarantee the budget of the reserve; and</li> <li>6) to renew the management plan for 2015 onwards, including a grazing plan and updating the socio-economic activities within the reserve.</li> </ol>	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the Armenian authorities should take the necessary action to ensure that the existing water resources facilities will not be expanded within the area and that they will stay fully compatible with the preservation of the European interest of the area; and</li> <li>2) public motor vehicle traffic, including for transportation of tourists, will be strictly forbidden on the existing gravel roads within the area except for management purposes and in case of emergencies;</li> </ol>	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	71. Ireland, The Burren region	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2013)3</a>	<p>1) to encourage the participation of more farmers in the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme;</p> <p>The number of Burren Programme participants for 2017 is 270 (up from 160 in 2015). A further 100 farmers will be recruited in 2018.</p> <p>2) to plan subsequent steps in the second phase of European Union funding of the BurrenLIFE project through the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme;</p> <p>The Rural Development Programme will be funding the Burren Programme until 2020.</p> <p>3) to stimulate the further development of the Burren Community Charter;</p> <p>The Burrenbeo Trust, with support from the Heritage Council, and in consultation with a range of local stakeholders, continues to organise activities under the Burren Charter including stakeholder workshops, festivals, and projects.</p> <p>4) to stimulate further development of sustainable ecotourism and practice in the Burren Region;</p> <p>The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark in conjunction with the Burren Ecotourism Network continue to support and promote sustainable tourism practices and businesses in the Burren. In addition, the Burrenbeo Trust continues to place emphasis on sustainable ecotourism, promoting the Burren as a "learning landscape" and organising an annual "Learning Landscape Symposium" every March.</p> <p>5) to discourage mass tourism in the Burren Region which does not accord with the principles of sustainable development; and</p> <p>Visitor numbers and impact are still monitored and sustainable practices are still promoted. While visitor</p>	



		<p>numbers continue to grow the authorities strive to balance tourism and conservation and create a world class, accredited sustainable tourism destination. To achieve this, they support the Burren Ecotourism Network, organise training and educational programmes, publish support materials and promote best practice in destination management.</p> <p>6) to encourage volunteers to participate in the sustainable management of the Burren Region.</p> <p>The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers is a voluntary community that remains very active in the region with monthly outings, including an annual outing in conjunction with the Burren Ecotourism Network.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) the Irish authorities should ensure the budget for the maintenance and development of the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme;</p> <p>In 2017 the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine launched the Burren Programme, funded through a new “locally led” measure in the Rural Development Programme. This effectively ensured funding of a new, expanded “Burren Programme” until at least 2020.</p> <p>2) the national and local authorities should prevent possible negative environmental damage from the surrounding areas of the Burren Region;</p> <p>Conservation rangers for the site have engaged with the Burren Programme team in terms of ensuring that all proposed works are considered appropriately in the context of the overall conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>In addition to the management of farming within the site, there is also management of compliance with the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>A positive development regarding site management has been the extension of the Burren Programme budget and an expansion of the Programme Team who have been awarded a 6-year contract, during which the team will oversee the expansion of the Burren Programme across the entire Burren Region.</p>

	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	In May 2017, the BurrenLIFE Project was joint winner of the EU LIFE Green Week Award for the best LIFE Nature Project of all time. Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed presented the award at a homecoming ceremony in August in the Burren.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>72. Portugal, Desertas Islands Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>02.07.2014 / 01.07.2019</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2014)1</a></p>	<p>1) take all necessary precautions to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve;</p> <p>Stringent quarantine measures are rigorously implemented to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve. Visiting boats are forbidden to pass any ropes to land and all the food and equipment of the site management staff, or other visitors, are transported in sealed containers.</p> <p>2) improve the existing monitoring system for the fauna and flora populations of the Desertas;</p> <p>The flora and fauna conservation status is improving due to the success of the project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands whose aim is to set up an intensive monitoring on both flora and fauna and an evaluation of the regeneration of the natural habitats.</p> <p>3) analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna on Bugio, following the total eradication of alien species;</p> <p>During 2017, local and foreign scientists developed various research projects on Bugio. Qualitative and quantitative data is being obtained every year and reports are being produced accordingly.</p> <p>4) increase the efforts to combat soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio;</p> <p>There is a constant effort to combat soil erosion. It is considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Reserve.</p>	

		<p>5) eradicate the goat population from Deserta Grande or at least to keep the population very low and subject to a strict monitoring scheme;</p> <p>The project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands aims to reduce significantly the goat population and establish a monitoring scheme that allows the evaluation of the success of the management measures implemented to control the goat population.</p> <p>6) promote the training of nature guides to accompany tourists in this area;</p> <p>Visitors are guided by Nature Wardens along the informative circuit and then to the reception centre. In the case of maritime guided tours, the staff of each boat company receives specific training provided by the site management staff.</p> <p>7) investigate if the increasing colony of yellow-legged gull (<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>) on Ilhéu Chão is having a negative impact on the breeding seabird populations on Deserta Grande and Bugio.</p> <p>Although the yellow-legged gull should not be considered an alien species, there is a constant effort to prevent their breeding on the islands.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Desertas Islands and to unequivocally support the Regional Government of Madeira in all matters concerning the nature reserve;</p> <p>The legal status of the Reserve has not been changed and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur, even considering a far future.</p>

		<p>2) that the responsible regional authority updates the management plan of the Desertas Nature Reserve by the end of 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. taking into consideration the enlargement of the strictly protected area;</li> <li>ii. improving conservation efforts in terms of personnel, logistics and budget necessary for the proper management of the Desertas Nature Reserve;</li> </ul> <p>The responsible regional authority updated the management plan of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve officially published by the President of the Madeira Regional Government in the official journal of Madeira Autonomous Region in May 2017.</p>
	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>During 2017, the Reserve had the official visit of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco and Representatives and of the President of the Madeira Regional Government and Representatives, within the scope of the "Explorations de Monaco, 2017-2020", a three-year campaign of scientific explorations at sea, which started in Madeira Autonomous Region.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>All the events and lectures addressed to the public in general and target groups, as well as the website, facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels, used to raise awareness about the importance of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations.</li> <li>- Yet Competent Authorities are invited to provide a summary of the content of the management plan in English cause all documentation is in Portuguese. Particular focus should be given on the two aspect identified in the Recommendation (budget table and enlargement of the protected area).</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Competent Authorities are requested to continue to take measures for the eradication or at least the control of goat population in the area, given the closure of the dedicated Life project (2017).</li><li>- Competent authorities are requested to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>
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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>73. Georgia, Vashlovani Protected Areas</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>03.06.2015 / 03.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2015)1</a></p>	<p>1) develop and fund an operational and comprehensive monitoring programme of the Diploma area; this programme should be focused on the specific natural and landscape features of the Diploma area and the anthropogenic pressures on it;</p> <p>No information provided.</p> <p>2) prepare and implement a programme to maintain and renovate field equipment and the infrastructure for tourists and visitors;</p> <p>A 10-year project is implemented for the maintaining and renovating field equipment and infrastructures.</p> <p>3) pursue, update and complement inventories and mapping of species and habitats (distribution, abundance, state of conservation and tendencies), taking into account the Emerald Network's standards and requirements;</p> <p>The inventory of the species is carried out permanently.</p> <p>4) secure the Vashlovani Protected Areas core budget, from internal sources preferably, and provide funding to ensure that the 2013-19 management plan is fully implemented;</p> <p>The budget funding the 2016-2019 management plan activities is provided by the state budget and by the Caucasus Nature Fund.</p> <p>5) start the process of drafting the next management plan in a timely manner, so that the whole award period of the European Diploma for the Vashlovani Protected Areas is covered;</p>	

		<p>A 5-year Management Plan is elaborated.</p> <p>6) improve further the expertise and skills of the staff members, especially in the field of ecology and the knowledge and monitoring of species;</p> <p>Experience sharing activities with international partner organisations are carried out regularly.</p> <p>7) continue and develop cross-border co-operation for the protection of large carnivores.</p> <p>No information provided.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) by the end of 2015, remove the shelters located on the immediate border of the Vashlovani Strict Nature Reserve, and rigorously enforce the existing regulation for grazing in the reserve;</p> <p>No information is provided regarding the removal of the shelters located on the boarder of Nature Strict Reserve.</p> <p>2) accelerate the drafting process of a comprehensive sustainable grazing management plan, taking into account the socio-economic context and the effects of grazing, positive and negative, on the long-term conservation of the features of the Vashlovani Protected Areas; this plan will have clear objectives, a time frame for implementation and indicators of progress, and will address the matter of dismantlement and relocation of grazing equipment and activities outside the strict nature protection areas and the restoration of degraded zones of the Vashlovani National Park. A draft will be submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma by the end of 2016, with alternative grazing areas located at a reasonable distance from the borders of the zones where these activities are forbidden; the State Party is also urged to enforce the existing regulation on grazing in the whole</p>



		<p>Diploma area, without delay, and to limit grazing activities to the carrying capacity for the Vashlovani Protected Areas (to be determined);</p> <p>In the framework of the implementation of the project “Sustainable management of pastures in Georgia to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities”, 4,064 ha of degraded pastures and about 300 ha of migratory route were rehabilitated and sustainable pasture management practices among farmers and sheep-breeders in the Vashlovani Protected Areas were introduced. The project referred to livestock winter flats (45 farms) located on the protected area; it also implied measuring the pasture productivity.</p>
	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	<p>While the authorities of the area reported that a grazing management plan is already developed, it is not enclosed to the report as this was requested in the conditions conditioning the award of the European Diploma as well as in the analysis of the 2016 annual reports transmitted to authorities of the area.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The number of local and international visitors to Vashlovani Protected Areas is increasing permanently. Based on the data of September 2017, 10 164 visitors have visited Vashlovani Protected Areas.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information is provided.</p>	

Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in implementing some of the conditions and some of the recommendations;</li><li>- Request from the area authorities a copy in English of the grazing management plan;</li><li>- Request a more comprehensive report on the implementation of the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>
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