



Strasbourg 23 January 1992

PE-S-ZP (92) 38

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL HABITATS**

**Group of Specialists on Protected Areas
(PE-S-ZP)**

5-7 February 1992

**MUDDUS NATIONAL PARK
(SWEDEN)**

RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

Expert report by

Professor Joan MAYOL

1. The European Diploma was awarded to the Muddus National Park in 1967, in category A. The last renewal dates from 25 June 1987.
2. The Secretariat did not accompany the expert on his visit to the Park.
3. Appendix III contains Resolution (87)7 adopted on the occasion of the last renewal, while Appendix IV contains a draft resolution prepared by the Secretariat for a possible further renewal in 1992.

1. Introduction

The European Diploma was awarded to the Muddus National Park by Resolution (67)23 in category A. The Diploma was renewed by Resolution (87)7 on 27 June 1987, and in accordance with the Diploma rules the situation of the park needed to be examined with a view to a possible further renewal in 1992.

The last visit by a Council of Europe expert was made in 1985, by Dr Mario F. BROGGI (Liechtenstein) and Dr P. Baum. (SN-ZP (85) 43).

The Environment Conservation and Management Division of the Council of Europe asked me to carry out the on-the-spot inspection. This I did on 28 and 29 August 1991, with the assistance of Dr Curt MATZOM (the Swedish agency for the protection of the environment) and Dr Jam From (Mountain Unit). I should like to thank them sincerely for their help and information as well as the other persons listed in Appendix II whom contacted on the same day.

Our visit took place on foot; we entered the park from the south (Skaite) via the path running through the Muddusälven to Luobbalape, which is roughly in the centre of the park. From the personal contacts and my own tour of the park I consider that the information obtained is quite sufficient for the purposes of the report requested by the European authorities.

2. The Muddus Park

The Muddus National Park was created in 1942 and covers an area of 49,000 hectares, divided between the localities of Galliware and Jokkmokk. It comprises both woodland and marshland: the former is mainly in the south, the lakes in the centre and the north. The lakes and peatbogs, principally in the centre, are in fact a strict reserve to which access is forbidden from 15 March to 31 July.

The park is slightly hilly, rising to 166 metres in the south and to its maximum height of 611 metres in the west. The greater part of the park, namely the lakes and peatbogs, lies at about 400 metres.

The forestland consists mainly of pines in the south and spruce firs in the north, but they are mixed with other species (birch, willow etc). The marshes and peatbogs are covered by plants which are characteristic of this biotope in Scandinavia (*Filipendula ulmaria*, *Linnea borealis*, *Maianthemum bifolium*, *Melampyrum silvaticum*, *Solilago virgaurea*, *Carex rostrata*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, etc.).

As regards the fauna, there are various large mammals such as the brown bear and the lynx. There are also elands, martens and otters. Muddus is one of the summer grazing grounds for reindeer. The bird population contains 115 species, including cranes, swans, divers, owls, and sparrow-hawks. Ten species of ducks can be observed. Day predators include the osprey and montagu's harrier. The capercaillie population is four or five times denser in the park than outside, where shooting is authorised.

The park's main merit is to preserve a landscape almost intact; some parts of the forest seem never to have been worked at all, while the remainder has long remained barely touched. Farming activities have also been very limited for almost a century. In fact the landscape has been left virtually intact in its natural state. The highly discreet presence of a few laplanders who keep watch over the grazing reindeer can be entirely disregarded from the conservation point of view.

3. Management

The management of the park is confined to small-scale surveillance (by two 2-man teams who also look after other national parks) and to the maintenance of the visitors' facilities: 5 (excellent) refuges, 6 picnic areas, a bird-watching tower and several kilometers of paths in the form of plants over the peatbogs.

From the biological point of view the park is one where human intervention is uncalled for. An interesting example is forest fires: according to the managers, these are a natural phenomenon and their complete absence would be artificial. The principle is not to put out a forest fire caused by lightning in the park but to limit as far as possible any fires which encroach on to the park from the outside. Fortunately fires are very rare in the area, though we did note some trees bearing scars of old fires.

The park's management plan has already been drawn up but has not yet been formally approved. It is hoped that the main lines of this important document will be ready soon, in 1992. There are also plans for management of national parks to be gradually transferred to the regional governments which from 1991 onwards. Responsibility would then devolve on Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens Län, the authorities who were contacted of my visit. They already have considerable management experience since they are at present responsible for 62 protected sites covering 703,028 hectares, which corresponds to 15 to 20% of the national territory. The integration of the national parks with their staff and financial resources will improve the cohesion of this network of protected natural sites.

4. Changes since the last renewal of the Diploma

It should be noted that the confines of Muddus were changed in 1986 when the park was enlarged. On the one hand, the limit has been extended to the south as far as the Stora Luleälven River, where formerly was an artificial straight line some hundreds of metres away from the river bank; on the other hand, in the northern most part of the park a large triangle between road 97 (Gälliware - Porjus) and Lake Unna Muddus, covering some 1,000 hectares, has also been included in the protected area. As road 97 was already the northern limit of the park, apart from the above-mentioned triangle, this is also a national change which presupposes an improvement in the state of the park.

5. The 1987 recommendations

Four recommendations were made by the Council of Europe when the Diploma was renewed in 1987. These are reproduced below together with the comments based on my observations during the visit.

5.1 The Mountain Unit (the Fjällenfeten) should be provided with sufficient financial resources for dynamic management:

I was able to see for myself that the Mountain Unit authorities have no misgivings on this subject and that the situation is entirely satisfactory as regards financial stability. The transfer of responsibility from the state to the regions does not affect this aspect.

5.2 The information concept should be improved within the management plan, for incorporation in an overall strategy for all the national parks in northern Sweden:

Efforts are being made to provide information for the public. I observed that the parks in northern Sweden, including Muddus, are dealt with in the permanent exhibition at the Jokkmokk Museum in a unified, modern, and dynamic manner. For example, the information signs recently installed in the park have been well designed.

5.3 The applied research programmes should be developed, taking into account the specific features of the areas concerned:

Here a recent example is the inventory of the Muddus wetlands by a multidisciplinary team, which has been developed this year by some Swedish academics.

5.4 Protection should continue to be given to the nests of peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*):

Collaboration between a private ornithological association and the Mountain Unit ensures active protection for the two peregrine falcon nests in the area, one in the national park, the other in its immediate environs. Up until this year the eggs were removed for artificially hatching (the shells were fragile because of pollution), but it appears that the problem is now less serious. Last spring the pairs bred without any human intervention.

The results of the breeding of this species are shown in the table below, which indicates the number of offspring successfully bred both by the pair in the park (A) and by the pair nesting nearby (B):

	A	B
1986	--	0
1987	2	3
1988	---	2
1989	3	no information
1990	3	3

It will be seen that the Council of Europe's recommendation has been very effectively followed, as both pairs seem well established and have achieved a satisfactory reproduction rate.

6. Conclusion

My first and main conclusion is that the Committee should support the renewal of the Diploma granted to the Muddus National Park (Sweden), in category A, in view of the park's magnificent state of conservation and the guarantees provided for the future of this exceptional site by Swedish legislation and the enthusiasm of the personnel concerned.

7. Recommendations

The recommendations already made by the Council of Europe have been fully implemented during the four years since the last renewal. I suggest that they be rewarded as follows:

7.1 The Muddus management plan should be approved at the earliest possible date, the main priorities being the protection of the park and a guarantee that in the forthcoming period, when the management of the park will be handed over to the region, its preservation will continue to be the objective pursued.

7.2 The wardens should be increased in number and their motivation enhanced if possible, especially if the number of visitors rises.

7.3 The efforts made to protect the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) should continue. In this connection it is considered that the Mountain Unit's co-operation with an NGO is exemplary.

APPENDIX I

Documentation

Documents du Conseil de l'Europe :

SN - ZP (85) 43 On-the-Spot-Appraisal. Muddus National Park

Résolution (87) du Comité des Ministres

SN - ZP (87) 6 Annual Report of Muddus. 1986
PE - ZP (88) 6 Annual Report of Muddus. 1987
PE - ZP (89) 6 Annual Report of Muddus. 1988
PE - ZP (90) 6 Annual Report of Muddus. 1989
PE - ZP (91) 6 Annual Report of Muddus. 1990

Naturvårdsverket. 1970 Muddus. A National Park in Norrbotten Country.
Dépliant. 5pgs. Carte.

Naturvårdsverket. 1989 Muddus. A National Park in Norrbotten Country.
Dépliant. 5pgs. Carte.

LÖFGREN R. 1989 Nationalparksplan för Sverige Naturvårdsverket. 126 pgs.

APPENDIX II

Persons contacted

JAN FROM

Avdelningsdirektör

Fjällenheten S-962 31 Jokkmokk

tel. 0971-123 30 Fax. 0971 - 126 28

ROBERT FRANZEN

Chercheur sur les grands prédateurs

Naturvårdsverket

S-171 85 SOLNA

Tf 46 8 799 10 00 Fax 46 8 29 11 06

HANS FURMARK

Avdelningsdirektör

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens Län

Naturvårdsenheten Stationsgatan 5 951 86 Luleå

tf. 0920-960 00

RONNY EDIN

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens Län

CURT MATZON

Naturvårdsverket

S-171 85 SOLNA

Tf 46 8 799 10 00 Fax 46 8 29 11 06

KLAS WALLMARK

Garde de la Fjällenheten

S-962 31 Jokkmokk

tel. 0971-123 30 Fax. 0971 - 126 28

APPENDIX III

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

RESOLUTION (87) 7

**ON THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA
AWARDED TO THE MUDDUS NATIONAL PARK**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 June 1987
at the 409th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma :

Having regard to Resolution (67) 23 awarding the European Diploma to the Muddus National Park ;

Having regard to the proposals of the Steering Committee for the conservation and management of the environment and natural habitats (CDPE),

Renews the European Diploma, category A, awarded to the Muddus National Park, until 26 October 1992, subject to the following recommendations :

- that the *Fjällnheten* be provided with sufficient financial resources for dynamic management ;
- that the information concept be improved within the management plan, for incorporation in an overall strategy for all the national parks in northern Sweden ;
- that applied research programmes be developed, taking into account the specific features of the areas concerned ;
- that protection continue to be given to peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) nests.

APPENDIX IV

Draft Resolution (92) ...

on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded
to the Muddus National Park (Sweden)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma;

Having regard to Resolution (67) 23 awarding the European Diploma to the Muddus National Park;

Having regard to the proposals of the Steering Committee for the Conservation and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats (CDPE);

Renews the European Diploma awarded to the Muddus National Park in Category A until 1997;

Attaches to the renewal the following recommendations:

1. The Muddus management plan should be approved as soon as possible, the main priorities being the protection of the park and a guarantee that in the period ahead, when the management of the park will be the responsibility of the Region, its preservation will continue to be the objective pursued;
2. The number of wardens should be increased and their motivation enhanced if possible, especially if the number of visitors rises;
3. The efforts to protect the pregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) should continue. For this purpose, the Fjällenheten's collaboration with an NGO is regarded as exemplary.