

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2020

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

State: Sweden

Name of the area: Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
Last renewal 2012, 8 years ago.

Central authority concerned:

Name: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Laponiatjuottjudus

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¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions are listed neither in the Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma, nor in the Resolution Res(67)23 on the award of the European Diploma. Hence it follows that there are no conditions to be explained.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the "Laponiatjuottjudus" (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;

Today Laponiatjuottjudus has nine employees. Laponiatjuottjudus as an organisation is well equipped to implement the management plan since we now consist of a wide-ranging of competence within the field staff. The future challenge is to continue the work of creating a steady platform to develop and maintain management work required to preserve and develop the Lapponia World Heritage site. The board of Laponiatjuottjudus holds regular meetings over the year where all parties attend, and all their decisions are made in consensus. This gives a guarantee that the work performed by the management employees is established from the joint cooperative effort of the board. Laponiatjuottjudus has been granted a new extended trial period from the Swedish Government to manage the Lapponia World Heritage site until December 2022. Before the end of the trial period a decision will be made by the Swedish Government if they will prolong the management of the World Heritage site in the care of Laponiatjuottjudus.

The Management Plan was translated into English in 2014 and is available on http://lapponia.nu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Lapponia-forvaltningsplan-eng-web-150327_2.pdf.

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;

Norrbotten County Administrative Board (CAB) is the Government Agency responsible for the predators' inventories in Sweden. In the management task concerning the predators' inventories in Lapponia we are continuously working with the Sami communities and CAB.

Laponiatjuottjudus also keep contact with the "Norrbotten County Ornithological association" (Norrbottens Ornitologiska Förening) regarding inventories of different birds of prey in the county.

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;

Laponiatjuottjudus have developed a basic GIS system that is available for the management to use within the organisation. The development of our GIS system is a long-term work in progress that will continue during the following years. The management have not been granted access to existing systems used by the former county management (CAB).

Laponiatjuottjudus have access to the system "Skötsel-DOS" used by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the county administrations (CAB). The system is used to manage data in protected areas, including all the facilities such as cabins, trails, bridges, and the efforts planned and performed by the management during the year. The data for the facilities in the National Parks in the system will eventually be made public by the SEPA.

4. closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing;

Controls and authority in Sarek/Badjelánnda are handled by the police and CAB. Laponiatjuottjudus is cooperating with the authorities and we are working to maintain that visitors and inhabitants in the parks are following existing laws and regulations. We provide accessible information on our website about the

regulations for the National Parks and we also keep contact with the local inhabitants as well as local tourist organisations. We also work continuously with providing signs with information about regulations at strategical places. CAB has also hired a new co-ordinator to manage the supervision of the regulations.

Laponiatjuottjudus are working to document the amount of the allowed use of off-road vehicles in the reindeer herding and their strategies for preventing damage in vulnerable areas. This is to be able to analyze if there is an increase in the use of off-road vehicles and be able to prevent potential damage.

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;

Laponiatjuottjudus is continuously working with the visitor number's in the National Parks. In 2020 we had six visitor counters in strategic places in Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Parks. This is an ongoing work, and we plan to continue using visitor counters in the following years. For Padjelanta/Badjelánnda we also collect statistics of the number of visitors from the tourist cabins in the park and from the boat and helicopter companies transporting visitors to the park. Over the previous years the number of visitors seem to have a small increase each year. Although the number of visitors along the Padjelanta/Badjelánnda Trail seems to have decreased with 30% in 2020, most likely due to the pandemic.

The impact of the different human activities on the landscape is an important question. Laponiatjuottjudus work with the reindeer herding communities in matters of concern. We also work with CAB and towards tourist companies in matters of permissions and tourist activities. Due to the pandemic there was no education in ethical guidelines and sustainable tourism for tourist companies in Lapponia. Hopefully, it will be possible in 2021.

The naturum Lapponia Visitor Centre is part of the Swedish phenology network and report about the seasonal changes in nature throughout the years. This is one way to follow up changes in nature due to climatic change.

In Sweden CAB is coordinating the different surveys and follow-ups of the national environmental objectives and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives that the Swedish Environment Protection Agency is responsible for. These surveys and follow-ups of species-/ and habitats of interest indicate changes over time in both vegetation and animal species that possibly could be associated to climate change. Laponiatjuottjudus has an exchange with the Norrbotten CAB and we take part of the information and reports every year.

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 about the different categories of international designations;

The naturum Lapponia Visitor Centre in Stora Sjöfallet/Stuor Muorkke National Park consists of a large building including an exhibition area, a café, and an auditorium. Outside there are traditional Sámi buildings. Laponiatjuottjudus obligation is to maintain the buildings and manage activities in the Visitor Centre. Naturum Lapponia function as a Visitor Centre for the entire Lapponia World Heritage site (WH) and possesses information for all the National Parks including Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda and gives the visitors information about the different designations within the area. Our experience is that the Visitor Centre gives the visitors crucial information about how to behave in the protected areas and in the entire WH site. The Visitor Centre plays an important role as a fixture before and after visiting the parks. The naturum Lapponia have given us a great opportunity to reach out and educate more people about the WH site and its different values. We are planning to develop some suitable information materials that among others mentions and explains the EDPA nomination. With the necessary adjustments the Visitor Centre have been able to keep open despite of Covid-19.

Smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks (nodes) was installed in 2014 in Porjus, Gällivare and Jokkmokk. In 2015 a node adjacent to Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Parks was installed in Kvikkjokk. All these nodes contain information about the WH site, including the National Parks. We are working to link the nodes together with naturum Lapponia Visitor Centre to make the information about the WH site accessible for more people.

7. consider linking the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with the Muddus National Park and other conservation areas so that the Lapponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;

This is a question to consider and discuss for the board of Laponiatjuottjudus together with the Swedish EPA.

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.

Laponiatjuottjudus is positive to discuss and exchange information with people who possess relevant expertise in the different matters.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Today Laponiatjuottjudus management crew consist of nine full-time employees.

During 2020 the economic funding was comparable to the previous funding. The management now also have the amount of staff required but thereby the funding is setting a stricter limit to what is possible in the future work. The future funding is still very uncertain and varies from one year to another. This uncertain level of funding of course affects the management since it is very difficult to plan in the long-term as the funding varies every year, hence it is a question of prioritizing.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes of boundaries to report.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

To maintain accessibility and safety the maintenance work with renovating and improving different boardwalk trails in Padjelanta/Badjelánnda have continued in 2020. Along the trails 9 wooden bridges have been replaced with new ones in metal, to improve safety. There have also been maintenance work on two suspension bridges. We have also conducted smaller maintenance work on different visitor cabins in the area. This is an ongoing work that will require the field staff's attention every year. We must prioritize and continue to maintain updated plans of maintenance for the trails and facilities in the parks. In Sarek there are no tourist facilities such as visitor cabins or trails.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is responsible for mountain safety issues. To assist in the work of mountain safety SEPA has a council consisting of representatives from government agencies and organisations with a vast knowledge and experience of the mountains and mountain safety. In the mountain regions there are local mountain safety committees that works as an extension of the council. Laponiatjuottjudus is a member of one of the local mountain safety committees and therefore takes part of the work with preventive measures in mountain safety.

In 2015 the four research cabins built in the beginning of the 20's century, by Professor Axel Hamberg, in Sarek National Park was proclaimed as national historic buildings. These cabins are historically important from both a scientific and cultural point of view as well as a contribution to climate research. Laponiatjuottjudus has continued the restoration and maintenance of the cabins, including painting indoors and outdoors of the cabins, re-establishment of the furniture, and reparations of the meteorological research equipment. Due to Covid-19 there we had to cancel the "Hamberg days" in Sarek in August.

Result of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological association in 2020:

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*): one observed successful breeding, with 4 chicks in total.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): two successful breeding's confirmed

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*): one successful breeding confirmed

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*): no successful breeding confirmed

Jokkmokk, December 2020

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The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

- 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

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

8. Education and scientific interest

- 8.1. Visitors – Information policy
 - 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 8.2. Scientific research
 - 8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

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

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

10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

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

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