

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2021**

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:

Name of the area:

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

**Central authority concerned:**

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

e-mail:

www:

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Vereinigung Deutsch-Luxemburgischer Naturpark

Address: Ewerhartstr. 14 D-54666 Irrel

Tel: 0049 6525 79 26130

Fax:

e-mail: [info@naturpark-suedeifel.de](mailto:info@naturpark-suedeifel.de)

www: [www.naturpark-suedeifel.de](http://www.naturpark-suedeifel.de)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**a) At the initiative of the States concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible;**

Under the leadership of the Department of Spatial Development (DATer) of the Luxembourg Ministry of Energy and Spatial Development and the Ministry of Climate Protection, Environment, Energy and Mobility of Rhineland-Palatinate, a cross-border working group was entrusted with the task of defining common medium- and long-term development goals in the fall of 2020. The working group also includes members of the German-Luxembourg Nature Park Association, the Southern Eifel Nature Park, and representatives of the Luxembourg Nature & Geopark Mëllerdall and the Our Nature Park.

**b) Engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park;**

The working group mentioned under a) worked on the development goals and the future organizational structure for the German-Luxembourg Nature Park in 2021

**c) 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;**

With the involvement of local stakeholders, it was possible to complete a spatial analysis in the summer of 2021 (four video conferences and four online workshops), on the basis of which recommendations for action were defined for the area of the D-L Nature Park in the following areas:

- Cross-border regional development,
- Landscape and nature conservation,
- tourism and recreation, and
- Communication and education for sustainable development.

In order to implement the recommendations for action in concrete terms, the partners are seeking funding within the framework of the next Interreg program of the Greater Region (2021-2027).

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. pursue and develop cross-border co-operation and collaboration and explore the best adapted form of transfrontier co-ordination, including the formulation of common mid- and long-term development objectives and the reactivating of an intergovernmental committee, as appropriate;

Cross-border cooperation is anchored in the three nature park plans as an objective/measure. The practical implementation of this objective is documented by a large number of joint projects, which were also continued in 2021: The joint INTERREG project "Accessibility without Borders" (2016-2022). This project aims to make the sights of the German-Luxembourg Nature Park accessible to all, including people with impairments. The INTERREG project "Dry stone walls in the Greater Region" (2016-2010), whose partners (including the Mëllerdall and Südeifel nature parks) are developing a joint concept for the preservation of dry stone walls in the Greater Region. Intensive cooperation also takes place in the marketing, further development and maintenance of the premium hiking trails developed within the INTERREG project NaturWanderPark delux (2010-2012). For the protection and development of meadow orchards, the nature parks Mëllerdall and Südeifel are engaged in an intensive cross-border exchange.

2. The exchange meetings planned for 2021 between the nature parks Südeifel, Mëllerdall and Our and their partners from the fields of sustainable rural development (LEADER) and tourism (regional tourist associations) had to be cancelled also in 2021 COVID-19 conditionally. ensure that nature conservation management in the Zweckverband Naturpark Südeifel mirrors the practice and performance of the Luxembourg nature parks;

We were very interested to read in the coalition agreement in Rhineland\_Palatinate that there are plans to establish regional nature conservation stations and to finance them in line with demand in order to strengthen

and expand nature and species conservation. To avoid duplicate structures, existing actors are to be integrated. The nature park Southern Eifel is understood as such an actor. The necessary coordination talks between the Ministry of the Environment and the nature park are planned for 2022.

3. make more extensive use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, first of all in the visitors' centre and on the website.

On its new website ([www.naturpark-our.lu](http://www.naturpark-our.lu)), the Our Nature Park refers to the cross-border cooperation within the framework of the German-Luxembourg Nature Park and also refers to the link to <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/bern-convention/european-diploma-for-protected-areas>.

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

In 2021, the Our Nature Park has expanded its team by 5 project managers in the field of nature and environmental protection and this for the following projects/topic areas: Stream Partnership, Insect Conservation/Biodiversity and Climate Protection. The consultant position on light pollution could also be maintained in 2021 thanks to government aid. In all areas, the involvement of all important stakeholders - including cross-border stakeholders - is a basic prerequisite for optimal project implementation.

Mëllerdall Nature & Geopark has also expanded its team. In addition to insect protection, new nature conservation projects focus in particular on restructuring the open landscape and restoring grassland that is valuable for nature conservation. The orchard meadows, as one of the most important structural elements in the Mëllerdall Nature & Geopark, continue to play a very important role and efforts for their protection and preservation are being significantly expanded. Direct maintenance measures are complemented by projects that aim to increase the sales of products from orchards or to contribute to capacity building. Other current measures include relocation attempts for the green broom moss (*Dicranum viride*), the creation of new habitat for the great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), the control of various neophytes, and the restoration of unlined springs and, in settlement areas, targeted assistance for mealy swallow colonies.

Since April 2019, the Our Nature Park has hired a coordinator to initiate and plan concrete actions from the Natura 2000 management plans for the 13 Natura 2000 zones (16,697 ha) in the Our Nature Park region and surrounding municipalities. The coordinator accompanies the multidisciplinary steering committee COPIL ("Comité de pilotage Éislek"), founded in October 2018, whose national, regional and local members from the fields of nature conservation, agriculture and forestry, regional development, energy, water management and tourism work together on the implementation of the Natura 2000 management plans. In 2021, concrete work was done on the following transnational implementation:

The joint measures for the protection of the Gekielten Smaragdlibelle (*Oxygastra curtisii*) addressed in the 2020 report were continued in 2021 in the form of the transboundary species monitoring along the Our. For the habitat improvement measures foreseen in the Natura 2000 management plan for the Our valley, however, it was agreed not to actively pursue the implementation until further notice, as the biotope along the Our is in a good condition and meets the habitat requirements of the Caged Emerald Damselfly according to the unanimous opinion of the responsible experts (Dr. Altmoos [Landesumweltamt RLP] and Mr. Roland Proess [Fachbüro Ecotop]). However, the development of the habitat condition remains an integral part of the annual transboundary species monitoring for the Crested Emerald Damselfly.

Due to the existing corona situation, the recreational use pressure in the natural areas has increased considerably in the recent past. Conflicts have arisen, among other things, in the area of various designated nature reserves by mountain bikers. In this context, the Natura 2000 representative of the Our Nature Park initiated the development of a cross-border mountain bike trail network, which met with great approval from all parties involved. The aim of this project is to work out a cross-border mountain bike trail concept together with the local mountain bike groups and other associations/institutions (forestry administration, hunters, nature conservation, tourism, ...). Within the framework of this project, an attractive mountain bike trail network is to be worked out with the involvement of all those involved, so that in the future, particularly sensitive nature conservation areas will, if possible, no longer be crossed by mountain bikers, or only to a limited extent. The project for the elaboration of the cross-border mountain bike network is to be officially started in 2022. In the first phase, the focus will be on the area on both sides of the Our.

In order to counter the increased recreational use pressure in the Mëllerdall Nature & Geopark, various approaches have been worked on since 2020 in cooperation with the regional tourism association, the LEADER action group and the local tourism organizations in order to sensitize visitors to the valuable natural & cultural heritage, to teach rules of etiquette and to develop a concept for the increased litter problem. The Southern Eifel Nature Park is also working on the further development of visitor guidance, with a particular focus on digitalization.

5. **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.

There are no changes here.

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

No further information is available.

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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**

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