

## Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the Euroean 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 2025

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:	TÜRKİYE
Name of the area:	Kuşçenneti National Park (Bird Paradise National Park)
Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas:	2021-2031
<b>Central authority concerned:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks
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Authority responsible for its management:	Nature Conservation & National Parks Regional Directorate, Bird Paradise Chiefdom
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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 delegation appointed by the Council of Europe lastly visited the Bird Paradise National Park and, made interviews on October 5-6, 2023. As a result of the Delegation' report, the Council of Europe extended the European Diploma of the Bird Paradise National Park until March 14, 2031, without specifying any conditions and only with recommendations. Within the frame of those recommendations, the latest developments occurred in 2025 are submitted in below.

**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. adopt as soon as possible the revised action plan and secure financial means for its implementation;

Both the Bird Paradise National Park Long Term Development Plan and the Wetland Management Plan were approved in 2019, are 5 years plans. In this period, the revision period of Wetland Management Plans was increased to 10 years according to the national legislation. However, due to the expiry dates of both the Action Plan in Wetland Management Plan and the Bird Paradise National Park Long Term Development Plan as well, it has become a necessity to prepare a more comprehensive and applicable Plans. In this context, an allowance request was made from the 2025 Investment Program for the revision of the Bird Paradise National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan-Planning Report and Analytical Study Synthesis Report. However, since the request was not accepted, works are being continued from current activities in the mentioned Plans.

2. monitor the effects of climate change on species and habitats, and ensure findings are considered in the management of the area;

Bird counts are being carried out periodically in the National Park to monitor the impact of climate change on species and habitats. In addition, the areas affected by drought, water withdrawal, reed formation etc are monitored via Google Earth. Annual temperature values are taken into consideration for checking the changes in bird population. The incubation times of the Dalmatian Pelicans are also monitored according to the years. With the cameras placed in the National Park, it is planned to monitor regularly the incubation times of birds, egg production, etc.

3. maintain and strengthen the good relations with local and district authorities;

In 2025, some of the events related to the "International Bandırma Bird Paradise Culture and Tourism Festival", organized jointly with the Bandırma Municipality, the local government, took place in the National Park.

The relevant staff of Bird Paradise National Park Chiefdom are working to raise the environmental awareness in collaboration with civil society organizations, particularly located in Bandırma district, within the administrative boundaries of the National Park, and with the others.

Furthermore, information sharing activities based on nature conservation issues are continuing with neighborhood headmen's offices, located around the Manyas Lake.



4. further ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;

Daily water level is monitored by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works according to its annual operating program and natural fluctuations are observed. Water fluctuations in the Bird Lake are caused by seasonal fluctuations and weather conditions. However, if any increase in the water level is viewed, the situation is reported to the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and the natural fluctuation of the Lake' water level is ensured.

5. continue monitoring the water quality and activities that occur around the lake which could have an influence on the water quality;

The water quality of the Lake and the streams feeding the Lake is also measured by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and these data are demanded annually from the mentioned General Directorate.

Any activity which may occur within the Lake's wetland buffer zone is subject to the relevant provisions of the national legislation, namely "Protection of Wetlands Regulation". Within the wetland boundaries, no activity other than traditional fishing is allowed.

6. further develop the installation of cameras; establish monitoring schemes using cameras and enhance their role in educational and tourism programs;

Free educational tours to the National Park are organized by schools during the academic year. As a part of these educational tours, the presentation of the Area is carried out in Image Monitoring Center where the live broadcast camera monitoring system is located. Especially in the summer months when the number of visitors is high, local and foreign visitors are also informed in the same way.

Additionally, during birdwatching and nature-based activities, held in the National Park, as a part of national and international projects supported by TÜBİTAK, Erasmus+, local governments and NGOs, the Area is being actively promoted by using this camera monitoring system.

Because of the IP camera system runs with renewable energy, occasional disconnections may occur. The connection of a fiber optic cable to the camera, which provides the clearest view of the Dalmatian pelican breeding grounds, is provided, and by this way the visitors can have uninterrupted views.

7. gradually replace the Council of Europe logo with the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular on the website, in the visitors' center and on information boards in the national park

A sign with information about the European Diploma has been installed at the entrance of the National Park, and the EDPA logos have replaced with the European Council logos on existing signs. The "Class A Diploma" is also on display at the entrance to the Administration and Visitor Center.





**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.

As of December 28, 2024, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks became a Public Legal Entity (Affiliated Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) with a Special Budget. It is believed that having its own revolving fund would positively affect the budget allocated to the National Parks.

Ten new platforms were added to the existing pelican nests, expanding the breeding area. There is no change related to the staff of Bird Paradise National Park.

**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.

Since the last annual report, there has been no boundary change, and, the latest map of the National Park area is still valid.

**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.

Information related to the newly completed research for Bird Paradise National Park is submitted in below:

Arı Y., 2025. Ecotourism or Biocultural Tourism in Protected Areas? An Evaluation Through the Kuşçenneti (Bird Paradise) National Park, DOI: 10.17295/ataunidcd.1585640