



Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma Protected Areas to the Kuscenneti National Park (Turkiye)

(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024

at the ...th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2024

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: TURKIYE

Name of the area: Kuşçenneti National Park (Bird Paradise National Park)

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: 2021-2031

Central authority concerned: General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks

Name: General Director: Kadir ÇOKÇETİN

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Authority responsible for its management: Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry

Name: Ayşegül COŞKUN AKPULAT Kuşçenneti National Park Chief

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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.

N/A

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;

Kuşçenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan, which was approved in 2019, is a 5-year plan. In this process, the revision period of Wetland Management Plans was increased to 10 years. However, due to the expiry of the Action Plan activity period in the content of Kuşçenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan, it has become necessary to prepare a more comprehensive and applicable management plan. In this context, an appropriation request was made from the 2025 investment program for the revision of the Kuşçenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan-Planning Report and Analytical Study Synthesis Report.

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 carried out periodically in the national park to monitor the impact of climate change on species and habitats. In addition, the data on the area affected by drought, water withdrawal, reed formation etc. are monitored via Google Earth. Annual temperature values are taken into consideration. The incubation times of Dalmatian pelicans are also monitored according to the years. With the camera records placed in the area, incubation times of birds, egg production, etc. will also be monitored regularly.

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

The 33rd International Bird's Paradise Culture and Tourism Festival was conducted in the Kuşçenneti National Park in 2024, as every year. Also, information exchanges are held at various times with the neighborhood headmen around the Kuş Lake.





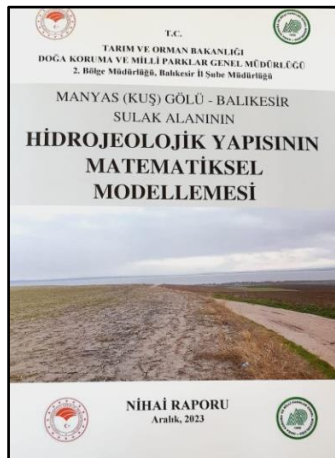
4. further ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;

Daily water level monitoring is done according to the annual operating program prepared by the General Directorate of State Water Affairs and natural fluctuation is observed. Water fluctuations in Kuş Lake are caused by seasonal fluctuations and weather conditions. However, if any increase in the water level is detected, the situation is reported to the General Directorate of State Water Affairs 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 examined by the General Directorate of State Water Affairs. These data are obtained annually from the General Directorate of State Water Affairs.

Although there is no new project construction that will affect the Kuşçeneti wetland ecosystem, the Mathematical Modeling of the Hydrogeological Structure of Kuş (Manyas) Lake - Balıkesir Wetland project was completed in 2023 to ensure that the permissions given within the scope of the Law and Regulations in the wetland buffer zone of the lake are healthier. The final report was delivered in December 2023. This report is now also utilized when giving institutional opinions, especially for activities that may affect the water level.



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. During the educational tours, the presentation of the area is carried out, especially in the 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 explained in the same way in the camera monitoring center.



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

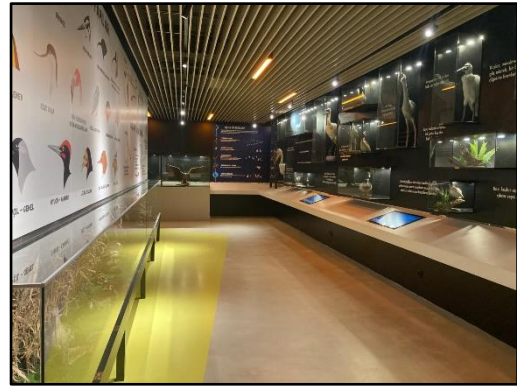
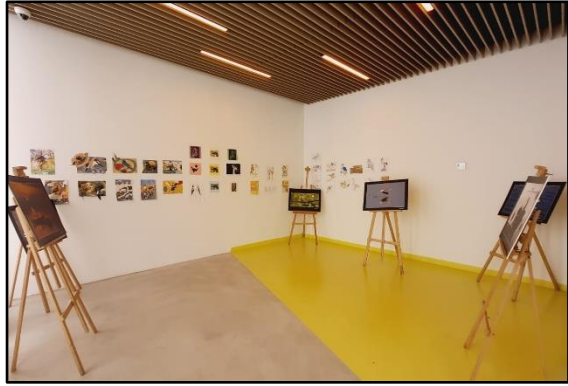
The logos on the National Park information signs and the brochures will be changed in the area. In addition, the European Diploma logo and information board will be placed at the entrance of the National Park. Currently, visitors to the area are informed that our National Park has 'A Class Diploma'. It is also planned to add information about the Class A Diploma to the kiosks in the exhibition hall.

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.

Site management is the routine activity of national park authorities.

After the last annual report, one clerical staff and one forest protection officer started to work as of May 2024 with central recruitment. The current number of personnel is 11 (5 civil servants, 6 workers). In the summer period of 2024, 2 personnel were assigned in the field for 6 months (March-August) within the scope of the community benefit project organized by Iskur. Again, it is expected that at least 1 personnel will be assigned in 2025 within the scope of same project.

Visitor facilities are important tools to increase visitor satisfaction and awareness. Within this context social facilities included new Administration and Visitor Promotion Center, camera system, bird observation tower, trails, 6 WC (1 disabled WC, 1 baby change unit and 2 prayer rooms). Interior design for Administration and Visitor Promotion Center has just completed in 2024 and current photos is given below.



Also maintenance and reed coating of current (68 pieces) pelican nests continue regularly.

A good park signage system is conducted to protect and improve the sensitive habitats and the biodiversity associated with them in the Kuşçenneti National Park. Signs have been put up especially at the entrance points of the area and at the points where birds breed intensively. Also warning signs against illegal hunting have been placed.

Field vehicles (a land vehicle, a tractor, a boat and a motor cycle) have been allocated for mobilization.

Regular field checks are made throughout the year in order to prevent illegal hunting and fishing.

Wild life monitoring efforts continue regularly via camera traps and other optical systems. Especially bird population dynamics are observed and recorded.

Fish species and their population in the lake monitored regularly by District Agricultural Directorate.

The water quality examination and control of Sigirci River is monitored by General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works.

Daily water level monitoring is done according to annual operating program prepared by General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works.

To contribute to raising individuals who understand nature, respect nature and take responsibility in protecting it educational programs are organized for different student groups in schools. Also trainings are given to the local people on illegal hunting and the protection of the national park.

Promotional products, brochures, books, etc. are being prepared for introducing resource values of the national park for different target groups.

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.

There has been no boundary change since the last annual report. Since there is no boundary change, the latest map of the area is 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.

Currently completed research in Kuşçenneti National Park:

- Saripek, S., & Çevik, S. (2023). Evaluation of Manyas Bird Paradise National Park in Terms of Bird Watching Activities, Safran Journal of Culture and Tourism Research.