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AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

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**Group of Specialists on the  
European Diploma for Protected Areas**

8 March 2017  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, Room 6

**ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORTS**

*Document prepared  
by the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	1. Armenia Khosrov Forest State Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measures are taken to ensure that the existing water resources facilities do not expand within the area.</li> <li>- Public motor transport traffic is strictly forbidden.</li> <li>- Appropriate efforts are carried out by the managers to protect the reserve and prevent illegal activities.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	The management plan for 2010 – 2014 has expired. In 2016 a team (headed by World Wildlife Fund in Armenia) has been selected and will start this year with the development of a new management plan.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During 2016 WWF-Armenia has been doing monitoring of biodiversity in this reserve with installation of camera-traps.</li> <li>- According to the management and annual working plans scientific works are being implemented in the reserve.</li> <li>- The complete examination works of flora and fauna species, as well as habitats, will be done during the development of the new management plan.</li> </ul>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available.		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations.</li> <li>- Request updates on the further development and adoption of the new management plan.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo</li> </ul>		

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	2. Austria Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The elaboration of the management plan for the National Park Hohe Tauern is going on. The Krimml Waterfalls will be integrated according their rank.</li> <li>- The area of Krimml Waterfalls and the Krimml Valley are included in some scientific research projects of the Hohe Tauern National Park e.g. lichens project.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No efforts to avoid the spread of light pollution.</li> </ul>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The general maintenance work on the footpath implemented and the balustrades was renovated.</li> <li>- Good cooperation and agreement with the Austrian Alpine Association, the land owners, the community and the tourist office.</li> <li>- In 2016 the visitor number increased slightly with 390.726.</li> <li>- Several PR activities are made.</li> </ul>		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The award of the European Diploma to the Krimml Waterfalls has made the falls and the National Park well known throughout the world. This fact has been appreciated by the National Park Administration in many publications and conferences.</li> <li>- While there are several websites about the Waterfalls with references to the European Diploma, there are no examples of the use of the EDPA logo available.</li> </ul>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.</li> <li>- Encourage again the competent authorities to step up their efforts to avoid of light pollution.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and EDPA information on websites, letterheads, films, videos and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of</li> </ul>		

the EDPA logo.
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	3. Austria Thayatal National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Thayatal National Park administration and the Podyji National Park are taking part at the INTERREG V project Dyje/Thaya 2020, which has started in May 2016. (Leadpartner of the project is the Czech river administration Povodi Moravy). One main topic is the improvement of the ecology of the Thaya river. A fish pass at the sill in Podhradi will also be built. The results of this measure will be used for a concept for restoration of free fish migration in the Thaya river.</li> <li>- A transboundary spawning ground for the Brown Trout will be established in the Thaya river to improve the natural reproduction.</li> <li>- Within the INTERREG Central Europe project "Magic Landscapes" the Thayatal National Park will run a project for a Wildcat Corridor Plan for the Austrian Waldviertel, Weinviertel and the south of Czech. The application of this project was submitted in June 2016 by the lead partner Technische Universität Dresden.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2016 the shareholders (Republic of Austria, federal province Niederösterreich) increased the Nationalpark Thayatal GmbHs budget by € 200.000 - per year.</li> <li>- The government of Lower Austria is preparing an amendment of the Thayatal National Parks regulation.</li> </ul>		

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In 2016 a common project for nature protection management with the European Diploma area "Wachau" and the Danube National Park was approved.</li><li>- The European Diploma logo is reproduced in leaflets and on the website of the area.</li></ul>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the work on the implementation of the recommendations attached to the award and to the renewal of the European Diploma.</li></ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	4. Austria Wachau Protected Landscape	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of a new strategy, focusing on the Nature Park's role in disseminating knowledge on nature protection is on the way.</li> <li>- The planning for the last big reconnection project of old side branches of the Danube to the main river is almost done.</li> <li>- Efforts to restore a more autochthonous composition of alluvial forest tree species are in full swing. The Danube Territorial Programme project DANUBE parksCONNECTED with 14 project partners from protected areas in all states along the Danube (except from Moldova and Ukraine) has been approved and will start in January 2017.</li> <li>- Restauration of terraces in use of winegrowing, as well as the irrigation network, continues in the usual way.</li> <li>- All the concepts for nature protection management in the area of the Wachau Protected Landscape have finally worked out. In addition to the LIFE+ Nature project "Alluvial Forest Wilderness Wachau", the Wachau Protected Landscape has started cooperating with the two National Parks in Lower Austria, Thayatal and Donauauen.</li> <li>- Works on building flood protection systems go on.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The question of legal ownership of the Spitz quarry has not been solved in a legally safe way.</li> <li>- The works on the future UNESCO management plan</li> </ul>	



		<p>for the World Heritage are still not finished. The plan will be published in 2017.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Results of the meeting on the approach of the mouflon population in next year's report.</li> <li>- The general discussions about the effects of river cruises is still going on.</li> <li>- The apricot farmers have started the creation of an apricot visitor and competency centre around the monastery of Göttweig.</li> </ul>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The website portfolio of the region is currently under reconstruction.</li> <li>- Several websites are referring to the European Diploma. The logo of the European Diploma is reproduced on one of them in black and white.</li> </ul>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing all conditions and recommendations.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	5. Belarus Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2018
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conservation management plan of the National Park was revised in 2015 with broad participation of stakeholders for the period of 2016-2020, and is currently implemented.</li> <li>- The move from economically driven to ecological driven forestry management is still going on.</li> <li>- New government program for the development of nature protected areas system for the 2015-2019 was elaborated and signed. The realization of nature protection measures in Belovezhskaya Pushcha is planned. More financial support is available for the implementation of scientific research and conservation activities.</li> <li>- Constant monitoring of water quality, forestry, wildlife and ecological monitoring of forest dynamic processes</li> <li>- Changes that allow for activities aimed at active fight against invasive alien species inside the National Park are introduced in environmental legislation. In 2016 activities on eradication of red oak were implemented on the area of 120 hectares. National Academy of Science implemented research work on alien species of plants and animals.</li> <li>- In 2016 the management plan of the National Park was actualized for the next 5 years.</li> <li>- The boundaries of the National Park were changed according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus N99 from 16/03/2016.</li> </ul>	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are no significant changes of recreation activity in the national park. There is an increase of visitors by 7% in comparison to 2015 with 300.000 people visiting the park. The number of visitors will be constant monitored in order to determine the impact of visitors on the environment.</li> <li>- There are 28 objects of agro-tourism which are located in buffer zone of national park in 2016.</li> <li>- In 2016 the national cartographic agency carried out the data actualization for the preparation a new national park map with new boundaries of the functional zones and with new information. The map will be published in the end of 2016.</li> </ul>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing all conditions and recommendations</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	6. Belarus Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No changes in the reserve's current protection status.</li> <li>- A full range of activities scheduled for 2016 has been performed in accordance with the State program "Environment protection and sustainable use of nature resources for the years 2016-2020"</li> <li>- Measures aimed at control the invasive alien species of wild plants have been implemented.</li> <li>- Advertising and informational printed materials about the reserve have been prepared and published.</li> <li>- Monitoring has been continued to assess the impact of the M3 road on death of large mammals and the effectiveness of the existing crossings for amphibians.</li> <li>- Further studies of dynamics of mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration have been stated in 2016.</li> <li>- Tourism development is controlled effectively on basis of scientific research.</li> <li>- Proper information policy to attract visitors for the purpose of environmental education is carried out.</li> <li>- Basic measures planned on the current year within the Management Plan for Berezinsky Biosphere for the years 2015-2019 were realized.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings		

<p>Other highlights worth to be Mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- New jobs were created, which increased the staff of the Berezinsky Reserve by 9 people.</li><li>- An agreement of mutual cooperation between the Northern Vosges Biosphere Reserve of France, the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve of Belarus and Kampinos National Park of Poland for the years 2017-2020 has been signed.</li></ul>
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve extensively uses the logo of the European Diploma. In presentations at several events the logo was used. The logo is put on the official website, as well as a link with to the website of the Council of Europe.</li></ul>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the good progress in implementing conditions and all recommendations</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	7. Bulgaria Central Balkan National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.10.2009 / 21.10.2014
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After the implementation of all steps of the process of updating the management plan, with the decision of the Council of Ministers of 24 March 2016, the plan was approved. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 the new Management Plan of the Central Balkan National Park came into force.</li> <li>- The projects "Restoration of natural habitats" and "Provision of information and improvement of the visitor's infrastructure in Central Balkan National Park" were finished. Through the project "Central Balkan – park for everyone" huge varieties of activities were implemented.</li> <li>- The main source of funding of activities on biodiversity conservation and on planning and maintenance areas became OP Environment (European Regional Development Fund).</li> <li>- CBNPD as administrative structure of the Ministry of Environment and Water has annual budget ensured from the National budget and the State Enterprise for Management Environment al Activities (SEMEPA).</li> <li>- Since 2010 a Public Advisory Council functions as an advisory body to the Park Management.</li> <li>- Well managed summer grazing is still going on.</li> <li>- After removing more than 20 objects in the park the terrain was restored.</li> <li>- Tourists routes and viewpoints are in Sustainable</li> </ul>	

		tourism zone of the park.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>- In 2016 the CBNPD continue working on the nomination dossier for the extension of the existing UNESCO Wold Heritage Property – “Primeval Beech Forest of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” with partners from 12 other European countries. The IUCN evaluation mission was held in October 2016. The filled application was submitted on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 from UNESCO National Commission.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the good progress in implementing all conditions and recommendations.</li> <li>- Welcome the new Management Plan.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	8. Czech Republic Karlstejn National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Goat and sheep grazing management, shrub and tree removal on dry calcareous grassland and forest steppe locations continued in the extent of previous years.</li> <li>- Removal of non-native tree species (Norway spruce Black Pine, European larch) and their exchange for broad-leaved species (beech, oak and lime) has continued. No non-native species has been introduced.</li> <li>- All local communities have drawn up land-use plans.</li> <li>- Cooperation with scientific institutes has continued. A scientific paper on litter raking was published.</li> <li>- Several educational excursions for the public were organised by the Administration staff.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	In 2016, the budget of the Administration, including the budget for active management of target species and habitats, was provided in a regular extent in accordance to needs and capacity of the office.		
To what extent	No information available		



<p>the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing recommendations.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>9. Czech Republic Podyji National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.2000 / 21.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new Handling regulations are prepared. The conditions for environmentally acceptable mode of flow in the river, including the frequency and maximum flow rates and way of flood wave emerge will be included in the Handling regulations.</li> <li>- Research on the influence of angling on fish in the Dyje river is part of the Dyje/Thaya2020 project.</li> <li>- Several municipalities cooperated with NP administration on projects of increasing landscape diversity.</li> <li>- More than 100 ha of field was grassed, some changes in land leasing for diversification of land use, 5 new wood features were created in the landscape.</li> <li>- Three municipalities were newly connected to waste water treatment plant.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>		
<p>Other highlights worth to be</p>			

mentioned	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome the progress in implementing recommendations.</li><li>- Encourage the competent authorities to stimulate the publication of the Handling regulations.</li><li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	10. Estonia Matsalu National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New protection rules are in preparation ;</li> <li>- 6456 ha of semi-natural grassland were managed by making hay and 427 ha of semi-natural grassland were renovated by bush cutting and erecting new fences ;</li> <li>- Temporary fences were erected around Frog Orchid's habitat which are extremely rare in Estonia to prevent the growing plants from being eaten by grazing cattle ;</li> <li>- Breeding birds in alluvial meadow and small islands, migrating cranes and geese, orchids on coastal meadows, white-tailed eagles breeding were monitored;</li> <li>- the social role of the National Park has been strengthened : 6 workshops on cultural heritage - wool handcraft, works with scythes, renovation of wooden houses were organised and 2 new tourist farms were created ;</li> <li>- 116 nature education programmes for 2299 participants were organised.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings		

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The breeding groups of Golden Jackals has risen to at least 5 groups (Mõisaküla, Ullaste, Kirikuküla, Puise, Tuuru)	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No information is provided regarding the use of the logo. However several events (concerts, coffee day, nature film festival) were organised ;</li> <li>- Printed information material exists in several languages.</li> </ul>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations ;</li> <li>- Request updates on the implementation of the conditions and the recommendation 4 on the programme for the elimination of alien species conditioning the award of the European Diploma ;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities again to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	11. Finland Ekenäs Archipelago National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natura Site Condition Assessments consisting of assessing the status of key on-site natural, cultural, and use values, the pressures and threats having impact on them, as well defining measures and planning (including management plan updates) needed to maintain these values or restore them to target condition is in preparation ;</li> <li>- Special attention was paid to the inventory methodology of marine habitats ;</li> <li>- A new derogation for hunting minks and racoon dogs was issued in order minimise the predation on nesting water birds ;</li> <li>- Cooperation with local stakeholders was deepened. An annual meeting with local entrepreneurs was held and 2017 events in the framework of Finland's 100 year jubilee celebrations were planned with local stakeholders and entrepreneurs.</li> </ul>	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A 3-day volunteer camp assessed all the known patches of invasive species;</li> <li>- In 2016, two park areas (Uusimaa and Southwest areas) were unified to one regional area and a new superintendent was appointed to deal with recreational activities.</li> <li>- The nature path in Jussarö Island was complemented and the old coastguard tower opened to visitors ;</li> <li>- The number of visitors increased by 7,4%</li> </ul>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		<p>The diploma and logo are visible in the Ekenäs Visitors Centre. The logo is also on the information boards of the national park and on the national park leaflets/brochures. The logo is also on the national park's and the visitors centre's webpages (available in Finnish, Swedish and English).</p>
Conclusions and action suggested		<p>Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and the use of the European Diploma logo.</p>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	12. Finland Seitseminen National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A report assessing the effectiveness of the Management Plan of the National Park is in preparation ;</li> <li>- Efforts to develop grazing of meadows are made ;</li> <li>- Groups of specialists in issues of interest for the park visited the National Park ;</li> <li>- Several events involving local stakeholders were organised ;</li> <li>- Funding is secured for the renovation if recreational facilities and customer services.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The surface of the National Park was extended by 13 ha ;</li> <li>- Cooperation with local entrepreneurs and tourism operators has been</li> </ul>		

mentioned	strengthened to implement educational events.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and the recommendations ;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to inform the Secretariat of the conclusions of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Management Plan ;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	13. France Camargue National Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new management plan for the period 2016 – 2020 has been prepared. The adoption process was not completed at the time of writing the annual report;</li> <li>- Measures were taken to control and limit the development of invasive species such as <i>Jussiaea repens</i> (<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>) or <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>;</li> <li>- Efforts were made to control the number of people accessing the reserve thanks to a good communication with the local police authorities and to the restriction of access to cars to areas located at the border of the reserve;</li> <li>-The new management plan (2016 – 2020) includes a plan for adaption to climate change.</li> </ul>	



	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lack of resources has not permitted to revive the cooperation with other deltaic sites that have been awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania);</li> <li>- The national and regional financial resources granted to the National reserve are not sufficient to guarantee the extensive management, surveillance and scientific monitoring of the reserve;</li> <li>- Scientific studies show that the water of the reserve is contaminated by the discharge of agricultural water in the reserve;</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The National Society for the Nature Protection is responsible for the management of the areas at boundaries of the National Reserve.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma is visible in the visitors centre. Since 2015, posters and leaflets with the logo of the 50 anniversary of the European Diploma are also available for the public.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request the authorities to inform the Secretariat of the adoption of the new management plan (2016 – 2020) and supply a copy of it;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to pursue efforts for securing the necessary budget for ensuring an effective management and scientific monitoring of the reserve;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to inform the Secretariat of the follow up given to the studies revealing the reserve water pollution.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	14. France Ecrins National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 17.07.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Charter of the Ecrins National Park was adopted by 53 out of 59 municipalities located in the park area. The resulting covenants concluded with the concerned municipalities will aim at develop synergies and harmonised strategies for preserving heritage with a view to sustainable development;</li> <li>- A database entitled "Biodiv'Ecrins" was created to inventory the fauna and flora data collected since the creation of the National Park in 1973 and 23 municipalities received technical advices for the rehabilitation of their built heritage;</li> <li>- The park has contributed to monitor the melting of the White glacier and to update the diagram of its mass.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The park plays also an essential role the coordination of the “Alpages sentinelles” network;</li> <li>- The park provides assistance and support to different project stakeholders with a view to ensuring that activities are environmentally integrated;</li> <li>- Partnerships with the national forestry department are developed. The park delivers opinions regarding the forests located within its area.</li> <li>- The National Park has developed a tool entitled “Motif Paysages” to take the physiognomy of the local area into consideration in country planning projects;</li> <li>- Different programmes were designed to raise awareness of and encourage users to adopt practices which are respectful of species and habitats;</li> <li>- Although the number of flights over the National Park slightly increased in 2016, the good communication with mountain stockbreeders, owners and operators of mountain huts permitted to limit the increase;</li> <li>- A Wolf action plan was adopted in 2014 which provides guidance for the actions carried out in the field;</li> <li>- The elaboration of the methodology and evaluation criteria of the implementation of the Charter is underway. They are expected to be in use by the end of the first 2017 quarter.</li> </ul>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and the recommendations;</p>	

	- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	15. France Vanoise national park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.03.1976 / 18.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The National Park was involved in the elaboration of "green and blue infrastructure objectives" and the park's charter reflects on these objectives and encourages the ecological corridors;</li> <li>- The authorities of the National Park were not approached for making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydropower concessions;</li> <li>- Nine new pastoral management plans were realised in 2016 and 22 high mountain pastures have committed during 5 years to adapt their practices for a better consideration of the environmental stakes;</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Vanoise National Park received the label “Tourism and Handicap” for the visitors centre of Pralognan-la-Vanoise. In total, four refuges of the park are accessible to people with disabilities;</li> <li>- Flying over the park by all means is strictly regulated.</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only 2 municipalities out 29 endorsed the charter of the National Park. As a result the buffer zone around the park encompassing the territories of the 27 municipalities which rejected the charter is drastically cut and the surface of the park is almost reduced its core area.</li> <li>- Development projects in the core area if the National Park are subject to an authorisation. However the National Park is not anymore competent for monitoring projects carried out on its buffer zone;</li> <li>- The budget granted to the National Park by the Ministry of Environment was again reduced impacting the staff and the funding capacity of the activities.</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The park participates in several monitoring programmes regarding the impact of climate change on pastures and lakes ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The park assesses the conservation status of several endangered species;</li> </ul>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and the recommendations;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities of the park to federate the municipalities located around its core area to endorse the charter;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA</li> </ul>	

	<p>logo.</p> <p>- Encourage the authorities to pursue efforts for securing the necessary budget for ensuring an effective management and scientific monitoring of National Park.</p>
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	16. Georgia Vashlovani protected areas	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.2015 / 03.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New bathrooms for tourists and visitors were built. However it is not mentioned whether this is part of a renovation programme;</li> <li>- A monitoring programme of the specific natural and landscape of the area is at its initial phase;</li> <li>- The inventory and mapping of species and habitats according to Emerald standards is done;</li> <li>- The area's budget for the full implementation of the management plan is secured;</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The drafting process of the next management plan is underway;</li> <li>- Staff was trained;</li> <li>- Cross-border cooperation for the protection of large carnivores is developed.</li> </ul>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While the authorities of the area reported that a grazing management plan is already developed, it is not enclosed to the report as this was requested in the conditions conditioning the award of the European Diploma.</li> </ul>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of visitors raised significantly;</li> <li>- Presentations are made to schools and NGOs;</li> <li>- Local and international journalists and scientists are visiting the area;</li> <li>- Several reportages focusing on the area were made.</li> </ul>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request from the area authorities a copy in English of the grazing management plan;</li> <li>- Request a more comprehensive report on the implementation of the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	17. Germany Berchtesgaden National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 18.06.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Military, tourism, winter sport activities are taking place in good cooperation with the concerned stakeholders;</li> <li>- Visitors infrastructures are maintained and developed;</li> <li>- The grazing management has been adapted according to scientific findings;</li> <li>- Water supply to surrounding communities is managed</li> </ul>	



<p>been tackled?</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>and secured;                      - Mixed forests are re-introduced;                      - The bark beetle proliferation is stable since 2012;                      - The National Park cooperates with relevant stakeholders for the return of large carnivores in the park and ensures that this issue is included in broader territorial strategies;                      - Visits from international delegations took place and fostered exchanges of experiences and good practice;                      - The impressive number of people visiting the Information Centre is a good indicator of the relevance of the information material proposed and of the quality its exhibitions. The awareness raising and educational role of the Information Centre is likely to be fulfilled;                      - The network of public transport within the park is well developed.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>- The management plan – expected to be adopted by 2012 – is still not there;</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>In 2016 fourteen territorial couples of Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, L.) have been monitored in the observation area of Biosphere reserve Berchtesgadener Land and surrounding mountain regions.</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The National Park uses the European Diploma logo on its website. It is also presented in our new National Park brochure.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>- Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and the recommendations;                      - Considering the appointment of a new head of the planning subject group, the authorities of the park are requested to closely follow up with the adoption of the management plan which conditioned the award of the European Diploma to the area.</p>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	18. Germany Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 25.10.2022
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal lifting of ground water was set to 12.1 million m<sup>3</sup> instead of 18.4 million m<sup>3</sup>;</li> <li>- The Nature Reserve pursues its efforts to be recognised as a “large scale nature reserve” in order to be eligible to additional sources of funding;</li> </ul>	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heathland is now considered as agricultural land by the EU and heathland farmers can benefit from grants - often at the detriment of other grants. The heavy administrative process to get the recognition of heathland as agricultural land is an obstacle;</li> <li>- While there is financial support to the rearing of the heathland sheep, the heathland horses are still not eligible to grants;</li> <li>- Several streams benefited from a restoration scheme;</li> <li>- Energy crops are still dominating the agricultural landscape but several projects of agricultural ecological measures are in preparation;</li> <li>- The Nature Reserve follows ecological forest management guidelines;</li> <li>- A nature park encompasses the Nature Reserve and constitutes a buffer zone;</li> </ul>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An ecological corridor linking the heathland and west of Wilsede is still not created;</li> <li>- There is not a single database that encompasses all up to date ecological data;</li> <li>- The federal state of Lower Saxony does not carry out any further surveys on FFH Species or EU- Bird Directive species. There are still severe lacks of information concerning bats.</li> <li>- No measures were taken by the regional authorities to create, improve or safeguard ecological corridors for the black grouse.</li> <li>- A plan for the creation of a wind farm is in preparation in one of the corridors with important breeding habitats;</li> <li>- No public funding is secured for the creation of a corps of rangers;</li> <li>- A wind farm of seven wind turbines is planned 1-2 km east of the reserve boundary. The wind farm will block an important migration corridor for black grouse and black stork linking EU Special protected areas (SPA) "Munster Nord / Süd" and "Lüneburger Heide nature reserve". The area of Volkwardingen Wind Park is an important habitat for bats and particularly for Red kites (Milvus milvus) (listed in EU Bird directive 2009/147/EG of 30. November 2009 and on Red list IUCN 2006).</li> <li>- The authorities of the Nature Reserve expect the</li> </ul>

		assistance of the Council of Europe and its representatives to avoid the aesthetic devastation of one of the oldest European Diploma awarded area. They ask the standing committee of the Bern Convention to apply to the European Union to protect one of the oldest European Diploma sites with all legal means and particularly demand a full assessment of environmental effects in accordance with 92/43/EWG Habitats Directive.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A couple of wolves are seen regularly in the nature reserve;</li> <li>- All rivers and brooks within the Nature Reserve are now repopulated with the European otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>).</li> </ul>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request the authorities to keep the Secretariat informed of the developments regarding the wind farm;</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to pursue the efforts to comply with and implement the recommendations conditioning the renewal of the European Diploma;</li> <li>- Inform the authorities that a complaint for possible breach of the Bern Convention can be introduced by NGOs or even private citizens.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	19. Germany Siebengebirge Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	22.09.1971 / 21.09.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the	Achievements	The 2016 annual report informs on the progress in implementing of all recommendations. This management Plan is embedded into the Large Scale Conservation Project" for a ten-year-period 2013-2023) designed to promote nationally important natural landscapes.	

award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?		Meanwhile the three-year planning phase has been ended and implementation has started in different fields.
	Shortcomings	They must keep attention on private cars illegally try to drive into the vulnerable area. Strict controls and heavy fines have produced best effects as to minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area, and consider the setting up of a system of public transport for visitors.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	For three years the Königswinter Municipal Council discussed the plan of establishing on Factory Outlet Centre (FOC), not on a "green meadow" but in close proximity to the historical city centre. The FOC was supposed to attract nearly 2 million visitors a year. After long negotiations with investors, political institutions in district and state, with German Federal Railways, after quite a lot of expert opinions and after strong opposition from neighboring towns and environmental organizations this plan has been given up.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	In order to lead visitors through the Reserve und give them clear information, 450 stone plates with inscriptions were milled into stone blocks that so far had to be cleaned and marked by hand every two years (small red for pedestrians and yellow for bikers) triangles painted on trees clearly. A third element for visitor information is 55 large-size signboards with information to the new concept and the network of hiking trails. A new hiking map has also been published. The European Diploma logo has been using on website, in exhibitions, special poster and indifferent flyers.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	20. Germany Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.03.1978 / 02.03.2018
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<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>In 2016 vegetation surveys were carried out. There is regular monitoring of bird life in the area. A specific monitoring of rock breeders (peregrine falcon, eagle owls) is carried out under the direction of the <i>Landesbund für Vogelschutz</i> (Bavarian organisation for the protection of birds). At the beginning of the year (main mating season of eagle owls) a meeting is regularly held with simultaneous listening sessions performed by a large number of nature observers.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Numerous private boating tourists may land on the exposed gravel banks, therefore need to maintain strict control over ship and boat traffic, especially on the right bank of the Danube, during the summer months when the water levels are low, numerous private boating tourists land on the exposed gravel banks. Inspections are carried out by the river police and rangers. Speed measurements (because of speed limit violations) have been submitted by the shipping companies.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>In the assessment of the area carried out by Mr Brunner a question was raised concerning the actual area to which the awarded European Diploma applies. The European Diploma awarded in 1978 went to the nature reserve "Weltenburger Enge". Since then, the criteria for the European Diploma are considered as binding for both areas. Uniform regulations governing the use of both nature reserves are considered necessary by the responsible nature conservation authorities. In the assessment of the area awarded the European Diploma, carried out from 13 – 15 June 2016 by Council of Europe specialist Mr Robert Brunner, the status and the development of the area has been described in great detail.</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.</p>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	21. Germany Wollmatinger Ried Untersee- Gnadensee Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.11.1968 / 28.11.2019
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<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The building application for the new building of the NABU nature Conservation Centre has been completed. The necessary means of 2.5 million € are ensured proportionally by own resources of NABU and a grant given by the state of Baden-Württemberg. The start of construction is expected for 2017. The most intensive building activities for the extension of the B 33 took again place in the area of the Kindlebild junction and the ramp of the bridge over the railway line. The Higher Nature Protection Authority carried out in 2016 the amendment procedure for the extension of the nature reserve by 7 hectares provided as compensatory measure. With the exception of the building of flooding skips and a noise protection wall, the structural measures in the extension area are now completed.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>According to the recommendation (2) all fishing activity should be halted (<i>Schläuche</i> and the Hegnebucht areas) for an experimental three-year period in order to further reduce the disturbances concerning the waterfowl and fish. No final decision could be made due to the expected high expenditures the amount of which cannot yet be fully estimated.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>In spite of its high publicity, thanks to the European Diploma, the Wollmatinger Ried is still under pressure caused by a great number of small measures. Competing uses (water sports, aviation) still continue to cause problems in the core areas of the nature reserve. All these individual cases together cause a continuous and time-consuming dispute by the nature protection authorities.</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The European Diploma together with its logo are presented in all measures of Public Relation on maps, in the exhibition of the NABU Nature Reserve Centre Wollmatinger Ried and on all boards along the information trail Wollmatinger Ried.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.</li> <li>- Encourage the authorities to find a suitable way to comply with the recommendation 2</li> </ul>	



EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS  
ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	22. Germany Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	The Peat Museum with the Peat Railway and Peat Educational Trail has evolved into an attraction and an important and well-attended building block of the educational work carried out in the Wurzacher Ried, with annual visitor numbers reaching again around 15,000 in the year under review. In the Nature Conservation Centre Wurzacher Ried, just under 300 events and projects are executed every year, which are attended by around 22,000 visitors.	
	Shortcomings	The areas planted with maize on the slopes, around the moor, are to be restricted, for instance by the purchase of land. This would have a positive impact on the water quality.  In respect of the underground lying of high-voltage conductors in the Wurzacher Ried nature reserve no suitable measures have been achieved.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Within the framework of endeavours to encourage regenerative forms of energy creation, to date it has been possible to eliminate the Wurzbacher Basin as a possible location for the installation of wind power plants, partially also on the basis of recommendations to this effect by the European Council.		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The request of the European Council that in public relations the importance of the European Diploma be emphasized with a logo informing on the European Diploma areas has been fulfilled in the Wurzach Reed.  The logo is meanwhile integrated in the program and the website of the Nature Conservation Center (see <a href="http://www.wurzacher-ried.de">www.wurzacher-ried.de</a> ), the information flyer Wurzacher Ried and the sign-boards of the protected area. A special station has been devoted to the European Diploma in the permanent exhibition of the information centre Wurzacher Ried.		
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.		

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	23. Greece Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria)	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes, controls of fauna: The implementation of restriction measures against the insertion of domestic goats to the Samaria Gorge has continued. The effort for the elimination of illegal hunting is an ongoing procedure. The project "In situ and ex situ conservation of <i>Zelkova abelicea</i> in Crete 2014 - 2016" continued and concluded in 2016.	
	Shortcomings	The relevant authorities did not accelerate actions to extend the boundaries of the national park to cover a much larger area of the Cretan White Mountains: this procedure concluded in December 2014 and the revised presidential decree draft is currently examined by the Ministry's services as to be sent for approval and signature from the President of the Hellenic Republic. No annual budget should be allocated to the park, to be administered by the management board. The income, from the entrance fee to the park may also be considered to finance monitoring projects has not yet been fulfilled (concerning the incomes).	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	In 2016 the total number of visitors was 147.643, increased by 8.9% comparing to the last year. The increase is mainly attributed to the favorable weather conditions during September and October, resulting in the National Park being open.		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The logo of the European Diploma was placed on the information sign at the entrance to the National Park.		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to follow up closely with the extension of the boundaries of the National Park.</li> </ul>		

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	24. Hungary Ipolytarnóc Protected Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	Further discoveries of geological interest, research continued all appropriate measures should be taken to preserve and, research on the fossil footprints on the geological study trail got expanded, 6-8 new taxons were identified. Due to the last year's changes within the Geopark leadership, ties with the BNPD (Bükk National Park Directorate) got closer and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two parties this year.  A larger scale forestry activity goes on covering some 10 hectares, where the former acacia forest section's transformation by indigenous tree samplings is going well, although fencing had to be introduced to prevent game over-browsing. Game management is an ongoing activity throughout the year, since the whole area is a specially designated hunting area managed by the BNPD.	
	Shortcomings	The buildings along the geological trail should be further integrated into the landscape: the power line that runs between the village and the visitor centre should be replaced with an underground cable.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Effective animal husbandry, sheep grazing and hay cutting activities manage the mosaic-like structure of open spaces with forested areas at the buffer zone of the Fossils, the meadows are leased to local farmers there. In the border zone tree thinning on forest edges also maintains the mixed vegetation cover of the landscape.		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Visitors are frequent at the site, the importance of the European Diploma is well recognized. The media attention focused on the fossil footprint discoveries. Within the Hungarian Post Office Philatelic Catalog a new block (with the title <i>geological treasures</i> ) was published and one stamp of a fossil plant.		
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.		

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	25. Hungary Szénás Hills Protected Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>The management of the area carried out in close and excellent co-operation by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring etc, were continued jointly by the agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest.</p> <p>There were a lot of leading field exercises for university students (several groups from two universities). The students did some conservation jobs (cutting of Black pine and invasive tree species, planting of deciduous tree plants) and guided tours were held for them to introduce the area and its natural assets. The local civil guards help their works (regular patrolling, habitat reconstruction works).</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>The fence around the Szénás Hills Protected Area has been damaged. Restoration of damaged fence parts finished in 2016. This year during the hunting season, the big game (mainly not native species) hunting is necessary twice in the fenced area for preserving endemic species.</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>A comprehensive ex-situ species conservation experiment of <i>Linum dolomiticum</i> is planned. It is researched from the point of view of climatic attitudes of the area, because the population development of <i>Linum dolomiticum</i> and the habitat's microclimate are influenced by the global warming, indirectly.</p>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma has been used for the all activities (signes, articles, internet and conferences). Number of participants of professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2016: adult 1280, children 1994, all 3274 visitors could have information at least about EDPA.</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.</p>		

EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	26. Hungary Tihany Peninsula		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>There were no conditions attached to the last renewal of the European Diploma. As a result of our habitat rehabilitation on Lake Külső, some new nested bird species have been detected, for example the red-crested pochards (<i>Netta rufina</i>) and little cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>). Experts of national park have reintroduced the third European ground squirrel population onto the peninsula this year as part of the Raptorspraylife project.</p> <p>We have seen a visible increase in the number of tourists on our nature trails. The exact number of visitors is not possible to record, the estimated number is between 10 000 – 100 000 persons. The number of guided groups has significantly increased and the interest in our open air school has increased, too.</p>		
	Shortcomings	<p>The development of the management plan is still in progress. It will be supplemented with special regulations in terms of Natura 2000. Furthermore, detailed proposals for good agricultural practices will be included.</p>		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The two week long Lavender Festival at the end of June has turned into a tradition. The event is attended by a few thousand people, the national and local media and press is also present. Experts of the National Park lead guided tours to the Geyser Field and to the Old Lavender Field with several hundred participants.</p> <p>The guided tours lead by our professional guides have stayed very popular, during this period about 150 groups participated in those programs on different routes of the peninsula. Special "geo-tours" were guided by trained geotour guides and by the geoscientist of the National Park on the peninsula to show most of the geological values.</p>			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been	<p>The Hungarian Television and several national radio stations covered the Lavender Festival (facebook). The interest in the Lavender House Visitor Centre is still very big. Many articles have been published in the national printed media and on the Internet, too. Reports are made regularly about</p>			

improved?	other events in the area in the local printed media, local television and radio stations by helping EDPA visibility. Special visit of Colleen Bell, the USA ambassador to Hungary and her team on the peninsula and in the Lavender House Visitor Centre was extremely important possibility for extending the visibility.
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	27. Ireland The Burren region	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	A positive development has been reached regarding site management of the extension of the Burren Programme budget and timeframe. The Burren team, who manages the BP, have been awarded a 5-year contract across the entire Burren (target area: 30,000 ha). In addition to the management of farming within the site by BP staff, The Irish authorities ensured the budget for the maintenance and development of the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme. The EDPA award has positively influenced the decision to expand the Burren Programme – which has been fundamental to the management of the Burren’s natural and cultural heritage. This means that up to 30,000ha of the Burren region, including most of the Natura 2000 designated land, will be managed under BP, a very positive long-term investment in the future of the region and its communities.	
	Shortcomings	Discourage mass tourism in the Burren Region which does not accord with the principles of sustainable development The Geopark’s work programme in the development of the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination, in balancing conservation and tourism.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The staff of the BP, along with their colleagues in the Burrenbeo Trust, undertook a large number of educational and communication activities in 2016. These include: hosting international conferences on themes including ‘Nature-friendly Farming’, co-ordinated festivals including Burren in Bloom and the Burren Winterage Weekend ,carried out 10-week heritage-education courses in local schools, organised monthly heritage walks and talks including walks for disabled groups, night-time walks.		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma	Featured on National TV, Radio and Newspapers improved EDPA visibility. Hosted a number of international study groups – including the European Commissioner and members of his Cabinet on a day long visit – with a		



has been improved?	focus on farming for conservation was important tool for extend the highlights of EDPA.
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	28. Italy Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.1982 / 26.11.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. Le Parc, en absence de Plan de Gestion, a mis en œuvre plusieurs instruments alternatifs : le Plan de Gestion de sites du réseaux Natura 2000, les mesures de conservations pour la désignation des ZSC, l'approbation du Plan des pâturages.</p> <p>2.a La réglementation de la chasse pour la saison 2016-2017 des trois Régions a diversifié le système de chasse dans la zone périphérique du Parc par rapport au reste du territoire régional, en assurant une meilleure protection de l'ours.</p> <p>2.b sur la réglementation interdisant les activités pastorales dans la zone A du Parc national, le Conseil Directif du Parc a approuvé avec la Délibération n.6/2016 du 23 janvier 2016 le Plan de Gestion des pâturages du Parc : le Plan analyse du point de vue floristique, de la végétation et de la productivité tous les pâturages du parc, fixe par chaque habitat de pâturage le charge de bétail par hectare et la durée de la saison de pâturage.</p> <p>2.c pour la fermeture matérielle des voies d'accès à la zone diplômée, à la fin du Projet Life on a fermées avec des barrages 20 voies d'accès.</p> <p>A propos des recommandations pour la protection de la population d'ours, le Parc National de la Majella où il y a un petit noyau d'ours qui comprend aussi deux femelles a rejoint l'Autorité de Gestion. Celle-ci a fixé les objectifs pour la période 2016-2018: tous les membres de l'Autorité sont engagés à rejoindre les objectifs fixés par chaque membre. Parmi lesquelles il y a: l'institution du réseau de monitoring de l'ours auquel participent les</p>	

		<p>trois Régions, le parc de la Majella, le Parc des Abruzzes, le Corps Forestier; la création d'un système de gestion des ours problématiques au dehors du Parc; l'application d'un système de monitoring sanitaire de la faune sauvage.</p> <p>Pour la croissance des activités scientifiques du PNALM le Ministère de l'Environnement a mis à disposition de l'argent pour améliorer la gestion du patrimoine faunistique et floristiques : Pour l'année 2016 le Parc a reçu 125.000 euro qui seront destinés surtout au programme de gestion de l'ours brun marsicano.</p> <p>Pour les aspects sanitaires, pendant l'année 2016 le Parc, en collaboration avec ENPA (Association de protection des animaux) et les autorités sanitaires des régions ont mis en œuvre le Plan de Gestion des chiens errants ; les actions prévues ont été : la vaccination de 1103 chiens, l'inscription de 769 chiens au registre national de chiens, la stérilisation de 46 chiens par adhésion volontaire de leurs propriétaires. Les activités du Plan se poursuivront pendant l'année 2017.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>1. Le processus pour l'approbation du Plan de Gestion du Parc n'est pas encore terminé. Le Plan est à l'examen des Régions concernées (Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise).</p> <p>2.a Concernant les zones périphériques du Parc à créer, la situation est restée la même que l'année passée.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Le Président du Parc a alloué beaucoup des ressources du budget annuel du Parc aux objectifs de conservation. Dans le budget 2017 plus de 200.000 euro seront destinés aux activités du Service Scientifique : monitorages des espèces prioritaires, gestion des ours, amélioration des instruments techniques pour les activités de recherche, création d'un GIS (système d'information géographique) qui nous donnera la possibilité d'avoir un modèle de gestion des espèces le plus important du Parc.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been	<p>Le parc a toujours le logo du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés sur son site web et sur le site <a href="http://www.parks.it">www.parks.it</a> de tous les parcs italiens qui explique sa signification et permet de se connecter au site web du Conseil de l'Europe ; en outre il y a toujours les panneaux du logo EDPA qui sont</p>	

improved?	situés sur les routes principales à l'entrée du Parc et dans le Centre de Visite de Pescasseroli.
Conclusions and action suggested	Le Groupe salue les efforts pour la mise en œuvre des recommandations et exhorte les autorités du Parc de continuer les différentes actions visant à protéger la biodiversité, de pousser les Régions concernées pour accélérer et terminer le processus d'approbation du Plan de Gestion du Parc et - en l'absence temporaire de Plan de Gestion du Parc - d'approuver au plus vite les mesures de conservation qui sont à l'examen du Conseil Directif du Parc ; ainsi, le Ministère de l'Environnement pourra désigner les Zones Spéciales de Conservations (ZSC) qui intéressent la majeure partie du territoire du Parc.

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	29. Italy Gran Paradiso National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 18.03.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Après l'adoption du plan de gestion du Parc par les Régions Piémont et Vallée d' Aoste, le Conseil du Parc, selon les règles de la loi 3.12.1991, n.394, a donné son avis sur les propositions de modification avancées par les établissement publics et les citoyens et transféré le texte du plan ainsi intégré aux Régions pour l'approbation finale. Le plan contient aussi le plan de gestion du Site d'Intérêt Communautaire IT1201000, qui a été extrait, après demande du Ministère de l'Environnement, pour lui permettre d'accélérer la procédure de désignation de la zone spéciale de préservation dans les temps demandés par l'Union européenne. Pour ce Site le parc a approuvé les mesures de conservation nécessaires à sa gestion.</li> <li>2. Recommandations : malgré l'absence de l'approbation finale du plan de gestion du parc, toutes les recommandations sont mise en œuvre avec des solutions efficaces qui ont assuré la préservation de l'environnement naturel et de la biodiversité du parc.</li> <li>3. Une bonne gestion du site a permis nouvelles observations d'espèces comprises dans les annexes de la directive CE «Habitat» et une présence stable d'autres espèces (comme le loup et divers rapaces)</li> </ol>	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Le plan de gestion du Parc, déjà adopté par les</li> </ol>	

	Shortcomings	Régions Piémont et Vallée d' Aoste, a dû être intégré et il est de nouveau soumis aux Régions pour l'approbation finale. 2. Le conseil scientifique consultatif n'a pas encore été créé.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Malgré la période de crise économique et de réduction généralisée de la dépense publique, la contribution ordinaire annuelle de l'État au parc reste néanmoins satisfaisante. En outre, le Parc a demandé de pouvoir procéder au remplacement du personnel qui a quitté le service et a obtenu et réalisé le recrutement de 3 gardes à plein service. Aucun changement aux frontières du site n'a été apporté depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Aucune difficulté n'a été rencontrée.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Le parc a toujours le logo du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés sur son site web et sur le site <a href="http://www.parks.it">www.parks.it</a> de tous les parcs italiens qui explique sa signification et permet de se connecter au site web du Conseil de l'Europe.	
Conclusions and action suggested	Le Groupe salue les efforts pour la mise en œuvre des recommandations et encourage le Parc de continuer les différentes actions visant à protéger la biodiversité, de pousser les Régions concernées pour accélérer et terminer le processus d'approbation final du Plan du Parc, même si le plan du parc est déjà en application. Pour les forêts notamment, le plan du parc, qui est dans la phase finale d'approbation par les Régions, est déjà en application et contient les indications pour la conservation des forêts et l'amélioration de leur stabilité, tout en respectant l'écosystème forestier et les habitats d'intérêt communautaire. Toute la surface du Parc est comprise dans le Site d'Intérêt Communautaire SIC/ZPS IT1201000, donc le plan contient à l'intérieur un plan de gestion avec les prescriptions applicables aux interventions forestières – qui on a été appliqué sur le terrain pour l'aménagement des modestes parcelles sur lesquelles des abattages des forêts ont été demandés - et les critères pour le maintien de la biodiversité pour tous les habitats forestiers, ainsi que des mesures de conservation ponctuelles pour chacun d'eux.	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	30. Italy Maremma Regional Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 18.05.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full collaboration with Scientific Council allowed to apply successful measures; Scientific Council is about to be renewed.</li> <li>- Considerable increase in human resources in order to better conduct field inspections.</li> <li>- Further nature trails have been added to the already existing ones.</li> <li>- A satisfying relationship with other relevant sectors has been implemented (agritourist, restaurants, hosting facilities, organic food productions and green labelling on local products).</li> <li>- Cultural initiatives</li> <li>- Taking part to the development of the National Wolf Action plan providing data and contributing to monitor the growing wolf population.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	<p>Need to develop with all stakeholders and local authorities an integrated management plan of the Ombrone river basin, according to the EU water framework Directive; a robust and continuous evaluation of different parameters should go on (analyses of granulometry of the soil, water quality, and taxa monitoring (invertebrates, fish and birds communities) and for this adequate financial resources should be secured.</p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable mobility initiatives are still going on.</li> <li>- A successful reintroduction of osprey led to have the very first fledging within the park.</li> <li>- The park participates to the web on cetaceans and sea turtle monitoring.</li> <li>- Several initiatives on environmental education have been successfully done.</li> </ul>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The visibility of European Diploma is easily detectable on the Maremma Regional Park's website.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to finalise asap the extension of the Park to include the marine environment, and designate the Trappola (river Ombrone mouth) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.</li> </ul>



## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	31. Italy Montecristo Island Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under the territorial Information System (TIS) there was the need to map all the vegetation, in particular to map <i>Allanhus altissima</i> with a view to control measures. This species has been completely eradicated in Montecristo island; An area with oak has been fenced to prevent damage caused by goats;</li> <li>- Patrol to prevent an overflow of tourist has been implemented;</li> <li>- A power generation system with photovoltaic panels has been installed to reduce use of diesel generator; more knowledge about flora and fauna has been achieved through a LIFE project.</li> <li>- National Park's Management plan has been approved in 2010.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	<p>There is the need to implement the Territorial Information System (TIS) for the planning of management initiatives in cooperation with Tuscan Archipelago National Park and manage remaining goat or cull them to prevent damage to vegetation.</p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma's Logo is exposed near the landing site in Montecristo island Natural Reserve, while it is advertised with a flag in San Rossore; the logo is also present in any official communication.
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	32. Italy Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore e Massaciuccoli	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.06.2005 / 15.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>Il n'y a aucune modification qui a porté préjudice au patrimoine naturel et paysager.</p> <p>Les mesures de réduction des daims et des sangliers pendant la saison 2015/16, qui s'est achevée en automne 2016, ont déterminé un nombre important de sangliers et encore plus de daims abattus et capturés, avec des valeurs enfin en ligne avec celles de la saison 2013/14</p> <p>L'autorité qui gère la Base militaire à l'intérieur du parc, pendant la même dernière saison, a confié la capture et la vente des sangliers et des daims à une société externe spécialisée, selon le protocole technique du Parc en obtenant un très bon résultat. Dans cette base les derniers prélèvements remontaient à la saison 2012/13 et le personnel du Parc peut désormais concentrer son effort dans les autres zones.</p> <p>La sylviculture, appliquée dans les zones forestières situées hors des réserves naturelles a appliqué pendant les coupes, des mesures qui respectent la période de</p>	

		<p>nidification de la faune, le sol (litière et micro morphologie des dunes) et le paysage.</p> <p>Les bonnes pratiques de gestion des dunes côtières, notamment leur nettoyage, continuent et ainsi que les activités de connaissance et de protection absolue du <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> pendant la nidification.</p>
	Shortcomings	Aucune mesure hydrologique n'a été mise en œuvre pour la gestion de l'eau.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Depuis le 4 septembre 2016 le Directeur du Parc Régional a terminé son mandat. La sélection publique d'un nouveau Directeur est en cours. A cause de cette situation et de problèmes économiques le Parc traverse une période très difficile. De plus, le départ en retraite de 2 employés (2 autres prévus en 2017) sans remplacement va aggraver la situation.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Le parc a toujours le logo du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés sur son site web et sur le site parks.it de tous les parcs italiens qui permet d'expliquer sa signification et se connecter au site web du Conseil de l'Europe.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>Les recommandations ont été presque toutes observées.</p> <p>Il est demandé aux autorités du Parc de continuer les différentes actions visant à protéger la biodiversité, avec la recommandation de mettre en œuvre des mesures hydrologiques pour la gestion de l'eau et des mesures destinées à limiter les impacts négatifs d'origine agricole sur le Lac de Massaciuccoli.</p>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	33. Italy Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	Collaboration and cooperation with the Casentino Forests National Park is going on, particularly with respect to research activities; furthermore an application to Unesco World Heritage Sites was introduced. Recommendation on the management as a cohesive whole with adjacent biogenetic reserves has been implemented.	
	Shortcomings		

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Maintained and expanded relationship with Universities and research institutes. No new sky slopes are expected, while visits are only possible with a specific authorization; LIFE14 NAT/IT/000759 WetFlyAmphibia aiming to improve the conservation status of five population included in the list of Community interest, is currently underway; another LIFE11/NAT/11 Monitoring insects with public participation with some area include. Several environmental education initiatives have been carried on.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	34. Netherlands Boschplaat Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.1970 / 30.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 New trained assistant wardens in force by 2017;</li> <li>- Access facilities have been ameliorated or rebuilt;</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	Despite a more cautious policy regarding the issue of permits for motorized vehicles has been applied, the number of issued permits remains unchanged	

<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 24 further hectares have been added to the reserve (old agricultural landscape with relevant value for conservation), preventing negative external impacts on that part of the reserve.</li> <li>- A Natura 2000 management plan was developed.</li> <li>- The viewpoints submitted for the draft version of the management plan were also addressed during the course of 2016; the Ministry of Economic Affairs is expected to finalise the management plan by the end of 2016.</li> </ul>
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>35. Netherlands De Ostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>09.09.1999 / 09.09.2019</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After contacts between Municipalities and the Province of Flevoland, the boundaries of the reserve were shifted creating thus a buffer zone;</li> <li>- A management plan for the "Hollandes Hout" has been established;</li> <li>- A Natura 2000 management plan for the OVP has been established this year.</li> </ul>	

	Shortcomings	Impacts related to the development of the airport should be carefully monitored; increasing number of visitors poses new challenges;
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The reserve is about to be part of a larger National Park.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	36. Netherlands De Weeriben-De Wieden Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 03.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact of fishing has been reduced;</li> <li>- Educational activities have been successfully organised.</li> </ul>	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommended joint Natura 2000 Management Plan has not been yet adopted, but it should be by next months (from this adoption depends also the establishment of</li> </ul>	



been tackled?		buffer zones). - Monitoring of endangered species skipped in 2016 but should be normally carried on in 2017;
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New information panels have been installed;</li> <li>- Management data are put in a new management System Software;</li> <li>- Three new books have been published;</li> <li>- Inventory of plant species have been completed;</li> <li>- Population of water-shrews has increased.</li> </ul>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information regarding the visibility and use of the logo is provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	37. Netherlands Naardermeer Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have	Achievements	<i>R3. More ecological corridors are being developed. The connection to the Vecht River is almost complete. The zone towards IJmeer and IJsselmeer is in progress. Both connections should be ready in 2020.</i>	
		The Naerdermeer NR seems to be reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the	

been tackled?	Shortcomings	<p>recommendations of the old Resolution ResDip(2004)12 concerning the award of the European Diploma to the reserve until June 2009.</p> <p>No or little information on the progress on the new condition and recommendations is included.</p> <p><u>This issue was previously identified in the report of 2014.</u></p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>- <i>LIFE programme New LIFE for Dutch fens is finished. The restoration actions improved the conditions for marsh birds and peat vegetation. It is not yet known how the bird population has reacted, data-analyzing is not completed yet.</i></p> <p>- <i>Currently the whole Natuurmonumenten organization is being transformed to meet the challenges for the future. Shorter lines from plans to actions and more contact with local communities are two of the goals. Since October 2016 a new manager has taken over.</i></p> <p>- <i>During the year almost all of the excursions on Lake Naardermeer were full-booked. Approximately 7000 visitors enjoyed a boat-trip to the cormorants or the duck-decoy in 2016.</i></p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p><i>Regarding the European Diploma visibility, Naardermeer NR did not do anything in particular.</i></p> <p>The logo for the European Diploma and information about the European Diploma is not used on the website and on relevant publications.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- <u>The Group decided to ask for 2017 annual report updated with the progress on the current <a href="#">CM/ResDip(2009)7 Resolution</a>.</u></p> <p>- The Group urged the authorities to respect the integrity of the open polder area surrounding Naardermeer NR, as specified in the condition.</p> <p>- It further asked that a specific attention be given to the completion of the nature restoration and development around the Naardermeer core area, to the finalization of the Naardermeer NR recovery plan (recommendation 3), and to the regional planning processes which should avoid further habitat fragmentation in the corridor landscapes (recommendation 4).</p> <p>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</p>	

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	38. Poland Bialowieza National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2007
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	As the European Diploma was not renewed since 2007, the annual report was not considered here.	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?			
Conclusions and action suggested			

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	39. Poland Bieszczady National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<i>C1. Three years Action Plan for 2016-2018 was approved by the Minister of the Environment at the beginning of 2016.</i>	
	Shortcomings	<i>R1. The current legal situation in Poland does not make it possible to extend the area of the Bieszczady NP without consent of local communities. Due to reluctance of local authorities, it is not appropriate to initiate the procedure of Park enlargement.</i>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<i>In 2016 the Bieszczady NP published the most important publication so far the Monograph of BNP, 410 pages with maps.</i>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<i>BNP uses of the European Diploma logo on the official website <a href="http://www.bdpn.pl">www.bdpn.pl</a> and on the new information boards which were installed in the park area since last renewal.</i>		
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations and request a copy of the Action Plan (2016-2018).		

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area



## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	40. Portugal Desertas Islands Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2014 / 01.07.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p><i>C2. The responsible regional authority is committed to update the management plan of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve by the end of 2016.</i></p> <p><i>R2. The flora and fauna conservation status is improving due to the success of the main actions of the project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195 (2013-2017) (details given in <a href="http://liferecovernatura.pnm.pt/">http://liferecovernatura.pnm.pt/</a>). The main actions of this project, involves an intensive monitoring on both flora and fauna and an evaluation of the regeneration of the natural habitats.</i></p>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>- During 2016, the Reserve had the official visit of the President of the Portuguese Republic and Representatives; and of the President of the Madeira Regional Government and Representatives.</i></p> <p><i>- The Serviço do Parque Natural da Madeira (Madeira Nature Park Services) was merged with Direção Regional de Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (Regional Body responsible for the Forestry and Nature Conservation), resulting the Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation), formally established on 13 May 2016.</i></p>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been	Not mentioned in the report. But during 2015 several measures were undertaken in order to improve EDPA visibility.		

improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the conditions and recommendations.</li><li>- The Group to request a copy of the reviewed management plan upon its adoption.</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li></ul>

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area



## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	41. Portugal Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 18.05.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>R3. <i>During 2016, local and foreign scientists developed various research projects in the fields of flora and fauna in Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora.</i></p> <p>R6. <i>Most of the remaining unrestored rubble walls of the plateau are now well preserved and maintenance efforts are considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Island.</i></p>		
	Shortcomings			

<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>- <i>During 2016, as part of the construction of the Maritime Authority Structure in Selvagens Islands, several improvements works were made to the biological station of Selvagem Grande, in order to create the necessary conditions for the activation and operation of the Local Command Office of the Funchal Maritime Police (LCOFMP) and of the Extension of the Maritime Department of Funchal in Selvagens Islands. Within the system "Costa Segura" (Safe Coast), a Radar Station is in operation in Selvagem Grande, operated by the militarized Maritime Police from the LCOFMP, complemented with actions at sea, to guarantee the exercise of State authority, especially in the areas of surveillance and protection and preservation of the marine environment and safety of navigation, people and property throughout the maritime area.</i></p> <p>- <i>During 2016, the Reserve had the official visit of the President of the Portuguese Republic and Representatives; and of the President of the Madeira Regional Government and Representatives.</i></p> <p>- <i>The Serviço do Parque Natural da Madeira (Madeira Nature Park Services) was merged with Direção Regional de Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (Regional Body responsible for the Forestry and Nature Conservation), resulting the Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation), formally established on 13 May 2016.</i></p>
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Not mentioned in the report. But during 2015 several measures were undertaken in order to improve EDPA visibility.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</p> <p>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</p>

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	42. Romania Piatra Craiului National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 27.09.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p><i>C1. The Management Plan approved in 2013 was revised based on recent scientific findings and the new version was sent in 2015 to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest to be legally approved by Government Decision.</i></p> <p><i>R1. Besides securing governmental budget, the PCNP obtained some additional funds from projects financed by European Regional Development Fund and Romanian Government</i></p> <p><i>R2. The PCNP Administration finished in 2016 a Sector Operational Program Pillar 4 project, «The improvement of the conservation status of Piatra Craiului National Park's biodiversity by public awareness, information, visiting and monitoring », aiming at:</i></p> <p><i>(a) setting up the visitors sector of PCNP Administration Headquarters from Zarnesti. The visitor sector was finalized and the public release was in april 2016</i></p> <p><i>(b) building an information point for tourists at Cumara and 4 information points at the main entrances of the park. All finished.</i></p>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>- The new visitor center in Zarnesti had more than 6000 visitors in 2016, and hosted several important events.</i></p> <p><i>- The park budget increased with the help of the National Forest Administration, and a new person was hired for the management of the visitors in the center.</i></p>		

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>- <i>The European Diploma logo, was broadly used on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons for awarding the European Diploma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Piatra Craiului National Park: guide of European and national protected species and habitats (300 pages) – English version and Romanian version;</i></li> <li>- <i>Piatra Craiului National Park: thematic guide of the visitor trails (300 pages) – English version and Romanian version;</i></li> <li>- <i>6 information panels inside each of the 4 information points at the main entrances of the park – English and Romanian;</i></li> <li>- <i>a total number of 18 information panels displayed on 4 thematic tourist trails - English and Romanian;</i></li> <li>- <i>12 types of leaflets regarding the main elements (species and habitats of European interest) of the park – English version and Romanian version;</i></li> <li>- <i>one leaflet for the general presentation of the park – English version and Romanian version.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations and the measures taken to raise the awareness about Piatra Craiului NP as an EDPA.</li> <li>- The Group to request a copy of the reviewed management plan upon its adoption.</li> </ul>

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	43. Romania Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<i>R2. In October 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (Romania) and the Joint Union for the Management of the Natural Regional Park of Camargue (France) on the cooperation in the protected areas was signed. In 2017 the implementation of the actions included in the Memorandum will start.</i>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<i>The staff number increased this year with 20 new specialists and control/surveying staff.</i>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Not mentioned in the report. But during 2015 several measures were undertaken in order to improve EDPA visibility.		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>		

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	44. Russian Federation Oka National Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>C1. According to the report all conditions were already met. Not very clear how.</p> <p>R1. <i>Currently the state allocates sufficient resources to ensure proper operation of the Reserve and continued research: In 2016 (a) during the ongoing inventory of biota 14 new species were found in the Reserve; (b) two volumes of Proceedings of the Reserve were published: "Russian desman in the Oka basin" and "Ecology of Kingfisher in the southern Meshchera"; (c) continued researches of the fish population and their food supply (hydrobionts) of the reserve lakes in connection with invasive species; (d) continued researches of biology, both cranes and bison.</i></p> <p>R3. <i>Every year about 9,000 people visit the Reserve, more than 500 excursions are organized to the ecological paths, nursery of rare species of cranes and bison nursery, Museum of Nature. In 2016 annual events such as the Day birds (April), the Day a crane (October), Shrovetide (February) of an ecological orientation with attraction of local population, school students of Ryazan city, and tourists are held. The newly opened Centre of ecological information and education (Visitors Centre) hosts conferences with students, concerts, ecological orientation, workshops with teachers and other events (in total 5 conferences and workshops in 2016 year). Art exhibitions and photo-exhibitions of local artists devoted to Meshchera's nature took also place at the Visitors Centre.</i></p>	

	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>R2. <i>In the Lopata zone the reserve isn't extended south-eastward to include some typical water meadow because not all shareholders agreed to give the shares and still use them as haying areas.</i></p> <p>R2 (?). <i>The handover to Oka National Reserve of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section isn't carried out. Currently purposeful work on preparation of documents for the transfer of the marked area is conducted.</i></p> <p>R5. <i>I find no information concerning the management plan of the Oka BNR in the report</i></p> <p><u>The report lists some responses to the Advisory Board of the MaB (seemingly), but no reply is added to the concerns expressed by the Group in last year's EDPA appraisal.</u></p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p><i>The book "Russian desman in the Oka basin" was published in 2016.</i></p> <p><i>The administration of the reserve and Heads of administrations of Municipalities adjacent to the territory of the reserve signed the Cooperation agreement and joint activity in the field of assistance to a sustainable development of the Oka Biosphere Reserve (Agreement is applied). In this regard, and also in compliance recommendations of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation the spatial configuration and the areas of functional zones exchanged. At the same time <u>the sizes of buffer and cooperation zones significantly increased.</u> (map attached to the annual report)</i></p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p><i>The European Diploma's logo was used in all presentations about the reserve. The logo is placed on our many notices and documents. The logo is on the office building of the reserve and in the director's office.</i></p>	
<p>Conclusions and</p>	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing some of the</p>	

action suggested	recommendations, and to reiterate the points highlighted in last year's appraisal, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- to ask for further information about participatory management of stakeholders and landowners.</li><li>- to express concern that the management plan devised in 1997 has not been formally adopted.</li><li>- to request the authorities, including the Ministry concerned, to clarify the rules of procedure related to the adoption of the management plan for the Oka National Biosphere Reserve.</li></ul>
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\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area



## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	45. Russian Federation Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>R1. A list of equipment acquired during 2016 is provided.</p> <p>R2. <i>Until the end of 2016 all materials on creation of a new buffer zone will be directed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation</i></p> <p>R3. <i>In 2016 the state environmental assessment of design materials on creation of the biosphere range "Steppe" was carried out. Now all materials are transferred to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation.</i></p>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>- <i>Unlike last year, in 2016 all planned areas were mown on the territory of two sites of the Reserve. This could be achieved with the help of a new partner of the Reserve and with the assistance of the Administration of the Kursk region.</i></p> <p>- <i>In July 18-21, 2016 (a year before the planned term) the <u>Reserve was visited by the expert of the Council of Europe Mr. Herve Lethier for an on-the-spot appraisal visit. He visited 4 sites of TsChZ (Streletsky, Kazatsky, Bukreevy Barmy, Barkalovka) and the planned biosphere range "Steppe".</u></i></p>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Not mentioned in the report. But during 2015 several measures were undertaken in order to improve EDPA visibility.		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;</p> <p>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</p>		

\*Parts in *italic* are extracted from the annual report of the Diploma awarded area

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	46. Slovak Republic Dobročský National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	Further increase of educational material by updating an exhibition and installing an information points have been accomplished in accordance with Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)11. Some publications of scientific work on occurrence of biodiversity have been published.	
	Shortcomings	No work on IAS has been conducted. The work on transforming the buffer zone (B) from anthropogenic forest does not seem to move steadily in the right direction. Might be a point to follow up closer in the next period. It is unclear to what extent human intervention affects this at the moment.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Quite a number of group visits of scientists, politicians and media have been conducted, also during the Slovak presidency of the European Council.		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Renewal of information material, and setting up new information spots in the park including showing the European Diploma has been carried out.		
Conclusions and action suggested	Neither major set-backs, nor breaches of the recommendations can be recorded. The Group requests form the competent authorities to report on the work on sanitation forestry in the Zone B and to assess possible negative impact of IAS.		

EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	47. Slovak Republic Poloniny National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>There were five conditions set in the Resolution (2012) 19. 1 A management plan was approved July 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, 2 work should be initialized on a new blueprint for forestry and hunting, and annually reported to the Group of Specialists, see below, 3 Creating a functional network of PA – one NR was created as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, almost 147 hectares, increasing the protected area to 8,16 % of the Diploma-holding area. 4 Pursue purchasing private forest land, a list of land eligible for purchase, lease or contractual agreements has been set up. 5 Large carnivores are to be inventoried and monitored, and scientific protocols submitted to the Group of scientists. This has been done, and reports submitted. The Wolf has furthermore been fully protected since 2014, and the Brown Bear has got a management plan completed. The recommendations – seven in total – have partially been complied with. No 2 on signing a tri-lateral agreement with neighbouring countries is fulfilled. No 3 is also being dealt with, both personnel and funding is progressing. The protection of the Wolf, in accordance to recommendation No 4, has also been completed. Recommendation No 5 is partially in place, and no 6 regarding restoration of buildings to original style has been met with the assistance of a Swiss-financed project. The start of the suggested experiment in No 7 has not commenced, though the plans are in place.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>- Condition No 2 is not fully met, since national legislation seem to present problems for revising forestry (specially) and to some extent hunting regulations.</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendation No 1 regarding responsibilities for the management of the area to involve in the decisions on forestry and hunting is not met.</li> <li>- Recommendation No 5 has to some extent been dealt with, as one administration employee now is member of the group deciding on hunting regulations.</li> </ul>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information regarding visibility and the use of the logo is provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group requests the authorities to use the reporting format adopted for the EDPA;</li> <li>- The Group request the competent authorities to report on the above mentioned shortcomings;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	48. Slovenia Triglav National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>The two conditions are, in theory achieved. New legislation is in place since 2010, but economy has prevented its implementation to some extent. A management plan was adopted in 2016.</p> <p>Most of the recommendations have been followed and handled. The result of the recommendation on co-existence between sheep-farming and carnivores is still in development, and might pay-off.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>The recommendation on spatial planning in the park is problematic since the decisions on this are within the jurisdiction of the municipalities.</p> <p>Converting human-influenced spruce-forests is slowly advancing, but not in all places. Also, sanitary measures have been substantial in the parks forests, which is not to the advantage for the goals. The de-nationalization of the land ownership is a potential danger for the overarching goals of the PA.</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Included in all promotion material produced, as well as in the official plans and decisions.		

Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations.
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	49. Spain Doñana National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>The two conditions are still dealt with, and mainly met with. Though the importance of the hydrological issues on the status of the Diploma area cannot be emphasized enough.</p> <p>Within the recommendations, most are under consideration, and successful work is on-going. The cancellation of the plans for the Port of Seville must be mentioned.</p> <p>A new management plan is also in place, as of August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>While the permissions for many wells were withdrawn, the water question is still very much a problem.</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A substantial increase of the surface of Doñana Natural Park to the west is a great contribution to the status of the Diploma-holding Park.</li> <li>- The documents the Group of Specialists requested at our last meeting were submitted.</li> </ul>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information regarding the visibility and the use of the EDPA logo is provided.</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations;</li> <li>- The group requests the authorities to have a specific focus on the situation of the hydrology of the Park in their forthcoming reports.</li> </ul>		

	- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	50. Spain Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2018
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	- The recommendations have mainly been addressed. - It worth to be mentioned that the Pineta Valley municipal campsite, which was questioned regarding its location, is closed.	
	Shortcomings	No further extensions of the Park area is under way, though many of the bordering areas are either declared Natura 2000 areas, in the MaB programme of the UNESCO, World Heritage-areas or nationally designated protection schemes.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Difficult to see any increased publicity or improvement of the Diploma visibility. There are a plethora of designations given to the area and the Diploma will have difficulties in being noted.		
Conclusions and action suggested	- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo		

	<p>and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.</p> <p>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts to extend the boundaries of the awarded area to the bordering areas.</p>
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	51. Spain Teide National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>The recommendations states that the feral mouflon and rabbit populations should be eradicated and controlled, respectively. Though this is not completed: rabbits are actually more or less under control, and the mouflon population is less than 150 individuals. Working with the authorities responsible for the situation outside the park boundaries has been a success.</p> <p>The recommendations on monitoring and studying species occurrences both for discovering climate change-effects and creating ecological ground for restoration projects have been started, and are already producing results and actions.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>The recommendations regarding removal of buildings with unclear ownership in the park (rec. nrs 3 &amp; 4) are still not followed, though discussions have been ongoing. The adoption and implementation of the <i>plan de uso publico</i> is delayed because management is being transferred.</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The coordination of the Canary Islands National Parks has been institutionalized, and this might prove being efficient and economical. It also involves a more pronounced involvement of local bodies, which also might prove being successful.</p>		



<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Slightly unclear, might have been improved in the new Administrative and Service Centre which was inaugurated 2012.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo;</li><li>- Request the authorities to follow the programmes on research of the endemic and threatened flora and on climate change;</li><li>- Request the authorities to comply with the recommendations 3 and 4 regarding the removal of buildings with unclear ownership.</li></ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	52. Sweden Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	Three of the conditions seem to be met with, assessments of toxic algae, closer supervision of disturbances to the PA, and limiting the mink population in the area.	
	Shortcomings	The management plans are still not revised, waiting for the work to create a National Park. The latter is still hardly moving forward.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The visit from the EDPA was highlighted in local press.		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to pursue their efforts for the</li> </ul>		

	adoption of revised management plans and/or to tackle consistently the creation of a National Park in the area.
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	53. Sweden Muddus National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	No conditions were listed for Muddus, but of the recommendations, most are followed. The management plan is available in English; the transition of management from the County Administrative Board to the Laponiatjuottjuddus is more or less completed.	
	Shortcomings	The predator situation remains a problem, and the CAB and the Sami communities need to be quicker with reporting status in the future.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The work on a new visitors centre is underway, and a new website developed.		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Diploma is visible, but could be more emphasized.		
Conclusions and	- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the		

action suggested	<p>recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request the competent authorities to put more emphasize on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to give as much visibility to it as for other designations.</li> <li>- Request the authorities to explore the feasibility and the relevance of merging Muddus National Park with Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks.</li> </ul>
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	54. Sweden Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>The recommendations for Muddus EDPA and these parks are almost identical, and thus only the ones specific for Sarek-Padjelanta will be commented here.</p> <p>A mapping of the indigenous Sami people's usage of the Sarek-Padjelanta has been initiated, to give knowledge on where fishing has been going on historically.</p> <p>A visitors centre ("Naturum") was finalized 2014, and is running well. Smaller information points outside the EDPA have been set up.</p> <p>New signs for every cabin in the EDPA have been erected, in Swedish, Sami and English.</p> <p>Four research cabins, over 100 years old, have been declared historical buildings, and one has been restored.</p>	
	Shortcomings	Same as for the Muddus EDPA	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			

<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information on the visibility and the use of the logo is provided.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to explore the feasibility and the relevance of merging Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with Muddus National Park.</li> </ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>55. Sweden Store Mosse National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.06.1988 / 13.06.2018</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hydrological survey and completion of management plan: During 2016 new equipment have been installed for measuring the water levels in the park.</li> <li>2. Monitor the situation of bark beetles (<i>Ips typographus</i>): The bark beetles are not a problem in the park or in the surrounding forests anymore.</li> <li>3. Pursue the work on extending the protected area: All remaining issues regarding land ownership are completed. The process of establishing a nature reserve in the adjacent Långö Mosse and previous Lake Svanasjön is concluded.</li> </ol>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Changing inflow of water to Lakes Häradsösjön and Kävsjön: No changes in inflow have been recorded during 2016 but the situation is not favorable for the birdlife or the habitats in or around the lakes.</li> <li>2. Promote scientific research: The interest from the part</li> </ol>	

	of universities of Sweden and Europe is still low.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The grants for managing the national park in all its aspects have increased with nearly 20 %.</li> <li>2. Two new trails to the visitor’s center were built. The trails are mainly for bicycles.</li> <li>3. The large project with implementing the new Swedish brand for national parks has started.</li> <li>4. The work on extending park’s buildings for management (i.e. garage, workshop, storage etc.) has started.</li> </ol>
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Visible improvements are quite obvious. It includes new pathways, new information shields and work on representation of stakeholders on the park’s website and in printed material.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to engage in a process fostering the protection of birdlife and habitats.</li> </ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	56. Switzerland Swiss National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. Communication concerning large predators: Every opportunity is made use of to inform the public about large predators. Relations with the cantonal Office for Hunting and Fishing are excellent, with a positive outcome at various levels.</p> <p>2. Impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road: Measures were taken to improve the safety of National Park visitors in all parking areas and in those places where they have to cross the road.</p> <p>3. Collaboration with Stelvio National Park: Over the years the collaboration established between two parks has been intensified and works satisfactorily.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>1. Reservat da Biosfera Val Müstair Parc Naziunal: Non-fulfillment of the original demand for a surrounding buffer zone.</p>	

		2. SNP Extension: At present any further increase in surface area is politically unlikely.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>There were no problems within the National Park administration during the current year. With the exception of the chamois blindness problem in the SNP.</p> <p>No great changes occurred in the natural environment of the National Park.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The SNP is greatly appreciated by the local population – not merely for its ecological benefits, but rather more for the economic advantages it brings</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the competent authorities to pursue their efforts for extending the boundaries of the Park and to raise the awareness of the local population of the interest of the process.</li> </ul>	



## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	57. Turkey Kuşçenneti National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.03.1976 / 14.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. Site management is appropriately carried out by the Administration Unit as part of the Ramsar Convention, Wetland Management Plan and 2873 National Law.</p> <p>2. Regular monitoring of the breeding bird population in the park is carried out both in general places and also particularly in Sigirci and in Kocaçay Delta.</p> <p>3. The water quality of the lake and of the streams is controlled regularly by the National Park management authority and also by research Institutions.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>The evaluation of the wetland management plan for 2011-2015 and the adoption of the management plan are still in progress.</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>1. 10 new nests are built for great white pelicans.</p> <p>2. The sign and information boards were renewed on the road leading to the park.</p> <p>3. Machine park was expanded.</p> <p>4. Staff was increased</p>		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The Park Administration is working with the local and provincial authorities and local society. The improvement seems to be quite moderate.</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for approval of the wetland management plan</p> <p>- Request the authorities to supply a more detailed report enabling to</p>		

understand what are the problems faced by the Park.

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	58. Ukraine Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. More appropriate funding: There's an annual growth of the state budget for CBR. The budget assigned by the the German-funded cooperation program to CBR is 1.8 million Euro. It is the biggest fundraising element at the moment.</p> <p>2. Accelerating the process of establishing a transboundary biosphere reserve "The Maramures Mountains": The MoU between the Maramures county (RO) and the Rakhiv district and Transcarpathian regional administration (UA) was signed.</p> <p>3. Strategies and actions plans for the development of co-ordinated green activities around the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: It was taken as a clear course to create a transition area outside the territory of CBR.</p> <p>4. Follow up the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations made in the reports published in 2008 and 2011: As for the monitoring, the system of data collection is based on daily field visits by rangers in charge of the area, and also on scheduled visits fulfilled by the scientists working within the scientific department of CBR.</p> <p>5. Strengthen co-operation with the local socio-economic stakeholders: Since 2013 a Coordination Council is working at CBR. One of the first joined pilot activities with the local authorities has been the launching of the demonstrative alpine sheep farm.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>1. Provide the Council of Europe with adequate and detailed figures, information and data on the legislation concerning the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in Ukraine: For a</p>	

		<p>comprehensive solution the problem of preservation and regulation of the wolf population in Ukraine, a state programme that provides comprehensive research and adequate funding is needed.</p> <p>2. Devote priority efforts to the monitoring and conservation of the European mink and to the control of the population of the American mink within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: Special measures to restore the population size in the reserve are not carried out due to lack of special funding.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within last 4 years two new visitor centers were opened.</li> <li>2. The drainage channels of three hydrological constructions (flood-gates) near "Narcissi Valley" were maintained.</li> <li>3. A complex inventory of hunting fauna was held in 2015. It proved that the number of ungulates is stable.</li> <li>4. Inspection and maintenance of 10 km of fire-resisting roads was done in 2015 and 61 km of fire-break lines were repaired.</li> <li>5. The rangers of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve working in field divisions have renovated 29 km of mountain paths and trails, and 27 km of tourism trails were freshly marked (10 km out of them are on a new hiking trail).</li> </ol>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>CBR actively disseminates information about the European Diploma during all meetings and presentations, at all reports and information booklets about the reserve.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for creating a transfrontier Biosphere Reserve;</li> <li>- Request the authorities for accurate data on the legislation on the wolf.</li> </ul>	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	59. United Kingdom Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	26.05.1983 / 25.05.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. The new Reserve Plan has been completed, reviewed and will soon be a working document.</p> <p>2. The Reserve supports a thriving western pinewood, regenerating naturally with the planted woodlands well on the way to resembling the ancient remnants in structure and variety of species. This approach to woodland restoration has resulted in 1000 hectares of near continuous native woodland in Wester Ross.</p> <p>3. All of habitat work has been achieved in the presence of a well-managed deer population without the use of deer fencing.</p> <p>4. The adaptive management approach and targeted research has helped improve important habitats and species' resilience to climate change.</p> <p>5. The native tree gene bank is being maintained.</p> <p>6. Hazard auditing of all facilities is completed either monthly or quarterly.</p> <p>The existing visitors centre has now been refurbished and was officially opened on 9th May 2015 along with the re furbished interpretation, trail network and a wildlife hide.</p>	
	Shortcomings	Not found	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Connectivity between Beinn Eighe NNR and the Coulin SSSI/SAC pinewoods is now complete and will continue to be enhanced. 10 hectares of new woodland with 4,000 local grown trees planted.		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Attainment of the European Diploma is promoted on the Beinn Eighe page of the National Nature Reserve website. The logo is shown with a link to information pages on the Council of Europe website.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li><li>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for the restoration of native woodland.</li></ul>

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

## ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	60. United Kingdom - Fair Isle National Scenic Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. The Government announced the designation of the Fair Isle Demonstration &amp; Research Marine Protected Area (MPA) - Scotland's first ever designation of this kind.</p> <p>2. The Fair Isle Marine Environment &amp; Tourism Initiative commissioned a short film on the MPA. Islanders, supporters and members of the fishing community joined in explaining the many benefits anticipated from the MPA.</p>	
	Shortcomings	Not found	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Not found		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>1. Formal public consultation events were held on and off the isle, with fishing groups, local government, governmental and non-governmental organisations in attendance.</p> <p>2. In June, Marine Scotland held drop-in sessions in Fair Isle, Lerwick (Shetland) and Kirkwall (Orkney) to obtain further views and comments from interested parties</p>		

Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;
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## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	61. United Kingdom Minsmere Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<p>1. The control of the invasion of bracken should be continued: Bracken control continued to restore and enhance areas of lowland heather Heathland and dry acid grassland.</p> <p>2. A contingency plan to deal with the issue of sea level rise and increased freshwater flooding of the grazing marshes should be drawn up: The Minsmere Coastal and Climate Change Adaptation Plan was initiated. The freshwater feed project funded by the Environment Agency was completed.</p> <p>3. The reserve management plans (2008-2013 and 2013-2018) should be implemented: All scheduled priority one projects were implemented.</p> <p>4. The role of the reserve as a demonstration site for a wide range of audiences, especially formal school parties: Eighty one schools and colleges participated in the reserve's formal education programme, attended by 2753 children. Reserve holds volunteering and scientific activities.</p>	
		<p>1. The purchase of land should be continued: There were no land purchases this year.</p> <p>2. Vigilance with regard to alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing pirri- pirri bur, (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>) should be maintained, and the</p>	

	Shortcomings	control of the American mink ( <i>Mustela vison</i> ) should be continued: The control/eradication of pirri-pirri-bur control remains a challenge and further work is needed to identify the most successful method(s). The population of the mink appears to be very low and efforts to eliminate this species will continue. 3. Rotational fallowing regime on the freshwater sections of the coastal lagoons to increase invertebrate biomass for breeding and passage waders should be implemented: No rotational fallowing was carried out on the scrape this year.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Minsmere red deer control project continued, RSPB Reserves Ecology staff undertook a heather condition and deer impact assessment in October 2015.</li> <li>2. Large-scale tree removal work was undertaken through the Minsmere Heath Restoration Project.</li> <li>3. Phase 1 of the reedbed restoration project was a success with bed lowering, pool creation and ditch enhancement work all completed.</li> <li>4. Contractors ploughed and harrowed half of each of the sixteen stone curlew plots.</li> </ol>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		Reserve continues to support learning within and beyond the RSPB in regard to our engagement with visitors. Reserve staff participates in the national RSPB Visitor Experience Workgroup, sharing best practice and developing strategy.
Conclusions and action suggested		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations;</li> <li>- Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for the control and eradication of invasive species.</li> </ul>



## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	62. United Kingdom Peak District National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.06.1966 / 28.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete the review of the National Park Management Plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies it contains: Implementation of the 2012 to 2017 National Park Management Plan continues and work has started on a review of the existing plan to be completed in 2017, including a more substantial update of the National Park Special Qualities.</li> <li>2. Secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats: The Authority continues to work to safeguard key habitats through negotiation of new agri-environment schemes and ensuring renewal of expiring agreements for priority sites- approximately 78% of the National Park is within agri-environment scheme agreements. The clough woodland project has continued to encourage the creation of native woodland across the Dark Peak.</li> <li>3. Maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on land owned by the National Park Authority: The area of Authority owned SSSI land in favourable/recovering position remained at 96.3%.</li> <li>4. Carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale: In the South West Peak conservation and community work is being carried out in the</li> </ol>	

		<p>development stage of the HLF funded landscape partnership scheme.</p> <p>5. Implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy: The Authority continues to implement its Cultural Heritage Strategy, working with partners and stakeholders, including Historic England/English Heritage.</p> <p>6. Only authorise extensions of existing mineral quarries to meet essential national needs: The majority of sites operating in the Peak District National Park undertake progressive restoration as part of their working schemes.</p> <p>7. Continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and the environment and supports the local economy: The Authority hosts the Pedal Peak project, developing rural cycle tourism.</p>
	Shortcomings	Not found
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Authority has reviewed management structure to strengthen Leadership Group, and through it the ability to champion the special qualities of the National Park and to grow public engagement, support and income to deliver future priorities.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Authority continues to champion the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark and providing advice on energy and water savings, waste management and renewables to land based businesses. A conference on geodiversity and tourism was held in partnership with East Midlands Geological Society, Natural England, Derby University and Business Peak District.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.	

## EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

### ANALYSIS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the awarded area	63. United Kingdom Purbeck Heritage Coast	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.1984 / 20.06.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and British Petroleum are being strictly adhered to, and BP continues to work to the highest standards.</li> <li>2. The extension of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries conforms to the 'exceptions' principle that they should not be permitted unless they do not impair the character of the Heritage Coast</li> <li>3. Any progress will be welcomed to reduce intensive arable use on the immediate edge of the cliffs: The vast majority of the Purbeck Heritage Coast's cliff top land is in Environmental Stewardship with a focus on extensification.</li> <li>4. Work should continue to restore eroded paths by using local stone in an innovative way as done at Lulworth Cove: Innovative use of local stone is evident.</li> <li>5. Efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport to visitors should be increased: Dorset County Council leads work to develop the potential of the existing park and ride site at Norden near Corfe Castle. The Dorset AONB Partnership has won an award to develop new cycling routes which help</li> </ol>	

		<p>promote healthy travel and local produce.</p> <p>6. Measures should be taken to address risks of oil pollution from shipping: Ship-to-ship transfers in open water are now illegal. No significant spills have been reported in 2016.</p> <p>7. New resources should be made available to ensure the integrity in perpetuity of the newly designated World Heritage Site: The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership continues to gain support from the local authorities, communities and other stakeholders across its length.</p> <p>8. Appropriate management should be exercised and sufficient resourcing for this should be ensured, for the proposed South Purbeck National Nature Reserve: Known as Durlston National Nature Reserve, this site is owned and well managed by Dorset County Council and is deemed to be in favourable ecological condition.</p> <p>9. The Heritage Landscape Management Plan for the Lulworth Estate should be implemented: The Lulworth HLMP continues to be implemented.</p> <p>10. Co-operation and the establishment of partnerships in management planning, action and exchange of information between all major bodies involved with conservation and management should continue: The Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Partnership continues to deliver this function.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Work should continue on the inventory of Natural Areas: The Natural Areas inventory has been superseded by the National Character Area profiles managed by Natural England.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>All conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been	<p>The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership continues to work with the private sector bus company First Bus to support and promote the X53 Jurassic Coaster bus service, which continues to serve Purbeck. Dorset County Council's Emergency Planning unit runs regular Beach Masters'</p>	

improved?	courses to enable an effective and efficient response to spills.
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.