

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

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

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2021

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

State: Scotland, United Kingdom

Name of the area: Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
Year 4 – renewal from 4 July 2018

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ian Sargent

Address: Scottish Natural Heritage, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Tel: 01463 701621

Fax:

e-mail: ian.sargent@nature.scot

www: www.nature.scot

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Doug Bartholomew

Address: Anancaun, Kinlochewe, by Achnasheen IV22 2PA

Tel: 01463 701653

Fax:

e-mail: Doug.Bartholomew@nature.scot

www: <https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/beinn-eighe-and-loch-maree-islands-national-nature-reserve>

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

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

N/A

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

1. Make a comprehensive mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2015-2026) in 2020 and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate;

Completed in 2020.

2. Prepare a revised management plan, taking an appropriately long-term view based on adaptation to the effects of climate change, by the end of 2026;

This recommendation is due in 2026. We do consider any changes, especially in light of climate change, in our annual reviews of the plan.

3. Ensure the continuance of monitoring of, and research on, the flora and fauna for the conservation of the native species, to derive appropriate performance and conservation indicators, and to assess the effects of climate change;

The NNR is one of the host sites for the Darwin Tree of Life programme, which is an ambitious project to genome sequence all 67,000 eukaryotic species in the British Isles. They have made a short film about it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQxpgv2m9ks>

We have continued with our habitat monitoring programme which informs our management of the site, to ensure we are meeting our performance and conservation indicators.

We created a StoryMap for the 70th anniversary of the NNR in English and Gaelic:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/591d5cc7ddc44e7ea52abb2a241dfe5c>

4. Devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national nature reserve and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area;

We have completed a Visitor Management Plan for the National Nature Reserve. This includes reviewing our onsite interpretation and signage, and creating actions to improve the visitor experience on the NNR. We have an action in the Visitor Management Plan to promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas, by adding the logo to some of our visitor areas. We already display the European Diploma certificate in the Beinn Eighe Field Station where we host meeting and deliver presentations (photo attached to the email).

We also work closely with the UNESCO Wester Ross biosphere and local tourism groups to promote sustainable tourism, which included funding several seasonal rangers in 2021 to engage with visitors to ensure they have an enjoyable stay without damaging the local environment.

We are also developing a Code of Conduct for the growing number of kayakers, canoeists, and SUP boarders that are accessing the Loch Maree Islands. These islands support protected black-throated divers, and so the code of conduct is designed to reduce any risk of disturbance to these birds, as well as minimize risks of camp fire damage.

We are engaging with the Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Development Plan to see how the NNR can be included in the plans for local community development.

5. Develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly targeting children and youths.

Following Covid we have also re-commenced school visits, including six visits from the local Primary school, and several visits from the local High School. This includes students following a rural skills programme who are learning more practical outdoor skills.

We have also supported University groups and colleges with learning visits to the NNR.

We delivered a nature photography event for local school children as part of our anniversary celebrations, and a nature photography competition.

We have supported several volunteers who are young people looking for experience and skills for their future careers. Numbers are limited due to covid currently. We have also supported paid Practical Placements and part of a Modern Apprentice who is based over several NNRs.

We gave a presentation to the Scottish Botanical Conference (including a slide on the European Diploma and logo), which had an audience of around 400 people.

We commissioned an introductory video about the NNR here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeLH2wJnUDA>

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

Nothing to add.

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

N/A

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

We continue to develop a landscape scale, long-term partnership with our neighbours. Our aim is for ecological restoration over a large area (~30,000ha) of Wester Ross, which will regenerate some rare habitats, such as temperate rainforest, and make the habitats and species more resilient to climate change. This long-term approach will have significant gains for nature, people and resilience to climate change.

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

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

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

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

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

8. Education and scientific interest

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

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

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

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

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

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

--

