

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

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

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

**Annual report for the year 2022**

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 5 – renewal from 4 July 2018**

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

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

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. We are currently building a new storage shed, which will incorporate a substantial PV array to generate our own renewable electricity and help us achieve our Net Zero targets. We have also installed a EV car charge point to encourage electric car use.

**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;**

This year we commissioned a study into the rare Juniper heath habitat on Beinn Eighe. This habitat type is of considerable conservation importance. It is a rare and fragile community, known only from a few parts of GB & Ireland, and found nowhere else in the World. Its infrequent distribution in NW Scotland is often attributed to places where there is an absence of historical burning. This study mapped the area and looked at the regeneration potential and age structure of the population. This final report will be published in the New Year and will form a baseline for future monitoring, and inform our management of this rare habitat.

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 continue to support long-term research on the NNR through the Darwin Tree of Life programme.

**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 reviewed our visitor interpretation and signage on the NNR with colleagues. The aim is to update and replace some to ensure that we are offering an up-to-date experience to visitors.

We are working collaboratively with the UNESCO Wester Ross Biosphere (Beinn Eighe NNR is the core for the Biosphere) to develop a feasibility study into a potential new net-zero research facility to complement the existing Field Station. This facility would aim to be a place for year-round research, scientific tourism and volunteering opportunities, as well as an opportunity to provide education. We are also looking at this in partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands.

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

The above mentioned research facility would be a big driver for us to increase our reach for young people. Unfortunately the local primary school closed this year (due to insufficient children now living in the area). A facility where young people could engage and learn is likely to attract more schools/education providers to consider bringing groups to the NNR.

We have supported several University, college and school learning visits to the NNR and delivered several presentations on the biodiversity and management of the NNR to local groups.

We hosted a Premier of a local nature documentary film on Atlantic salmon which attracted a good sized audience. This is a good educational tool to engage members of the public in nature conservation. This was

followed by an event to see conservation works on the ground and some tree planting. This was done in partnership with the local Fishery Trust and neighboring land managers.

We continue to support a large number of volunteers with a high quality learning and development experience as well as supporting paid Practical Placements and a Modern Apprentice over several NNRs.

**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.

Our budgets are likely to be significantly reduced in 23/24, but this is not yet confirmed.

**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**