



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

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 2025

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

State: Germany

Name of the area: Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald (Bavarian Forest National Park)

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2021/4

Central authority concerned:

Name: Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz
(Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection)

Address: Rosenkavalierplatz 2, 81925 München

Tel: +49 (0) 89 – 9214 – 00

Fax: +49 (0) 89 – 9214 – 2266

e-mail: poststelle@stmuv.bayern.de

www: www.stmuv.bayern.de

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald

Address: Freyunger Str. 2, 94481 Grafenau

Tel: +49 (0) 8552 – 9600 – 0

Fax: +49 (0) 8552 – 9600 – 100

e-mail: leitungsbuero@npv-bw.bayern.de

www: www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.bayern.de

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.

1. instruct the relevant authority of the Free State of Bavaria to apply for the extension of the European Diploma to the enlarged area of the Bayerischer Wald National Park;

No change

2. immediately stop all interference in the forest in the 1997 extension area, including bark beetle control, with the exception of the buffer zone (Management zone), where such measures are intended to minimise the spread of the bark beetle to adjoining private forests outside the national park, and for security reasons;

No change

3. guarantee that the same regulations as those in condition 2 are applied for the enlargement to the east, which is proposed for 2022, without any transition period;

No change

4. take into consideration the neighbouring core zone in the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) when designing infrastructure for visitors and ensure that the management goals and conservation measures of the proposed extension area to the east are harmonised with those of the adjoining area in the Šumava National Park;

No change

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. grant the national park administration the appropriate legal rights as a nature protection authority (Naturschutzbehörde), in addition to its role as a forestry authority (Forstbehörde), to strengthen its function in the field of nature protection;

No change

2. grant the national park watch (rangers) additional rights, in particular the right to impose fines for violations of the national park regulations, as is the case in the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic);

No change

3. periodically evaluate the national park plan and update topics when useful;

No change

4. periodically evaluate the management of visitors so as to avoid overtourism in sensitive areas and react if and when problems occur;

No change

5. secure the continuation of research studies, in particular those that have been conducted for a long time and those that are important in the context of climate change in a broader sense and in relation to invasive species;

This recommendation is already being implemented on a permanent basis. No change over the previous year.

6. reduce to a minimum the forest roads that do not function as service roads and replace them with hiking routes in line with the infrastructure plan in places where disturbance of wildlife is to be avoided;

This recommendation is being implemented; A medium-term plan is currently being developed to determine which forest roads are to be renaturalized or dismantled in the coming years. The municipal national park committee ("Kommunaler Nationalpark-Ausschuss") must then approve these measures.

7. harmonise the hiking routes with those on Czech territory to avoid mismatches;

No change

8. carefully observe any plans for further installations for the production of green energy in the vicinity of the Bayerischer Wald National Park and report without delay to the Council of Europe if effects on the park can be expected;

This recommendation is implemented: As a representative of public interests, the Bavarian Forest National Park was involved in the updating of the Donau-Wald regional plan in 2025 for the revision of Chapter BIII, which also deals with the topic of wind power, and was asked to submit a statement. With a buffer zone of 1,000 meters, the national park itself is not part of the search area for the construction of wind turbines. In its statement, the National Park Administration carefully examined all issues relating to the National Park (in particular species protection) and included relevant information in its statement. In summary, it can be said that, from the perspective of the National Park Administration, the interests of the National Park were taken into account and given appropriate consideration in the selection of priority areas.

9. make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.

No change

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.

Compared to the previous year, the amount of bark beetle wood processed in the buffer zone has fallen sharply: from 144,000 cubic meters (2023) to 7,000 cubic meters (2025). This decline cannot be explained by the weather alone, and the exact causes are still unclear. However, very similar developments in bark beetle infestation can be observed across regions.

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.

No change

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.

In 2025, the Bavarian Forest National Park was once again awarded the Transboundary Parks certificate, together with the neighboring Sumava National Park, for its close cross-border and intensive cooperation. However, the outcome of the parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic in September this year threatens to have a negative impact on cross-border cooperation. The exact consequences are not

yet clear, but scenarios ranging from personnel changes and budget cuts to a change in the orientation of the Sumava National Park towards forestry use are conceivable, which would ultimately also have a negative impact on the work of the Bavarian Forest National Park.

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

