

**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 2023**

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:  
2021/2

**Central authority concerned:**

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

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald

Address: Freyunger Str. 2, 94481 Grafenau

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www: [www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.bayern.de](http://www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.bayern.de)

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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.

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;

The extension of the European Diploma to the enlarged area of the National Park of 1997 was implemented in 2022. In 2022 the National Park was extended again by about 700 hectares. The Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection (StMUV) has asked the Council of Europe to also include this extension in the European Diploma area for the Bayerischer Wald National Park.

2. immediately stop all interference in the forest in the 1997 extension area, including bark beetle control, with the exception of the buffer zone (Randbereiche), 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;

This condition was implemented in 2022. Bark beetle control now only takes place in the buffer zone (management zone) of the national park to protect adjoining privately managed forests and for traffic safety reasons.

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;

This condition was also implemented in 2022 for the new extension area of the national park. Bark beetle control now only takes place in the buffer zone (management zone) of the national park to protect adjoining privately managed forests and for traffic safety reasons.

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;

This condition has been fulfilled. Planning and implementation of management goals, conservation measures and infrastructure for visitors in the extension area have been discussed with the Šumava National Park Administration. Thanks to the extension, the Šumava National Park Administration was also able to stop bark beetle control along the now shared border.

**2.** 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;

This recommendation is under consideration. It should be noted that the sharing of tasks between the National Park Administration and the nature protection authorities in the County Chief Executive Offices (Landratsämter) as well as in the Regional Government of Lower Bavaria has generally proven its worth.

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);

If required, the National Park Administration has the power to grant the national park watch the rights of the nature conservation watch, such as, for instance, the right to directly impose fines. In order not to weaken the image of the national park rangers, this option has not been pursued to date.

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

This recommendation is being implemented. The evaluation and updating of the national park plan is being continued in the proven manner.

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

Visitor management is reviewed on an ongoing basis, also in order to deal with any undesirable developments in good time.

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 being implemented. 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; in the past year, two forest roads with a total length of 1.7 km have undergone renaturation / downsizing.

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

This recommendation is being discussed and implemented on an ongoing basis within the framework of cross-border collaboration.

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 being implemented. No change over the previous year.

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.

This recommendation is being implemented. No change over the previous year.

- 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.

In 2023 there was a sharp increase in the felling of bark beetle infested wood in the management zone: 134,000 solid cubic metres, of which 59,000 cu m were debarked and left in the area (approx. 45 percent)

- 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.

Intensive cross-border cooperation with the adjoining Šumava National Park, as before; no change.



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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**

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