

Annual report for the year 2021 European Diploma

State: Deutschland (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 of Protected Areas:
2011/3

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:

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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.

No conditions attached

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. secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non-intervention in large areas of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring;

The policy of large-scale non-intervention in the processes of nature with the goal "Leave nature to nature" and the ongoing monitoring of biodiversity and various environmental parameters have been secured on a long-term basis by the statutory regulations covering the Bayerischer Wald National Park and are being consistently implemented by the National Park Administration. No changes!

2. pursue consequently a non-intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the older part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the newer part, thus working toward the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the national park by 2027;

On 22.12.2019 with Decision 1 of the Municipal National Park Committee, the natural area without intervention in the extension area of the National Park was enlarged by 869 hectares. It thus covers 17,516 hectares (72.3%) of the total national park, of which 7,839 hectares (73.4%) in the extension area. With this step, the National Park Administration is consistently pursuing the mandate to continuously extend the area of the nature zone in a uniform manner by 2027 with the aim of developing 75 % of the National Park as a non-intervention zone. The next step of extension of the nature zone will be implemented together with the enlargement of the National Park by around 600 hectares in 2022. No changes!

3. continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone);

Targeted measures to control and combat bark beetle development on the periphery of the National Park, as well as collaboration conducted in a spirit of trust with the authorities entrusted with management of the state forest and care of private woodlands in the vicinity, have reliably prevented infestations from spreading to neighbouring private woodlands. No changes! Since 2016 standardised bark beetle monitoring has been carried out in the woodlands along the borders of the National Park. The results provide the basis for a coordinated approach in forest protection measures along the borders inside and outside of the National Park. No changes!

4. pursue and develop the dialogue with local communities; develop synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the re-establishment of the Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the Sevilla Strategy;

Dialogue with the National Park local communities and associations could be maintained and cooperation in the field of tourism development was further enhanced.

There currently lacks the political will to reactivate the biosphere reserve protection category. No changes!

5. pursue the collaboration with the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, both national parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border;

Despite several impediments caused by the corona pandemic the collaboration with the Šumava National Park that was resumed in a spirit of trust early in 2014 has been consistently implemented and further enhanced by videoconferencing. This is demonstrated by the following examples:

- The employment of a permanent member of staff responsible for German-Czech cooperation, on the basis of 50 % for the Bayerischer Wald National Park and 50 % for the Šumava National Park
- Permanent employment of two bilingual staff in the Ranger Service from April 2019 in order to improve the visitor information and cross-border surveillance.
- Participation of the National Park managers at the re-evaluation meeting regarding the European Diploma certificate for BF NP
- Participation of the National Park managers at the meetings of the National Park Scientific Advisory Boards
- Regular meetings of the management teams of both National Parks including the discussion of joint plans and projects
 - Joint implementation of Interreg projects on both sides of the border
 - Construction of an adventure area for the joint natural and cultural heritage – “Forest Workshop” in the Hans Eisenmann-Haus visitors’ centre (07.2017 – 06.2020) / Building for environmental education of children at Stosec 2021
 - Flora des Böhmerwaldes/of the Bohemian Forests (01.01.2019 – 31.12.2021))
 - LIFE for mires (01.08.2018 – 31.12.2024)
 - Risk assessment for wildlife caused by the invasive parasite *fascioides magna* (01.01.2021 -31.12.2022)
 - Promotion of biodiversity and developing concepts for forest protection in Bohemian Forests (01.07.2020 – 31.12.2022)
- Editing of a joint bilingual publication on the history of the Bohemian Forests in comic style (2021)
- 15.07.2021: Vernissage of the joint and bilingual exhibition “Nationalpark Šumava im Wandel der Zeit”/Šumava National Park in the Course of Time” and presentation of the book (Narodni Park Šumava – 30 let)
- 20./21.10.2021: 7th Šumava conference on recent outcomes from research work in Bohemian Forests

6. *maintain the public transportation “Igelbus” network, secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in co-operation with Šumava National Park.*

The continued operation of the “Igelbus” local public transport service is secured by a mixed financing system with participation of the holiday guests via a share of the visitor’s tax, the national park communities, the county district and the State of Bavaria. Timetables are coordinated with the local public transport system on the Czech side (green Šumava busses). Enhanced coordination and a further extension of the scope of the local public transport service timetable on the Bavarian side is currently being worked on. No changes!

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.

- Decrease of bark beetle infestation in the border area and in the development zones. 31.500 qm of spruce logs had to be removed from the forest in the buffer zone and in the development zones of the national park. Additional 5.000 m of spruce logs were felled, debarked and then remained as deadwood in the forest ecosystem.

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 changes

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.

Following a decision by the Council of Europe, a special appraisal of the plans to set up a wind farm in the vicinity of the National Park was carried out by an independent expert in February 2015. The result was then presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and forwarded to the Office of the Berne Convention with one condition and five recommendations. In the meantime, two of the local communities that are affected by the wind turbine plans have instigated resolutions by the municipal parliaments, to the effect that the wind power plans were not to be further pursued. The Bavarian State Forests, as owners of part of the potential sites for wind turbines, and "Münchner Stadtwerke", as potential principal investor, have publicly stated that they will no longer provide the areas for wind farms or will discontinue such plans until further notice. Irrespective of this, the town of Zwiesel is still taking court action against regional plans to establish the priority area 42 for wind power. No changes!