

**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 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: Sweden

Name of the area: Store Mosse National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
Last renewal 2018, 5 years ago.

Central authority concerned:

Name: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Attn: Jenny Lindman-Komstedt

Address: SE-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden

Tel: +46 10 698 17 83

Fax: +46 10 698 16 00

e-mail: jenny.lindman-komstedt@naturvardsverket.se

www: www.naturvardsverket.se

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Jönköping County Administrative Board, Attn: Johanna Ahl

Address: SE-551 86 Jönköping, Sweden

Tel: + 46 10 223 63 85

Fax: + 46 10 223 61 10

e-mail: johanna.ahl@lansstyrelsen.se

www: www.storemosse.se

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. reduce the dependency upon volunteers for monitoring and regular maintenance work;

Since the general election last year, the budget for management of protected areas in Sweden has been significantly reduced. The budgetary appropriation was cut by 67% in comparison to 2022. This of course affect the National Park management negatively since it is not possible to hire contractors for nature conservation management or maintenance work of outdoor facilities to the same extent as before. From having the privilege making voluntary work a social activity that enhances the relationship with the local residents, to now going back being more dependent on their commitment to keep up maintenance of our trails and facilities is not sustainable as stated by the European Diploma Committee. The future is worrisome, as an even lower budget is predicted for the coming years.

2. continue encouraging more scientific research in the park and ensure that all results are centralised in a database maintained by the park or, as appropriate, a relevant scientific institution;

As planned, the symposium and workshop for researchers associated with the National Park, took place in 3rd-5th of May this year. It was a successful event for discussions, networking and finding synergies between different research projects. There is now a share-point for researchers to communicate and collaborate, and there is a plan for making information about different research projects in the National Park available on our website and in the new exhibition at the visitor center naturum.

3. secure the long-term management and restoration of the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön Lakes for increased birdlife;

Even though there has been severe reduction of the appropriated budget for nature conservation management, the finances for restoration of wetlands are still generous. Additionally, the project for restoring Lake Kävsjön and Lake Häradsösjön already has secure funding from previous financial decisions. As described in last years' report, the milling of the overgrowth at the quagmire by Lake Kävsjön was put on hold due to the contractors not being able to keep their end of the deal and arriving on time. Another entrepreneur therefore cut the shrubs manually this year. The plan was to finish all the practical work this autumn but because of the unusually wet summer, excavator work on the quagmire by Lake Kävsjön digging puddles and construction of the dam in the canal between the lakes could not be done due to the risk for harming the ground or getting the machine stuck. Though, the dam in the outlet of Lake Kävsjön "Fläsebäcken" was successfully constructed as well as the fish passage. The actual start of regulating Lake Kävsjön needs to be postponed since the floating artificial bird island are not yet in place to compensate for the lost land surface when raising the water level. Also, the dam between the lakes would not be possible to build with a raised water level. In Lake Häradsösjön the canal upstream was cleared, and bird nesting islands were dug out with an amphibious excavator. According with the court decision, the remaining work is planned for autumn 2024.

A future difficulty managing the restored area appears to be financing regular management such as mowing and keeping lake shore pastures open. This, because the currently generous funding for wetlands only finances restoration and not regular management.

4. set up a comprehensive but simple monitoring system for the park, to be attached to the management plan; monitor carefully the effectiveness and impact of the lake management and restoration, as well as of the LIFE mire restoration project;

The work that was made implementing a monitoring plan for the National Park has been suspended because political decisions that deprioritize monitoring of protected nature. However, monitoring of the restoration of Lake Kävsjön and Lake Häradsösjön will be accomplished since it is financed by the special funding for

wetland restoration. Also, effects from nature conservation burnings in the National Park, that are carried out in the EU-funded project Life2Taiga, are monitored and financed by project funding. Furthermore, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's national monitoring program runs according to plan.

5. implement the new national system for information materials, signs and trail marking and, in particular, give appropriate visibility to and communicate more actively on the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

The project of implementing the new national system ended in the year of 2020. As a part of the National Park regular maintenance, the National Park management maintain and enhance information continuously according with the new identity guidelines. Since the budget has been cut and is to be even more reduced ahead, it could be a problem financing maintenance of all new information signs and trail markings that has been put up according with the new national system. There is a serious risk of deterioration of this important work that has been done for improved visitor experience. This, when staff either do not have time to prioritize information material when nature conservation management comes first, or the budget cannot afford new signs when one might need to be changed when damaged.

The framed European Diploma has now been put up for display in the shop at the visitor center for additional visibility and invitation for discussion during guided tours. There is still work planned to put more information about the European Diploma on our website.

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.

As previously mentioned, after the change of government the budget for nature conservation management has been significantly reduced by 67 % in comparison to 2022. This means that contractors cannot be hired to do work as before and as nature conservation management is prioritized and our own staff puts more workhours on e. g. mowing, the "acceptable condition" of visitor facilities such as trails has to be set to a lower level. Regular reparation work simply cannot be done at the same pace with decreased workforce. Also, because of having to terminate contracts with local residents supervising nature reserves, the National Park staff now have additional work supervising nearby nature reserves. It is troublesome that the effort that has been put into improving trails and facilities for visitors during years of beneficial funding, now risk deteriorating. It is very important to keep the facilities accessible, not least safe, to be able to give our visitors a positive experience in the National Park. This, we believe, leaves people with an interest of visiting and learning about nature conservation. Also, we would need to keep improving visitor facilities to be able to meet the significantly increased number of visitors that has followed the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, there is funding for wetland restoration. Except from finishing the big project restoring Lake Kävsjön and Lake Häradsösjön for improved birdlife, there is an application made for funding of additional restoration projects in the National Park. For example, there are still areas that holds old draining ditches that are planned to be restored. Also, rich fen restoration is prioritized and a recently classified rich fen by Lake Kävsjön was restored by cutting shrubs this spring. There is also an ongoing project clearing an overgrown previously mowed rich fen at "Växudde" in the most southern part of the National Park. As described, nature conservation burning is also something that can be done because of special funding from the EU-project Life2Taiga. This year we were able to complete the first ever forest conservation burning in the National Park, at "Sörö" near the main entrance. This opened the possibility for the staff at the visitor center giving guided tours to the newly burnt area. There was another burning planned, but because of the exceptionally rainy summer it needed to be postponed to next year.

Even though there is funding for certain management such as wetland restoration and nature conservation burning, the appropriated budget that is given for regular maintenance is clearly too low. This situation not only makes planning hard but is also worrying as we might not be able to keep, especially restored, areas in a good status over time. It is nearly at the point of deciding not to restore more e. g. rich fen areas, as we cannot guarantee a favorable conservation status over time due to current lack of funding.

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 have been made. We are continuously working on maintenance of National Park boundaries.

All land within the park boundaries is state owned, as it should be according to Swedish law.

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.

There is no other information to pass on to the Council of Europe at this point. If any further questions occur, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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