

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

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, 4 years ago.

Central authority concerned:

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Authority responsible for its management:

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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

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

N/A

- **2. Recommendations:** List here <u>all</u> recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain <u>either</u> how the recommendations have been totally complied with <u>or</u> 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;

This years' budget has, like recent years, been beneficial for Swedish nature conservation. To make the most out of the generous funding, the National Park work team has been supported by staff from our County Administrative Board department. This has allowed us to work on more projects and hire independent contractors for various tasks. The cooperation with volunteers continues to some extent, but the National Park maintenance and monitoring does not depend on volunteer work. Today, the collaboration with volunteers means a social activity that enhances local relations and preserves the local interest in the National Park.

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;

After a reduction of scientific work during the Covid-19 pandemic, when researchers could not come due to restrictions, the cooperation with different research projects now continues. During the last year a project creating a new exhibition at the visitor center has been proceeding, and collaboration with scientists has taken place to include and present their research in the National Park in the new exhibition. Also, the workshop with researchers that was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic is now scheduled for May 2023. We are still working on organizing the scientific reports that involve the National Park.

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

The application for water operation permit to enable water flux regulation that was submitted for consideration by the Land and Environment Court last year has been considered and accepted. The restoration project in the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön lake area is now proceeding towards the final practical phase, and the construction work is to be accomplished in the autumn 2023 according with the court decision. Even though we expect a severe reduction of the budget for nature conservation in the years to come, the budget is beneficial for restoration of wetlands. Additionally, this particular project already has secure funding from previous financial decisions. The planned milling of the overgrowth at the quagmire by lake Kävsjön that was postponed last year has unfortunately been put on hold again due to the contractors not being able to keep their end of the deal and arriving on time. Therefore, we have arranged for another entrepreneur to start cutting the shrubs manually in January 2023.

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;

A monitoring plan for nature types and species in the National Park has this year been formed and is being audited. It is soon to be fully implemented as a conservation management tool, but the preliminary version has been used this year. A monitoring survey of fungi (macromycetes) mainly connected to the Natura 2000 forest habitat Western taiga (9010) has been carried out, as well as a survey of the Natura 2000 species Vertigo geyeri to map its distribution in alkaline fens to plan for site specific management. Also, two follow-up surveys in areas which were included in the Life to ad(d)mire restoration project (2010-2015) has been carried out. One bird inventory in the previous peat mining area "Hädinge", and a survey of vegetation in the restored alkaline fen Björnekullakärret. 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. There is information about the European Diploma on our website, but the content is to be developed to become even more informative. The actual framed European Diploma is going to be put up in the shop of the new exhibition at the visitor center for additional visibility and invitation for discussion during guided tours.

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.

The continuously generous finances have made it possible to keep an improved management in the National Park, both regarding conservation management and monitoring. An area in the National Park, "SJ-Mossen", that also was included in the Life to ad(d)mire project but was not fully restored at the time because of finances running short, has his year been completed after manually felling trees standing on the dry ridge that surrounded the old peat mine. The result is a vast open connected wetland area. With staff from our County Administrative Board department working extra with the National Park management it was possible to also put additional effort into improving trails and facilities for visitors. This too is an important part of management since a positive experience of a visit in the National Park spreads an interest of visiting and learning about nature conservation. Also, we need to keep improving visitor facilities to be able to canalize the increased number of visitors that has followed the Covid-19 pandemic.

Like previously described we have had funding that allowed us to keep a high level of management, however, we cannot rely on a steady high budget and offer permanent employment of more people. This because of the uncertainty of being able to keep new staff after the parliamentary election that took place this year and the significant financial changes it will possibly bring. The current indication is a 50 % cut of our finances the following four-year period. This situation makes planning of management and monitoring challenging and worrisome, as we might not be able to keep, especially restored, areas in a good status over time due to lack of finances.

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 Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. <u>year 4</u> after the award of the European Diploma or <u>year 9</u> 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 Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas