

**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 2020

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: Berchtesgaden National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
10

Central authority concerned:

Name: Bavarian Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer protection

Address: Rosenkavalierplatz 2, D-81925 Munich, Germany

Tel: +4989 9214 2266

Fax:

e-mail: Poststelle@stmuv.bayern.de

www: www.stmuv.bayern.de

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Nationalparkverwaltung Berchtesgaden

Address: Doktorberg 6, 83471 Berchtesgaden

Tel: +49 8652 9686-0

Fax: +49 8652 9686-40

e-mail: poststelle@npv-bgd.bayern.de

www: www.nationalpark-berchtesgaden.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.

none

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. prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the following period and, to this effect, provide the necessary financial and human resources;

The draft management plan has been finalized and is currently undergoing internal coordination with the higher-level departments.

2. include in the plan a provision for continuing a comprehensive long-term research program, in close collaboration with other alpine protected areas and other relevant networks;

In 2020, the research and monitoring program in Berchtesgaden National Park has been enforced, particularly due to the collaboration with the Technical University of Munich and a 4-year funding program of the Bavarian Government for joint climate change research with Bavarian Forest National Park. As part of this, a joint long-term biodiversity monitoring has been established for both national parks. Berchtesgaden National Park has joined several global or national monitoring networks, including LIFEPLAN and the insect monitoring of LTER-D, and the establishment of large-scale forest inventory plot following the protocol of ForestGEO has been initiated. Climate and hydrological monitoring programs of the past are continued

3. prepare sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives, as integrated parts of the new management plan and taking into account the background of climate change; special attention should be given to:

a. military activities;

The activities of the Bundeswehr are discussed in annual talks between the national park administration and a liaison officer. During these meetings, successes and problems from the past year are discussed, compliance with the jointly defined rules is checked and the planned activities are coordinated. Thanks to this good cooperation, it has been possible in recent years to largely align military use with the goals of the national park.

b. recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in co-operation with the mountain guide organization; providing specific training courses for the guides;

In regular meetings the responsible persons of the national park discuss the current topics with the respective Stakeholders (e.g. Alpine Clubs, Tourism Associations, Nature Conservationists, Alpine farming association, Hunters)

As part of the long-standing cooperation between the German Alpine Association and the National Park in the "Natürlich auf Tour" project, the protected areas along traditional ski-touring routes were adapted and significantly expanded. Thus, this protection is adapted to the increased frequency of winter sportsmen.

The successful cooperation with hang gliders and paragliders was continued. These avoid the breeding grounds of the eagle based on the indications of the National Park.

Unfortunately, due to the Corona Pandemic, many of the traditional meetings, consultations and training sessions had to be cancelled.

c. visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts;

The maintenance of roads, paths and hiking trails is a permanent task. Also this year about 425.000 € and more than 6.500 working hours were spent for the maintenance of the paths and the visitor infrastructure.

- d. mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply;

The initiated research on pasture management under the influence of climate change was further developed and will be continued under the direction of the new research department.

- e. water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities;

The water supply of the communities in the vicinity of the national park is located within the national park. These sources are consistently monitored. This includes regular fine levelling of the surface in the catchment areas by means of drone flights.

In order to ensure flood protection for the community of Ramsau, the dam along the Klausbach is successively renewed in coordination with the national park administration.

4. consequently pursue the transformation of spruce forests into mixed forests until the integration of the intervention zone into the core area is finalized;

After the Core-Zone with no human intervention has been set to 75% of the Park area, Forest management is restricted to the permanent management zone. There, the promotion of near-natural forests will continue, especially by planting rare tree species (especially fir). For this purpose, only naturally occurring gaps in the forests will be made use of.

5. continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle proliferation, but without enlarging the bark beetle management zone, and maintain wildlife pressure at an acceptable level;

The occurrence of bark beetles within the defined management zone is consistently monitored and infested trees are felled and debarked in due time. The timber remains in the biotope as important ecological resource.

To protect the rejuvenation of the forest, ungulates are consistently managed within narrowly defined hunting zones. These hunting zones lie exclusively within the permanent management zone.

6. anticipate and foster the natural return of large carnivores in the park area and communicate with the public about the benefits this may bring; develop a strategy and action plan to deal with this issue, including cattle protection measures and the training of shepherds;

The National Park is integrated into the strategy of the State of Bavaria for the return of large carnivores

7. pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration (Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung) and the Nature Park and develop synergies with the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas;

The established cooperation with the neighboring province of Salzburg, the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 Network are continuously maintained and developed.

8. build and equip the park centre "Haus der Berge"; secure the personnel resources to fully realise its potential as a source of information, as an education centre and for the promotion of the park's goods and services;

The central information centre "Haus der Berge" in Berchtesgaden has about 1,200,000 visitors since opening in May 2013 (status: November 2020). Caused by specific epidemic regulations (COVID 19) and two lockdowns we counted less than 100,000 visitors until the end of October 2020. In comparison to the years before the number of visitors in the main exhibition decreased as well. The analysis of visitor numbers is not completely finished. There were almost no public events and activities in the centre – caused by Corona-regulations as well.

The planning for an improvement of the attractiveness of the exhibitions as well as of the centre itself has been assigned in early spring 2020. This project will last about three years. First exhibition moduls will be implemented in February 2021. The main exhibition "Vertical Wilderness" has been visited by more than 50,000 persons in 2019 (status: October 2020).

In 2019 overall 8,505 visitors participated during 325 events (guided tours as well as introductions to the exhibition). We offered 212 introductions to the main exhibition (5,665 visitors – 2,824 pupils and 2,841 adults) as well as 113 guided tours into the exhibition (2,840 visitors – 1,071 pupils and 1,769 adults respectively). This mean overall an increasing number of events as well as a slightly decrease of visitors.

Number of persons working within the centre remained constant, number of HR departments too. Number of volunteers working in the centre increased to 10, especially during the main season from May to October.

The five peripheral information centers of the National Park are even in a permanent process of improvement. The planning of a new exhibition in the "Jägerhaus" on St. Bartholomä peninsula has been assigned. "Water" will be the main subject for this exhibition. Estimated opening date will be May 2022. The former information centre on St. Bartholomä has been closed during the whole year – caused by regulations to avoid spreading of COVID19. Even the other peripheral centres – exceptional the information centre "Klausbachhaus" - were closed for the same reason in the same period.

Part II of the new information center within the new peak station of the Jenner Mountain Railway is expected to be opened in May 2021. Main subjects are human disturbances in the peak areas as well as in the "rocky habitats" of the national park. Over all, these new exhibition form the sixth (peripheral) information centre of the National Park at a very sensitive place at the border between very intensive touristic used and highly protected areas. To be personally more present the National Park administration created one HR department for the centres at Jenner and Klausbachhaus respectively.

9. further promote the development of the public transportation system within the park and adjacent protected territories; develop a strategy to reduce the private vehicle traffic to and within the park.

Within the national park, traffic is limited to the narrow circle of authorized persons. In order to prevent abuse, the park administration carries out increased controls.

The improvement of public transport within the valley basin is a constant topic of discussion with the responsible communities. Unfortunately, this problem is not easy to solve.

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.

No Changes

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.

Golden Eagle monitoring program

*In 2020 fifteen territorial couples of Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, L.) have been monitored in the observation area of "Biosphere Reserve Berchtesgadener Land and surrounding mountain regions. One fledglings has been documented. This means a breeding success of 0.06 young birds per pair and year respectively. Successful couples has been Ettenberg (two fledgelings, one died). The overall breeding success during 26 years of monitoring (1993 – 2020) has lightly decreased up to 0.29 young birds per pair per year.*

Five pairs stopped breeding efforts after fledging of young birds (Bluntau, Klausbach, Wimbach, Untersberg, Glunkerer and Hochkranz). There was again – completely different to the years before – a significant late period of breeding interruptions in June when these couples stopped breeding without any objective reason. Most probable reasons might be bad weather conditions - especially a cold and rainy period of about ten days around the beginning of June. Disturbances caused by human activities as a reason for interruption are not known and were not observed respectively. In two territories there were no clear results concerning breeding activities (Blühnbach and Röthelmoos). Number of non-breeders in 2020 was five (Wachterl, Sonntagshorn, Reith, Geigelstein and Saalach). In 2020 again two territories (Gotzen and Hoher Staufen) were not occupied by a territorial pair. No dead eagles could be found or documented until November.

Number of visitors attending guided tours (environmental education items) was decreasing – caused by Corona epidemic regulations – and is yet not fully analyzed. The probability of Golden Eagle sightings during the guided tours decreased to almost 85 %.

Mobile educational offers in the field

The national park is visited by a steadily growing number of visitors. This number is now estimated at around 1.6 million. The previous educational offers only reach a small fraction of these visitors. Many visitors do not know, that they are in a protected area. Especially at hotspots, where many foreign guests stay, it is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid violations of the national park rules. For this reason, mobile educational stands are to be set up at visitor focal points in and around the national park and they are staffed during main visiting hours. At the information stands visitors and users of the national park can find out about current topics and are informed about rules in the protected area or the effects of rule violations on nature.

The following goals are pursued with the information stands:

- Dissemination of the national park idea
- Promotion of behavior, that is compatible with the national park and the environment
- Strengthening the presence in the area
- Mediation of research and management measures

Implementation in 2020

2020 there were altogether seven stands at different places, which dealt with ten key topics like: insects, alpine animals and plants, trails, geology, etc. The thematic orientation of the stands quickly shifted the focus to topics relevant to the national park.

Altogether 162 information stands took place in the summer season from June to October, at which a total of 6.548 people took part, including 5.651 adults and 891 children. All these stands were double staffed with educational staff, rangers, students and volunteers.

Reactions of the visitors

Many visitors gladly accepted this additional offer. After a short discussion it was easier for them to understand and follow the rules of the national park correctly.

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