

European Diploma for Protected Areas

Annual report for 2021

State: Russia

Name of the area: The Teberda National Park

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Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: The European Diploma was renewed in 2019. Two years have passed since the extension of the diploma.

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Government of the Russian Federation

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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.

When extending the Diploma of the Council of Europe, the conditions were not set for the Teberda National Park.

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. draft and adopt in the next three years a new management plan for the long-term conservation of the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve; include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species; share the draft management plan for comments with the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas prior to its adoption;
 2. design socio-economic development plans in the buffer zone of the diploma-holding area that contribute better to preserving the natural features of this area in close co-operation with the local authorities, including the administration of the Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia;
 3. develop further awareness-raising activities targeting youth;
 4. ensure the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve research programme and activities take into consideration the effects of climate change on the ecological processes inherent to the long-term preservation of the European interest of the diploma-holding area. Explore the feasibility to make popular and scientific publications of the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve available to foreign visitors and scientists in appropriate languages;
 5. pursue and step up co-operation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area; encourage international non-governmental organisations and foundations working in the Caucasus to facilitate this process;
 6. ensure by strict enforcement of regulations, the ecological effectiveness of the polygon connecting the diploma-holding area to the Western Caucasus Strict Nature Reserve.
1. Currently, Teberda National Park is starting work on the preparation of a long-term management plan for the national park. The plan will take into account the issues of conservation of rare and endangered species, problems of climate change and the impact of these changes on the conservation of the biota of the national park. Once prepared, the plan will be sent to Council of Europe experts prior to its approval.
 2. Teberda National Park, together with local authorities, back in 2019 created a zone of cooperation with three municipal districts of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic. At present, the Teberda National Park, together with the administrations of these municipalities, is starting to develop a plan for the socio-economic development of this territory for a more complete preservation of natural complexes in the cooperation zone.
 3. Teberda National Park conducts environmental educational activities to educate young people and the younger generation. The National Park also uses social media and the Internet to educate young people. The national park pays special attention to working with youth. The national park has all the necessary infrastructure and equipment for environmental education activities. There is a nature museum, a children's ecological camp and an information visit center.
 4. The research program of Teberda National Park includes issues of studying the mechanisms of natural dynamics of the components of reference mountain ecosystems and the impact of climate change on ecological processes. The National Park understands the importance of studying this issue for predicting ongoing processes and preserving natural ecosystems. Scientific publications of Teberda National Park are available to foreign scientists, since more than half of publications are published in English and in international publications. Also, the national park will publish major publications on the official website.
 5. Teberda National Park closely cooperates with environmental public organizations, in particular with WWF. This year, thanks to cooperation with WWF, an enclosure was built on the territory of the Teberda National Park for catching bison for the purpose of veterinary manipulation. However, the establishment of a transboundary protected area with Georgia is within the competence of the Russian government.
 6. The Biosphere polygon was established eleven years ago. To date, the requirements of the security regime are strictly observed on the territory of the landfill. The polygon effectively fulfills its role in connecting the territory of the Teberda National Park with the territory of the Caucasian Biosphere Reserve.

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 the reporting year, by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Teberda Biosphere Reserve was transformed into the Teberda National Park. There were no negative changes in the management of the territory. The number of employees of the national park has increased by 12 people. Thus, 216 people now work in the national park, instead of 204. Scientific and environmental educational activities have developed better than last year. Protection of natural complexes was carried out, as in the previous year. In the reporting year, the number of visitors to the Teberda Nature Reserve decreased slightly due to the coronavirus pandemic. Funding for the national park in the reporting year was the same as in the previous year.

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.

The boundaries have not changed since the last annual report was submitted. When the Teberda Biosphere Reserve was transformed into the Teberda National Park, the boundaries and area did not change. There are no difficulties and unsolved problems along the border of the Teberda National Park. The border of the Teberda National Park is clearly marked and registered in the cadaster.

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.

Teberda National Park has a triple international status - it has a diploma from the Council of Europe, is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a member of the International Association of Protected Areas.

In Teberda National Park, work is underway to reintroduce *Bison bonasus caucasicus*. Since 2012, over eight years, the number of bison in the Teberda Nature Reserve has increased from 5 to 45 individuals.

It is a great honor for Teberda National Park and real help in preserving the unique natural complexes and ecosystems of the North-West Caucasus.

Teberda National Park hopes that the transformation of the territory into a national park will not affect the availability of the Diploma of the Council of Europe. For its part, the Teberda National Park can assure that nature conservation, scientific and environmental education work will continue as before. The transfer of the Teberda Biosphere Reserve to the Teberda National Park will in no way negatively affect the safety of the unique natural complexes of the protected area.

Director of the Teberda National Park _____ A.A. Dinaev