

**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: Austria Federal Province Salzburg

Name of the area: Krimml Waterfalls

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

13.7.2022, CM/ResDip(2022)1, 1 year since the renewal

Central authority concerned:

Name: Regional government office of the Land Salzburg

Address: Hohe Tauern National Park Administration Salzburg
Gerlos Straße 18, A-5730 Mittersill

Tel: +43 6562 40849-0

Fax:

e-mail: nationalpark@salzburg.gv.at

www: www.hohetauern.at

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Regional government office of the Land Salzburg

Department – Nature Protection

Address: Michael Pacher Straße 36, A-5020 Salzburg

Tel: +43 662 8042 5524

Fax:

e-mail: natur-fachdienst@salzburg.gv.at

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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>

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. review and, where necessary, improve the regulations of the protected area in order to maintain its protected status, and devote a part of the next management plan (2024 onwards) of the Hohe Tauern National Park to the Krimml Waterfalls, detailing the measures implemented to meet the recommendations attached to the renewal; consider applying for the extension of the European Diploma to include the Hohe Tauern National Park;

The European Diploma holding area is mentioned a few times within the current management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park. This recommendation will be implemented in the next management plan too. Water management for Krimmler Ache is implemented, forest management and the biodiversity-research too.

2. continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural phenomenon for future generations; monitor the potential impact of climate change on the ecosystem and its fauna and flora; define appropriate measures to mitigate flash floods in case of heavy rainfall;

Appropriate measures are implemented as part of an ongoing process. There is actually no impact of climate change on the site.

3. continue to avoid detrimental impact on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, in particular in the areas around "Wasserfallboden" and "Schönangerl";

Appropriate measures are implemented as part of an ongoing process. In all nature conservation law administrative procedures that take place in the surroundings of the Krimml Waterfalls, a rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument takes place.

4. continue to maintain a high level of vigilance regarding developments in the infrastructure close to the falls, for example the installation or extension of shops, as well as health centres and new tourism activities that are not compatible with the area's natural environment;

Appropriate measures are implemented as part of an ongoing process. In all nature conservation law administrative procedures that take place in the surroundings of the Krimml Waterfalls, a rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument takes place. There are no new touristic activities or attractions installed.

5. continue to pay close attention to potential path erosion and make sure that visitors only use the existing paths;

The general maintenance work on the footpath is an ongoing process. This work will be carefully implemented in the landscape for both the safety of visitors (rockfall fences beside the path have been installed) and visitor management.

6. maintain and further strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially landowners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), as well as tourism operators and associations;

The co-operation with all stakeholders is very well maintained.

7. further pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on fauna and flora within the diploma-holding area, focusing on periodic monitoring of relevant taxonomic groups in order to evaluate the possible effects of changing environmental factors such as flood regimes, climate change, invasive pathogens and invasive alien species; pay special attention to monitoring and combating damaging bark beetles, for example *Ips typographus* (European spruce-bark beetle, Buchdrucker);

Appropriate measures are implemented as part of an ongoing process.

8. make use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.

The Europa Diploma and the relevance is mentioned in our information material.

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 in relation to the terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Wolfram Lechner (wolfram.lechner@salzburg.gv.at) is currently the regional site manager.

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.

Next to the Europa Diploma holding area and the starting point of a four-kilometer-long waterfall hike, there is the World of Water. This innovative exhibition area is a combination of edutainment, sensory experiences and active participation. The grandiose panoramic terrace in the WasserBar reveals spectacular views of waterfalls. The exhibition area is dedicated to infotainment, with exciting experiments and a new Water Cinema. In the outdoor area, visitors can get active. Fun games ensure plenty of enjoyment while learning about water. The centerpiece of the World of Water is a modern waterfall center. The Aquaszenarium is a projection show, the only one of its kind in Austria, and a cracker for young and old alike. The floor and walls are covered with projections, which can be mentioned and changed by touch or by stepping onto them. With this multimedia setup, visitors can playfully immerse themselves in the four water worlds, beginning with the water meadow landscape at the upper falls of the river, where you can play interactively with projected butterflies, grasses and fish. The second water world takes you to the middle of the waterfalls themselves, and the third one lets you experience the viewpoint of a microbe. The fourth and last water world takes you back to the surface feeling refreshed and having been enriched with unique impressions, new perspectives and a different attitude towards our elixir of life, water.

The river management plan for the Krimmler Achental (the valley containing the waterfalls) was completed this year. It determined very good river ecology and hydrology for the waterfalls. Furthermore, it aims to implement river restorations, which further improve the ecological and hydrological state of the river, in the river parts upstream of the Krimml Waterfalls.

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

The award of the European Diploma is not only honorable, but it is also a challenge for conservationists to responsibly meet the demands of protection. The policies of the Hohe Tauern National Park and the government of Land Salzburg adhere strongly to the idea of protecting the Krimml Waterfalls. Many an intervention was warded off based on the regulations of the European Diploma! Extremely keen standards are being applied to all matters connected with Krimml Waterfalls and their protected surroundings. The award of the European Diploma to the Krimml Waterfalls has spread knowledge of the waterfalls and the

National Park throughout the world. This fact has been appreciated by the National Park Administration in many publications and conferences.