

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1
on the revised regulations for the Euroean 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 2025

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 Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas:
13.7.2022, CM/ResDip(2022)1, 3 years 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
www: www.salzburg.gv.at

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 Krimml Waterfalls enjoy strict protection as part of the Hohe Tauern National Park in Salzburg (also designated as a Natura 2000 site) and through their designation as a "Naturdenkmal." Both the national park and the "Naturdenkmal" are protected by law.

National Park Act (Salzburg):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20000928>

Nature Protection Act (Salzburg):

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20000003&FassungVom=2025-10-20>

Both laws protect the natural beauty and the landscape; within the national park, fauna and flora are also strictly protected. Furthermore a regulation concerning forestry has been passed:

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20001441>

A similar regulation concerning agriculture is in the making. The protected area is therefore one of the most strictly protected areas in Salzburg and Austria as a whole. The area outside the protected area and the Nationalpark is also designated and protected as a landscape conservation area. A further increase in protection is therefore not needed.

The European Diploma holding area is referenced multiple times in the previous Hohe Tauern National Park management plan (2016–2024). The Krimml Waterfalls will be addressed in a similar way in the next management plan (2025–2033). Numerous chapters of the upcoming plan contribute to the protection and scientific study of the waterfalls and their surroundings—for example, forest management, river systems, and biodiversity research. These chapters set out concrete measures for safeguarding and researching the national park and also encompass the recommendations for the European Diploma holding area, since they align with park-wide objectives. Following extensive stakeholder consultation, the new management plan will soon be publicly available.

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 (see legislation). There is as of now no impact of climate change on the site. Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall are a natural phenomenon and have long played a role in shaping the Krimml Waterfalls. Therefore concerning the protected area itself there is no need for mitigation measures. As mentioned in a previous report, the regional government is planning to implement protective measures in the Krimmler Achen Valley. However, the authorities have not been provided with any details.

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 (see legislation). In all nature protection act 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 (see legislation). In all nature protection act 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. All new installations need to be approved via a nature protection act administrative procedure (see legislation).

A new restroom along the “Wasserfallweg” partial rerouting of the trail are in planning. Once the specifics are known, they will be rigorously examined to determine whether these installations are compatible with the area’s natural environment.

Upstream but far outside of the European Diploma holding area a flood retention basin inside the national park is in planning. Once the specifics are known, they will be rigorously examined to determine whether or not these installations are compatible with the area’s natural environment.

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. Maintenance is carried out by the ÖAV. Any changes to the pathway must be reviewed by the nature conservation authority as part of an administrative procedure under the National Park Act (see legislation). To ensure visitor safety, a slight modification of a section of the pathway is planned. Once the planning has progressed sufficiently, a National Park Act permit will be sought.

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. The Krimml Waterfalls, in their current form, are strictly legally protected and well managed concerning visitors and tourism. Any development within the protected area (e.g., the planned restroom) is coordinated among stakeholders to ensure that the interests of the site are upheld. Apart from potential future changes (see above), the various stakeholders (e.g., nature conservation authority, tourism, ÖAV, landowners) are very satisfied with the current status quo. Consequently, the stakeholders primarily interact regarding these potential changes or when a new, unforeseeable issue arises.

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. The latest study, which also covered the Krimml Waterfalls was conducted in the years 2021-2023. It is planned to repeat the study in a few years. Link: https://www.parks.at/nphs/mmd_fullentry.php?docu_id=50893

In the future, scientific research on endemic species within the National Park is planned. Depending on the taxa involved, the Krimml Waterfalls will be included in the study. However, this project is still in its early planning phase.

Ips typographus is a concern in the area surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls. So far, only relatively small areas near the protected site have been affected. In these areas, natural reforestation with endemic tree species best suited to the site is being carried out. Preemptive measures against the spruce bark beetle are not feasible, particularly due to the challenging topography. Whenever a cluster of trees infested with bark beetles is detected, the landowners promptly remove it to minimize the damage.

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 (e.g. Naturführer Nationalpark Hohe Tauern – Chapter Krimmler Achental; Tälerfolder Krimmler Achental).

It is also mentioned on our (Nationalpark) website, e.g.:

<https://hohetauern.at/de/besuchen/hotspots/ausflugsziele-im-nationalpark-hohe-tauern/409-krimmler-wasserfaelle.html?highlight=WyJrcmltbWxlciIsImtyaW1tbCJd>

or:

<https://hohetauern.at/de/?view=article&id=2574:outdoor-programm-sbg-krimmler-wasserfaelle&catid=89&highlight=WyJrcmltbWxlciIsImtyaW1tbCJd>

or:

https://hohetauern.at/images/dateien/Besuchen/Wanderziele_dt2019.pdf

The National Park tourism agency also mentions it: <https://www.nationalpark.at/en/nationalpark/valleys-and-peaks/krimmler-achental>

The regional government of Salzburg also reports about the European Diploma, e.g.: <https://service.salzburg.gv.at/lkorj/detail?nachrid=58425>

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management also mentions the European Diploma:
<https://www.bmluk.gv.at/im-fokus/bildung/lehrpfade/salzburg/krimmler-wasserfaelle-aussichtweg.html>

It is mentioned on the website of the Krimml Waterfalls: <https://www.wasserfaelle-krimml.at/en/staunen/naturschutzdiplom>

Many tourism-websites (e.g. hotels, tourism agencies) also mention the European Diploma (without logo).

Furthermore, the protected site itself is labeled with signs concerning the European Diploma.

On the website we (the National Park) manage, the logo is used. If it is in the interest of the Council of Europe, the National Park administration can ask other organizations, that mention the Diploma, to use the logo as well. Whether these organizations use the logo is however outside of our direct control.

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.

There is no new information on the European Diploma holding site that is not already known to the Council of Europe.

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

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