

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2022**

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

**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 5024

Fax:

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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;

Within the current management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park the European Diploma holding area is mentioned a few times. 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;

Is implemented and an ongoing process. There is actually not an 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";

Is implemented in an ongoing process. In all of nature conservation law administrative procedures, which take place in the surroundings to the Krimml Waterfalls, always takes a rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument.

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;

Is implemented in an ongoing process. In all of nature conservation law administrative procedures, which take place in the surroundings to the Krimml Waterfalls, always takes a rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument. 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 implemented with great care on landscape for the safety of visitors (rockfall fences beside the path had been installed) and for the 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 cooperation is very well maintained with all stakeholders.

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);

Is implemented in 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

Wilfried Hilgarth (wilfried.hilgarth@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 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 make a plenty of enjoyment with the water. The centerpiece of the worlds of water is a modern waterfall centre: 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 into 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 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 meet the demands of protection in a responsible way. The policies of the Hohe Tauern Park and of the government of Land Salzburg adhere strongly to the idea of the protection of Krimml Waterfalls. These interventions were warded off only 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 made the falls and the

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