



Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Seitsemien National Park (Finland)

(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024

at the ...th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

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: Finland

Name of the area: Seitsemien National Park

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

Central authority concerned:

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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.

N/A No changes in conditions.

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. make public the management plan of the Seitsemien National Park, and provide an English version that is also publicly available; make sure that the management plan is implemented fully and regularly updated according to new management insights and new necessities, for example concerning adaptation measures to climate change, invasive species, destructive species and management of forest, bogs and mires; strengthen the accuracy of the annual reporting to the secretariat of the Bern Convention and summarise all relevant and concrete information in the reports;

The management plan was made public 10.4.2024. Metsähallitus was not able to make English version.

The plan is on the way to be implemented. Unfortunately cuttings on finance have made threats to keep the level on recreational facilities.

2. continue the restoration management of bogs, mires, lakes and forests; maintain arrangements for appropriate grazing in meadows to encourage their biodiversity and consider extending the sheep-grazed meadow area around the Kovero farm site to improve management efficiency and effectiveness; provide more extensive information on the annual management measures taken and their results in the reporting to the secretariat of the Bern Convention;

Restoration and grazing measures have been taken as planned. Mire restoration started on 15 hectares area and 12 hectares meadows was grazed by sheep.

3. The managing organisation, Metsähallitus, should enhance efforts to bring together communities of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer

and exchange; scientific research should continue in an active manner, and it should be more proactively promoted by Metsähallitus and regional and local management among Finnish and international researchers; report more extensively on the results of (inter)national co-operation and research in the annual reporting to the secretariat of the Bern Convention;

Interest among science and restoration actors has been extensive. One reason is the restoration setting from EU.

4. continue and deepen the co-operation with local stakeholders, such as local nature tourism entrepreneurs, municipal government authorities in the immediate surroundings and nature conservation and monitoring organisations;

- In the summer of 2025, Kovero Heritage Farm hosted a pop-up summer café for 12 days. The café, run by an entrepreneur, was very popular, so the activity is planned to continue.

5. improve structural monitoring efforts for all aspects of park management, such as on the state of and trends in biodiversity, tourism, management results, ecosystem health, effects of climate change, etc.; make use of the monitoring results in the management plan; improve communication to the public and to the secretariat of the Bern Convention on the integrated monitoring results and lessons learned from them;

Metsähallitus has not been able to focus on this because of the cuttings on finance made in 2023.

6. provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities, and structurally provide for the necessary personnel and infrastructure to guarantee high-quality nature management measures and tourism and educational activities;

- In 2025, the maintenance of hiking structures in Seitsemisen National Park began to be handled by a contracted maintenance entrepreneur. The change aims to achieve more cost-effective operations.

7. assess the pros and cons of combining the Seitsemisen and Helvetinjärvi national parks by connecting them via the State-owned forest area that lies between the national parks; depending on the outcomes of the assessment, take initial steps to realise the connection;

Metsähallitus has not been able to go on with this issue.

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

Actions were made in 2024.

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.

In recent years, the budget for Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland has been reduced. To achieve cost savings, we have focused on expenses related to property ownership. Consequently, we have sold some of our properties and are currently assessing the feasibility of discontinuing operations at the Seitsemien Nature Centre. In terms of customer service, we are investing in digital solutions and, among other initiatives, launched the new Luontoon mobile application this autumn.

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

No changes.