



Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenas Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (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 (9224/2024 Parks and Wildlifes registry reference number)

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: Ekenäs Archipelago National Park

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

Name: Ministry of Environment

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www: <https://www.metsa.fi/en/> <https://beta.luontoon.fi/fi/artikkelit/tammisaaren-saariston-kansallispuiston-saaret> <https://beta.luontoon.fi/en/destinations/ekenas-archipelago-national-park>

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. finalise the designation of the "Conservation Area of Segelskär", providing a sufficient legal framework to secure the ecological, cultural, recreational and landscape values that deserve recognition.

2025: As part of Metsähallitus' new ownership policy guidelines until 2027, the development of a network of marine protected areas was included. One year 2025 proposed extension in Hanko (is located near Segelskär, approximately only 8 kilometers away). The new protected area is situated southwest of Russarö Island. The area is well connected to other protected areas. It is situated next to a Natura 2000 area, close to an ecologically important sea area (EMMA area), near the national park, It represents a relatively well-preserved underwater nature, typical of the outer archipelago. Blue mussel (ecological key species, prey for many bird species) communities are found here. Approximately half of the newly protected area is also recognised as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Actual implementation (ie finalising the designation of Segelskär nature conservation area) of the recommendation/measure has not yet started.

2. consider adopting a common approach to monitor factors of "global change" and assess the specific impact of climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, land use and all human-caused factors which could modify and deteriorate the ecological conditions of species, habitats and ecosystem services.

2025: There is a need to improve the long-term monitoring of marine biodiversity of shallow photic communities, which especially are affected by climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, land use, human-caused factors etc. LIFE-IP Biodiversea project and its development work with marine environment monitoring was mentioned in the last year's diploma report. The development of suitable monitoring methods and the drafting of a national monitoring program proposal are still underway and will be completed by the end of the project in 2029. Monitoring methods are being developed for several marine species and habitats that also occur in the Ekenas Archipelago NP area.

In Finland, water and marine management in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive includes monitoring programs that are used to implement, among other things, the monitoring of rocky, mud, gravel, and sand bottoms in three-year monitoring cycles. Monitoring program provides data on the state of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea and on certain habitats. In 2025, monitoring of rocky bottoms was carried out in the vicinity of the Ekenas Archipelago NP area.

In the LIFE-IP Biodiversea project as a part of the restoration piloting work of marine habitats and key species, monitoring of certain coastal lagoons (stonewort meadows) and sandy bottoms (eelgrass meadows) was conducted to find out the state of the habitats and species. In addition, historical sites of the eelgrass meadows surveyed in and around the Ekenas Archipelago NP area, where the species is planned to be reintroduced if the conditions are favorable. Unfortunately, most of the potential sandy bottoms were covered with vast mats of drifting filamentous algae caused by eutrophication, so there were few suitable areas to be found.

3. enhance the monitoring and management of marine birds, namely the common eider (*Somateria mollissima*); explore ways to strengthen conservation measures to improve the breeding success of this species, in collaboration with local research facilities and organisations;

2025: No breeding bird surveys were not conducted in NP in year 2025. Resources were, however, guaranteed for year 2026, when the next breeding survey will be conducted.

Intensive eradication of alien predators (mink, raccoon dog) was continued in total of 56 islands as a part of the Biodiversea Life IP project. Overall, 11 minks and one raccoon dog were removed from the NP during the spring season 2025. Figures from the autumn season are not yet finalized, which is why they are not presented in this report. Alien predators were also removed from 135 islands and islets surrounding the NP (within the archipelagos of Tvärminne, Ekenäs and Nothamn). The aim of the eradication is to prevent predators from arriving to the NP from the surrounding areas.

Habitat restoration was conducted in the islands of Hamngadden and Fladalandet and the small islets outside Näseudden. The restoration actions included the removal of young trees and junipers from these areas to prevent overgrowth and to restore the natural conditions of these islands. Actions also enhance the living conditions for marine waterfowl and different endangered invertebrates.

The eider population in the Ekenäs archipelago NP is currently affected by alien predators but also the presence of the white-tailed eagle. Currently the most important measure to promote viable eider population is the eradication of the alien predators, which is currently done systematically.

No academic studies about the eider population were done particularly in the Ekenäs archipelago NP in year 2025. Continuous studies about the eider population are however conducted in Tvärminne Zoological Station, which is located west from the NP. Results from these studies are also applicable to the NP. Researchers also occasionally use the islets located south from Hästö-Busö, although no regular study areas were within NP in year 2025.

4. explore the feasibility of extending the European Diploma to the Segelskär area once its designation as a conservation area is completed;

2025: Designation as a conservation area is not yet completed and hence Implementation of this measure has not yet started.

5. assess and analyse the environmental impact of tourism and the presence of humans on the natural assets of the protected area, including disturbances to the bird nesting process and trampling of soil, vegetation and invertebrates, etc., in order to, if appropriate, adapt and improve the tourism strategy and awareness-raising activities;

2025: Actions to analyze the impacts of environmental recreation were started in one natural harbour (Trelänningen) inside the Ekenäs Archipelago NP area. The amount and impact of recreational boating pressure is being surveyed with game cameras and semi-automated device "Lutunen". The device is mounted with downscan and sidescan sonar and underwater camera to survey shallow water habitats. The aim is to determine whether boating pressure affects the eelgrass meadows found in the area and, if so, we will seek to find mitigation measures to protect the species.

6. pursue the efforts and improve the efficiency of methods for the eradication of invasive alien species, such as the racoon dog, mink and white-tailed deer; exclude the use of glyphosate for the eradication of *Rosa rugosa* and *Acer pseudoplatanus*, or reduce its use to a strict minimum, in places where there are no better alternatives, and use all precautionary measures possible to avoid damage to aquatic species and habitats;

Alien predators were effectively removed from large number of islands both within the Ekenäs archipelago NP and its surrounding areas. This work will continue in a comparable effort also in the following years as a part of the Biodiversity Life IP project. Results are described in detail in Recommendation 2.

One-day intensive hunt to remove white-tailed deer from Jussarö island was conducted in collaboration between Wildlife Service Finland (part of P&W Finland) in October 29<sup>th</sup>, when five white-tailed deer were hunted from the island. Hunting of white-tailed deer in Jussarö island is usually organized as an intensive hunt of 1-2 days to avoid unnecessary disturbance for the natural and recreational values of the island. The white-tailed deer population was regulated via hunting also in Älgö island, which is also part of the NP. Hunting was organized by the local hunting club which also participated to the hunt in Jussarö.

The removal of the alien species *Rosa rugosa* continued in 2025. In total 21 known locations of Rosa were checked, from which three were destroyed with glyphosate, three with excavation and one was left to wait for further actions (plants had no leaves and they were too big to remove via excavation). Other locations of the species had already disappeared, or they were already excavated in the previous year. Use of the glyphosate was limited to sites, in which the glyphosate was the only viable options to remove the plants. Use and distribution of the substance is targeted only to the target plants or individuals following the strict predetermined guidelines:

[https://www.metsa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Coastnet\\_Kurtturuusu\\_menetelmat\\_fin.pdf](https://www.metsa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Coastnet_Kurtturuusu_menetelmat_fin.pdf).

Grazing of traditional pastures on Näset, Rödjan and Jussarö continued as normal. The control of invasive species was limited to Sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) on island Jussarö (only 30-50 living coppice were found). A longterm insect study with light- and "bait-based" bucket traps continued.

7. make the monitoring results of marine ecosystems available to the public, develop scientific knowledge and promote measures to fight against the pollution in the Baltic Sea;  
2025: Pollution, including excessive land-based nutrients causing eutrophication, is the main problem deteriorating marine habitats in Finland. Marine environment monitoring activities, as described earlier in section 1, will also provide information over the years on the impact of eutrophication and human pressures on the state of the marine environment and its development. Monitoring helps to identify habitats and species whose status is less than good and to target restoration measures when implementing the Nature Restoration Regulation. Marine restorations, which are piloted also within the Ekenäs archipelago NP, will be monitored and the results published to improve the cost-effectiveness of the restorations. In addition, monitoring the outcomes of the restorations contributes

to bigger picture enabling all relevant actors to use the most feasible restoration methods to improve marine habitats and even on a national restoration plan scale.

During spring and autumn season 2025 in the LIFE-IP Biodiversea project, a total of 260 algae DNA samples were collected with the aim of increasing understanding of poorly known (data deficient, DD) algae species to obtain more comprehensive information for the assessment of threatened species in Finland (Red list for Finnish species) and when planning new protected areas. Some of the samples were collected in the vicinity of the Ekenäs archipelago NP area.

8. reinforce the staff of the warden corps and technicians to improve their ability to cope with the increasing challenges resulting from global change and rising tourism pressure; secure the financial resources to pursue the monitoring programs in the national park; 2025: The area's recreational services for visitors have been maintained at the same locations and at the same level as during the last report, despite reduced resources. On the island of Jussarö, there was an entrepreneur who offered services such as a sauna and café for visitors, while the other service locations, Rödjan, Modernagan, and Fladalandet, are unmanned and only provide limited services such as a fireplace, toilet, and tent site. The number of visits (50 300) decreased by 6,5 % compared with the previous year, most likely due to unfavorable weather at the beginning of the summer. A longterm insect study with ligh- and "bait-based" bucket traps continued on Jussarö and a longterm study on polypores (wood-decay fungi) on Älgö.

9. 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 in the visitors' centres and on the website.

2025: Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife webpages were renewed in the spring of 2025. On the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park page there is chapter about the importance of the diploma with a picture of the diploma logo in finnish, swedish and english. [Nature - Ekenäs Archipelago National Park - Luontoon.](#)

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.

2025: The requirements under the government's productivity program have further reduced the budget for Parks and Wildlife Finland. From 2026 onwards, the cuts under the productivity program will increase, and the overall impact of the changes will reduce funding by approximately €4.4 million from 2027 onwards. This will also affect the funding of the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park.

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.

2025: No changes in the boundaries.

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

Service owner Annukka Rasinmäki participated EDPA 60th celebration and managers roundtable in Granada in May. The Granada declaration was presented and discussed with Ministry of Environment, Finland.

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



