

**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 2020

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:
renewal year 2010-2011, 9-10 years

Central authority concerned:

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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.

1. within one year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan (master plan), which itself will include plans to enlarge the national park.

Management plan was accepted year 2012 and it included the plan to enlarge the national park. Metsähallitus also made year 2014 a report/appraisal on the needs of the existing marine national parks including Ekenäs archipelago national park. It included the same suggestion on enlargement but the inventory data and biological, especially marine values were explained more detailed. More precise landuse plan (zoning) concerning the eastern part of Jussarö island was completed year 2015 to define more precisely which parts should be added to national park, this work as official procedure has continued 2016-2019 with authorities and finalised and accepted year 2020.

In 2017, the Ministry of Environment started the enactment process of nature reserves in Uusimaa region. The national parks planned enlargement area, Segelskär (appr. 6200 ha to be established by a government statute) next to national park, was included in the process. This ensures the protection of this area before the enlargement of the national park itself. The enactment process is still ongoing but is in its final stage waiting for the approval of government.

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 efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan;
- Main goals and actions of the management plan can be seen as achieved and carried out despite the changes in finances and operational environment and the work still continues. Implementation has been described in annual reports in details. Substantial amount of work and new services has been done during the past 10 years. National park has had four Eu project (ERDF, CB360) for improving services, nature interpretation and nature management (total of 702 000eur). Inventories, producing cartographic models and method development of marine habitats has been carried during 20210-2020 with national and EU funding. External funding has also been obtained during 2010-2014 to promote local employment (Local centre for economic development, transport and environment and Ministry of Environment).

2. inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals;
No changes after 2016. The management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) has been replaced by formalised Natura 2000 Site condition assesment (NATA). The NATA of Ekenäs archipelago NATA was started 2020 and will be ready 2021.

3. continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to :
- the inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved; and
- the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species;

During the 12 years marine habitat inventory period approximately 80 % of the Park's water area has been mapped using grid-based inventory method, where drop-video survey points are 100 meters apart. Metsähallitus has shot altogether over 4000 drop-videos and carried out 92 dive transects at various sites of the Park. Other supplement underwater mapping methods have been bottom samples, side scan sonar, HD videos, hydroscope and throw rake for mapping underwater vegetation. Year 2020 was the first time a drone was used to map lagoons and Metsähallitus will continue to use modern techniques for the future marine habitat inventories. The large amount of underwater data has enabled modelling of underwater Natura 2000 habitat types in the Park area. With the help of the habitat models it is easier for example to target future underwater inventories to certain areas. Overall, it can be said that the water area of the Ekenäs National Park is one of the most densely mapped marine areas in the Finnish coastal area.

Continuous work on traditional pastures (existing, enlargement and new one) and controlling invasive plant species (for example *Rosa rugosa*) has been carried out as planned during the years. The continuous hunt for mink and raccoon dog to preserve birds has been made more efficient. The catch done by local association follows a pre-established and approved plan, and the results and observations are reported via a special system. The hunt of invasive species white tailed deer continues in the national park.

Raised national funding ("Helmi" -program of the Ministry of Environment) for restoration of nature enabled year 2020

- 1) removal of coppice from the open meadows on pastures of Jussarö & Näset
2. thinning the main canopy of the wooded pasture of Jussarö,
- 3) a new start for an expansion for the pasture of Rödjan (main canopy)
- 4) terminal control of the *Acer pseudoplatanus* and *Rosa rugosa* with glyphosate
- 5) clearing trees from the site of the *Salsola kali* (EN) in southern Jussarö
- 6) a new inventory of the *R. rugosa* on 55 islands yielded 3 new bushes to be controlled 2021 (last known one's of the NP), several sites with *Hylotelephium telephium* (*Parnassius* sp. larvae food and important for the habitat network) and removal of 6 m3 of plastic trash.
- 7) furthermore, planning of a significant increase of nature conservation actions for the year 2021 (*Parnassius apollo* & *P. mnemosyne* -network, control of the last *R. rugosa* & *A. pseudoplatanus*, restoration of coastal meadows (1630*) on Fladalandet & Äggolskär, continue the expansion of the Rödjan pasture, plastic removal from the shorelines etc.)

4. continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular:
 - improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure;
 - further develop customer service and interpretation; and
 - raise the public's awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park;

Metsähallitus was granted with partners funding from Interreg Central Baltic programme (2018-2020) to improve the facilities in Jussarö. Approximately 190 000 euros was invested to Jussarös service (piers, recreational infrastructure) and project ended 2020. Agreement made with Raasepori City about making a development plan of the Ekenäs visitor/nature centre with several partners was carried out 2020 and new nature centre and customer service model based on several actors will start 2021 depending on the end results and negotiations.

Field info-sheets about controlling of the *A. pseudoplatanus* were placed in the national park year 2020.

5. review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years; Totally complied. New regulations were given year 2013.

6. deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators. Complying as planned. Several events have been organized during years. Suomen saaristokuljetus (Jussarö entrepreneurs) operates chartered cruises and routed traffic, guide and café services as well as sauna rentals. Rödjan's entrepreneur Mikael Röberg provides rental accommodation, sauna and also sells smoked fish. In addition there is approximately 10 contract entrepreneurs offering mainly guiding services and boat transportations. Metsähallitus updated year 2020 nationally the terms of sustainable nature tourism cooperation agreements. All cooperation agreements will be renewed during 2021. New specialist in sustainable nature tourism was hired to Metsähallitus, Coastal and Metropolitan park area. The specialist will be contact person to nature tourism entrepreneurs, especially the big ones also in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park.

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.

New specialist in nature tourism was hired to Metsähallitus, Coastal and Metropolitan park area year 2020. The specialist will be contact person to nature tourism entrepreneurs, especially the big ones also in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park. "Helmi" -program of the Ministry of Environment for restoration of nature increased the funding for these purposes and started 2020.

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.

No any other specific information.

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: no changes
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes: see recommendation 2
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds: no changes 2020. In Ekenäs archipelago in long term perspective the population of common eider (*Somateria mollissima*), some seagulls (*Larus marinus* and *Larus argentatus*) and some geese (*Branta canadensis* and *Branta leopis*) have been shifting closer to mainland due to increased predatory effect of sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). The continuous hunt for mink and raccoon dog to preserve birds has continued actively in the national park throughout the years.

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage: no changes
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context: no changes

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)

Ekenäs Nature Centre was closed 2020 due to COVID 19. 31 groups visited Nature Centre and total number of visitors in the groups were 601.

The Ekenäs Nature center will be closed in its current form from beginning 2021, because of financial reasons (substantial rise in rent) and change in strategy of customer service. A new concept based on multiple actors (for example entrepreneur, Natur och Miljö and Metsähallitus) have been developed and it will possibly start year 2021 depending on the end result and negotiations.

Information of Tammisaari National Park is still available. In the future the customer service produced by Metsähallitus personnel will happen in a digital environment, on-site in the National Park.

Metsähallitus will possibly also buy customer services from the entrepreneur.

The operational model of the Tammisaari nature center will be renewed from the beginning of 2021, when the city of Tammisaari will lease the premises to an entrepreneur / community that provides nature-themed guidance, nature tourism services and café / sales activities at the site. Metsähallitus' goal is to co-operate with new operators in order to supply free multi-channel customer advice/service regarding recreational information in the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park and other nature sites in the Raasepori region, and, if possible, to develop nature exhibitions and cooperation in nature education.

Number of visits to National Park year 2020 raised significantly being approximately 61 000 visits (51 800 visits year 2019), of which Rödjan was 8 500 and Jussarö 11 000. The increase was due to not only the Covid -19 situation but also the interest towards the new dock and other enhanced services.

- 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.): No special visits during 2020
- 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.)

Marine bottom habitat inventories with scuba diving technique continued in 2020. The inventories were carried out by a company specialised on marine inventories and according to plans, instructions and guidance of Metsähallitus. All data is saved into Metsähallitus gis data base.

Inventories concentrated on reefs, shores and lagoons in order to increase the information about the underwater biodiversity of the Park. A total of 14 reefs, 9 shore areas and 10 lagoons were observed and altogether 63 dive transects were carried out. Some of the target habitats required several dives in order to cover the whole area and produce high quality data. In addition, most of the lagoons were photographed from the air by drones. Also, a small-scale pilot restoration project was conducted in the Park through experimental eelgrass transplantation.

In 2017 Metsähallitus monitored breeding bird populations in inner and middle Tammissaari archipelago and in the planned enlargement area in outer archipelago concentrating on waterfowl, gulls, terns and shorebirds. In 2020 BirdLife Finland organized breeding bird monitoring of outer archipelago and Metsähallitus participated also. All the data is saved in national archipelago bird monitoring database maintained by Metsähallitus.

- 8.2.2. Scientific publications: No scientific publications during year 2020

9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations: No changes
 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.): No changes
 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve): No changes

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

During the years active work and voluntary work has been carried out to remove the invasive species from the National Park - both flora and fauna and to maintain diversity of traditional pastures. Year 2020 no voluntary camps were carried out due to COVID-19 but mink ja raccoon

10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime): no changes

10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

On the island of Jussarö, the guest jetty has been enlarged from 27 to 49 places and two dry new toilets have been built ("Sustainable Gateways Small ports, sustainable gateways to coastal national parks CB630" -project). At the information cottage Rödjan, the guest jetty from 1992 has been completely renovated and a complementary guest jetty with 8 places has been installed.

10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities): no changes

10.1.5. Waste management: no changes, two new dry toilets have been built 2020

10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems: no changes

10.2. Management

10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

New office space for Metsähallitus personnel was hired in Ekenäs and the personnel moved there away from nature centre in December 2020.

10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made: no changes

10.2.3. Internal policing measures: no changes

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action: only minor infringement of regulations were discovered and no legal actions were taken.

11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

The diploma also has guided the work carried out in National Park and been an advantage when applying for project funding. Annual reporting has been a good tool see and evaluate the achievements, ongoing projects and work.