

**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 2021**

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 2021, 1 year

**Central authority concerned:**

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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.

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.

Situation: 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 land use 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 planned enlargement area of the National Park, Segelskär (appr. 6200 ha to be established by a government statute) next to national park, was included in the process. The enactment process of the areas on land were finalized in May 2021. Marine areas including Segelskär were however left for further preparation and they are still waiting for the approval.

**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;

Implementation of the management is described in the following sections.

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;

The management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) has been replaced by formalised Natura 2000 Site condition assessment (NATA). Ekenäs archipelago NATA was initiated in year 2020 and baseline information was collected about 1) the current state of the Natura habitats and species with high-conservation value, 2) current state of human activities, 2) natural and anthropogenic threats, and 3) the actions required to safeguard natural and recreational values. NATA is made for the whole Natura 2000 area (FI0100005, SAC/SPA) which covers Ekenäs archipelago National Park, adjacent archipelagos of Ekenäs and Hanko, and Pojo Bay. NATA will be finalized in early 2022 after a review in the regional environmental authority (ELY Centre of Uusimaa region).

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;

There were no systematic marine habitat inventories in the National Park in year 2021. New macrophyte monitoring program was however launched in the Gulf of Finland. According to the EU Habitats, the Water Framework and the Marine Strategy Framework Directives, member states are required to monitor and evaluate changes in quality and distribution of marine habitats to protect the marine. Metsähallitus is responsible for monitoring sand, gravel and mud habitats on every third year. The quality of submerged aquatic vegetation is monitored particularly on the mud habitat sites, since it is one of the key indicators of the ecological status of coastal ecosystems in the Baltic Sea. Two of the mud monitoring sites (Potten and Skedöfladan) are situated in the inner archipelago of the Ekenäs National Park. The monitoring will give important data of the state and long-term changes of the marine environment of the National Park.

The Klovaskär lagoon was inventoried in detail as part of the *Chara horrida* (EN) inventories of the western Gulf of Finland. *C. horrida* was not found from the lagoon, but the inventory revealed the presence of near threatened *Ruppia maritima*. The lagoon is situated in the outer archipelago of the Park facing southward and drifted plastic litter had gathered to the lagoon. Future measures could include the cleaning of these valuable habitats.

In year 2020, a small-scale pilot restoration project was conducted in the National Park through experimental eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) transplantation. Transplantations were further monitored by diving in May and September 2021. The pilot taught a lot about the planting techniques and the environmental factors required by eelgrass, such as optimal planting depth and sediment type. Monitoring revealed new eelgrass shoots from several planting squares. Due to the success of the pilot restoration project, eelgrass was transplanted in new areas outside of the National Park.

Grazing of traditional pastures continued in Näset (15.4 ha) and Rödjan (1 ha) and restarted on Jussarö (5.2 ha) after 3 years pause. New pasture enlargement (ca. 2.5 ha) has been completed in Rödjan and will be grazed from 2022. Young saplings and coppice were cleared from certain parts of these pastures and Jussarö pasture was also mowed in July to reduce the amount of non-palatable hay (*Calamagrostis epigejos*, *Juncus filiformis* etc.).

Invasive plant species (*Rosa rugosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*) were controlled and the remains were glyphosated. The continuous hunt for mink and raccoon dog to protect marine birds was done. Enhanced hunt of the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) continued resulting almost all individuals eradicated from Jussarö and significant decrease in the number of individuals (more than 50 %) in Älgö. The catch done by local hunting association follows a pre-established and approved plan.

Raised national funding via the Helmi-program (funded by the Finnish Ministry of Environment) for restoration of nature also enabled in year 2021:

- 1) restoration of forest areas on western Älgö (approx. 47 ha) by increased amount of dead wood
- 2) opening space for oaks (*Quercus robur*) in NE Älgö (0.6 ha)
- 3) thinning part of the understory canopy of the wooded pasture of Rödjan (the new area) (0.25 ha)
- 4) terminal control of the remaining *Acer pseudoplatanus* and *Rosa rugosa* with glyphosate
- 5) clearing saplings and coppice from the site of the *Salsola kali* (EN) in southern Jussarö (0.5 ha)
- 6) restoration of *Parnassius apollo* habitat network started with clearing young trees on coastal meadows on Näseöarna (0.2 ha) and on western Fladalandet (0.2 ha)
- 7) clearing of young trees from existing or potentially important bird colony islands Tiströnharuna (3.3 ha)

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;

Number of visits to National Park year 2021 was approximately 64 000 visits, of which Rödjan was 9 700 and Jussarö 11 400. Several measures were taken to improve visitor safety in the National Park. For example, was 240 meters of new safety fences built on Jussarö. Several buildings were renovated, for example roof and floor of Jussarö café building and cooking shed roof in Rödjan. Two fireplaces were renewed, one on Älgö and one on Jussarö. One new additional fireplace was built on Jussarö. In Jussarö, development of new activities for children was also started including a playship and the activity trail based on traditional marine beacons. These activities will be in full use in summer 2022.

Metsähallitus conducted a visitor survey to collect data about the visitor profile and their preferences in the National Park. Data was collected from four primary visitor sites. Results will be published in spring 2022 and they will further be used to develop activities and services of the National Park

5. review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years;

Totally complied. Regulations given in year 2013.

6. deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators.

A new entrepreneur started in Jussarö in May 2021. Due to warm spring and corona the boating season began early. The entrepreneur had challenges to hire summer workers but he was able start services one by one. Port services were the first to open, and after that sauna and accommodation. Because of the small size of the kitchen and cold storage in the island, he/she was able to serve mainly salmon soup, the dish that suits well with the archipelago ambiance. The entrepreneur plans to expand the kitchen facilities in the coming summer so that he can offer a larger variety of dishes and extend the opening hours. All in all, the summer went well with lots of boaters and taxiboat customers going about.

Rödjan's entrepreneur Mikael Roberg provides rental accommodation and sells smoked fish. In addition there are about 20 contract entrepreneurs mainly offering guiding services and boat transportations.

Metsähallitus is currently renewing its cooperation agreement system and the agreements will be updated during 2022.

**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. Funding from the Helmi-program however brought additional resources to Ekenäs National Park and Metsähallitus was able to start or to continue many important habitat restorations

**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.

The logo is in the information boards at the national park and in the National Park brochure. The logo is also on National park webpages (Finnish, Swedish and English pages).

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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: No scientific publications during year 2021

**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). No changes.

- 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.). No changes.
- 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities). No changes.
- 10.1.5. Waste management. No changes.
- 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems. No changes.

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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