

**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: 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 (Diploma extended until 2024 due to COVID), 2 year

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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 accomplished year 2015 to define which parts should be added to national park, this work as official procedure has continued 2016-2019 with authorities and finalized 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 assessment which covers the entire Natura 2000 area (Ekenäs and Hangö Archipelago and Pojo Bay, FI0100005) was finalized and accepted in March 2022.

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;

#### **The inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved**

There were no systematic marine habitat inventories in the National Park in year 2022. A small-scale pilot restoration project through experimental eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) transplantation was done in areas of Fladalandet and Trelänningen in year 2020. Monitoring of the transplanted eelgrass shoots was continued in year 2022. In October 2022, two out of three transplantation squares in Fladalandet were in excellent condition: the number of eelgrass shoots had increased at least tenfold. In Trelänningen, one transplantation square thrived and had spread. The other two were also in good condition. They were, however, partly covered by drifting algae. The pilot restoration has played an important role and the lessons learned have been applied also outside the national park. The current focus is on the development of monitoring methods that include remote sensing and photogrammetry in addition to the traditional diving and shoot counts.

The Ekenäs National Park was used as a pilot area in an assessment method created in a project called "Assessment of the effectivity of Finland's marine nature conservation areas". The method evaluated the management effectiveness of a marine protected area, and it was demonstrated in Ekenäs and Hangö Archipelago and Pojo Bay Natura 2000 area (FI0100005). The ranking is based on the natural values to be protected, pressures and threats to these values, and whether the pressures can be reduced, or the condition of the values can be improved through site-specific protection. The three categories were:

1. *Measures not possible*; habitats are subject to human pressures that have a negative impact on their natural values and that cannot be addressed by measures within the protected area.
2. *Need for measures not recognized*; habitats and their natural values are not subjected to significant known threats.
3. *Need for measures recognized*; habitats subjected to threats that can be mitigated through management, restrictions or restoration of species and habitats.

All Natura 2000 habitats inside the Natura area were evaluated to the three categories. There were also 29 lagoons inside the park area, which were evaluated on a site-by-site basis by aerial photo review. For most lagoons, there was no need for further measures due to their natural state. Two sites needed more data on underwater values to evaluate the need for measures.

In addition to the categorization of Natura 2000 habitats, the effectiveness of the Ekenäs National Park was assessed separately based on its other natural values. According to the assessment, 92 % of the park area was categorized as "need for measures not recognized". 4 % of the area was categorized as "measures not possible" due to e.g., marinas or boat lanes. 4 % of the park area was categorized as "need for measures recognized". However, most of these were in need for underwater data to be able to recognize the necessary measures. Other recognized measures were in the catchment area and possible pilot measures, such as species transplantations.

### Restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species

Habitat restoration and management was continued in the National Park in year 2022. Main activities were as follows:

- An enlargement of the pasture of Rödjan in the southern part of the island Älgö was completed. The size of the pasture increased from 1 ha to approx. 3,5 ha.
- an invasive species *Acer pseudoplatanus* was re-treated with glyphosate in Jussarö island. The number of seedlings has decreased from 2021 (the year when glyphosate treatment started) with some 98 %. Also, most piles of trees that were felled in 2021 from an important site of *Salsola kali* were burned.
- Old sites of invasive species *Rosa rugosa* were checked and only three were still having some stems.
- On island Äggolskär, young trees and junipers were removed and burned as an epilitoral-meadow was restored. On Näseörarna, young sapplings of *Alnus glutinosa* were re-cleared to keep a coastal meadow restored.
- On the island of Älgö, some 4 ha of forests were restored, and three old meadows were cleared from spruce seedlings and other young trees.

On the pasture of Näset, the grazing period was ended in late-July (earlier than planned) after lynx (*Lynx lynx*) killed 3 sheeps. In future, the Näset might need either other type of cattle or predator-proof fences. Lynx is however a good climber and hence very difficult to keep outside the pasture.

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 in year 2022 remained stable compared to previous years. Approximately 65 700 visits were made to the National Park, from which the proportion of Rödjan was 9 900 and Jussarö 11 800, respectively. New activities to the families with children were developed to Jussarö, in which Metsähallitus built a wooden fishing boat next to the cafeteria. The purpose of the fishing boat is to teach children about the safe sailing, sea marking and the traditional fishing and island culture. You can however also play in the boat.

Rödjan served as a site where you could still get to know the history of the fishing farm. The site has a two-kilometer nature trail, observation tower, fireplace, dog park and sheep pasture. The wooden animals (sheep, chicken and pig) built for the children describe the domestic animals, which were often kept in the traditional island houses and farms.

The signs for the nature trails have been updated at the end of year 2022. New ones will be installed to the National park in spring 2023.

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.

Complying as planned. Several collaborative events between Metsähallitus and local stakeholders have been organized during the year. Entrepreneur in Jussarö island expanded his activities with three new accommodation trailers. The entrepreneur also acquired a new connection boat between Tammissaari and Jussarö. An easy access to Jussarö was thus offered to the visitors who don't have their own boat.

The cafeteria kitchen was also expanded in collaboration between the entrepreneur and Metsähallitus. After expansion, wider variety of dishes could be served for the island visitors.

**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 brought resources to Ekenäs National Park and Metsähallitus was able to continue many important habitat restorations.

New Biodiversea LIFE IP project was launched in Finland at the end of 2021. The aim of the project is to enhance the protection of marine nature and promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the marine and coastal areas of Finland. Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland is the project coordinator. Among other objectives, the project will create a national restoration plan covering the entire Finnish coastline.

**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 of the European Diploma is presented in the information boards at the national park and in the National Park brochure. The logo is also presented in the webpage of the National Park.

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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

**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 Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas**