

**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: Republic of Belarus

Name of the area: Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:  
2018, 2 years

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: Belovezhskaya Pushcha National park  
Address: 225063, Brest region, Kamenets distr., Kameniki  
Tel: +375 16 31 56396  
Fax: +375 16 31 56656  
e-mail: npbpb@mail.ru  
www: npbp.by

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Presidential Affairs Management Department of the Republic of Belarus  
Address: 220016, K.Marx str., 38, Minsk, Republic of Belarus  
Tel: +375 17 2226154  
Fax: +375 17 2223556  
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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. by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should meet international standards and take into consideration the recommendations attached to the renewal of the European Diploma; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;

*During year 2021 the new Management plan of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park for the period of 2022-2031 was elaborated by Institute of Experimental Botany of National Academy of Sciences in coordination with National Park. Financial support was provided by Frankfurt Zoological Society. Actually the new Management Plan project is under the public consultation procedure. After the completion of this procedure corrected Management plan will provided to Bern convention Secretariat.*

**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. maintain a high level of human capacities and a skilled and professional staff;

*No changes*

2. increase and secure the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park budget with State resources, so as to be able to continue to manage the diploma-holding area in an exemplary way, as required by the European Diploma regulation;

*The amount of budget funding for the activities of the national park in 2021 remained at the level of the previous year.*

3. expand the strict protected zone of the diploma-holding area to the historic Bialowieza forest limits and manage this zone in order to preserve and enhance the ecological and biological natural processes which are key assets of the European interest of the diploma-holding area;

*The feasibility of further changes in territorial protection is reflected in the draft new Management Plan. A new Regulation on the National Park has been developed, in which it is planned to reduce the area of the economic zone by 2.5 thousand hectares with the transfer of land to other functional zones.*

4. totally protect the old-growth tree communities and restore and enhance old natural forest all over the historical Bialowieza forest;

*Currently, according to the current legislation, 90% of the high-growth forests of the national park are managed without cutting. The possibility of additional restriction of economic activity in old-aged natural forests will be considered in process of preparing a new Management Plan.*

*Currently, according to the current environmental legislation, 90% of the old-growth forests of the national park are managed without felling. The need to ban certain types of felling in old-growth natural forests on the territory of the World Heritage Site is reflected in the draft new Management Plan.*

5. pursue the efforts to preserve the ecological character of wetlands and to implement an integrated management of water resources;

*This recommendation is successfully Implemented. During 2015-2020 restoration activities implemented at 6 sites. Two more sites are in progress – “Zarkauscina forest drainage network” and “Renaturalization of Narauka river”. New strategic plan on disturbed wetland restoration in Belovezhskaja pushcha National park for the period until 2030 is developed in 2021 with cooperation of National Academy of Sciences and national park specialists and integrated into the new Management plan.*

*This work was commended by UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session at Baku (30 June – 10 July 2019) (Decision 43 COM 7B.14): “Taking note of the conclusions of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, commends the State Party of Belarus for successfully focusing the management of its part of the property on maintaining natural ecological processes, and on the restoration of wetlands, including Ramsar-designated areas”/*

*In 2021, restoration work at the Zharkovshchina Canal Network on an area of 1200 hectares was successfully finishes. Also the project documentation for the renaturalization of the Narewka River natural riverbed is developed.*

6. pursue the efforts to reduce the red deer population (*Cervus elaphus*) and to remove all winter feeding places from the diploma-holding area (core and buffer zones);

*When drawing up a new management plan, the territorial distribution of winter feeding sites will be analyzed and measures for its further reduction will be proposed.*

*In developing the new Management Plan, It's conducted the spatial analysis of winter feeding sites distribution and measures to its further reduce were proposed.*

7. assess the state of conservation of the elk (*Alces alces*) and design a hunting regime accordingly;

*New propositions of additional protection of elk population will be implemented in the new Management plan and the National Park Regulation.*

*The elk population is in stable condition, the amount of mammals increased from 170 to 300 during last 5-year period.*

8. pursue the efforts to prevent or fight against the spread of invasive alien species in the diploma-holding area, and especially to eliminate *Quercus rubra*, *Solidago Canadensis* and exotic fish;

*Monitoring of the distribution of the most dangerous invasive alien species (*Quercus rubra*, *Heracleum sosnowskyi*, *Solidago canadensis*) has been organized. In 2021 Measures have been taken to eliminate of the *Solidago canadensis* on the area 280 ha - first of all, manual and mechanical mowing, as well as disking of soil on former agricultural land.*

9. create an overall database including performance indicators, covering both natural resources and socio-economic uses and activities in order to ensure the continuous monitoring of the European significance of the diploma-holding area;

*No changes.*

10. adopt a clear and sustainable tourism strategy and engage a more active sustainable development policy together with local stakeholders, and if possible with the authorities of Poland, promoting and supporting extensive farming, manufacture and marketing of green products and services, and the preservation and renovation of cultural heritage; include in the forthcoming management plan a specific programme of activities aiming to preserve or restore local cultural heritage, including architecture, local breeds, traditional uses and activities, as well as all other cultural assets of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park and its buffer zone, so as to strengthen sustainable development in the diploma-holding area;

*Recommendation is particularly implemented in new Management Plan.*

11. ban hunting in the whole Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park territory and minimise hunting pressure in its buffer zone; with reference to the moratorium on wolf hunting established in 2015, and as foreseen in the current management plan, forbid wolf hunting by law on the territory of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, as well as in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;

*The practice of hunting management in the Belarusian part of the World Heritage Property will be reviewed, which will be reflected in the new Management Plan.*

12. develop a long-term vision for the European bison population and strengthen scientific and technical co-operation with the authorities of Poland in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;

*A long-term vision of transboundary management of bison populations will be developed after the results of studies to determine the genetic status of both subpopulations in collaboration with polish colleagues.*

13. consult with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Large Herbivores Commission in order to assess whether the European bison in the diploma-holding area require specific conservation measures.

Not carried out

- 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.

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