

**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*

Annual report for the year 2023

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: Czech Republic

Name of the area: **Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. Protected Landscape Area (PLA)**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: award 2000 (23 years), renewal 2020 (3 years)

Central authority concerned:

Name: Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny České republiky/Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA CR)

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Authority responsible for its management:

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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.

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. ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area's staff, including administration, research, surveillance and habitat management;
2. take strong measures to control non-native species in the national nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas. Continue the necessary negotiations with relevant stakeholders aiming at controlling non-native big game populations in the protected landscape area; ensure that the monitoring of the population of fallow deer in the Radejov hunting reserve is continued and regularly validated by Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area staff;
3. continue to implement nature-based solutions and management in the face of climate change, ensuring the continuation of the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of native hardwood forests;
4. evaluate the need, and take the necessary actions, for having a stronger presence of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area during the preparation or review of the urban plans of the major urban areas within or bordering the protected landscape area. Additionally, identify any areas where urban development may become a risk in the near future and evaluate the necessity of drafting an urban plan for these areas (if one does not exist);
5. include the European Diploma logo and information about the European Diploma in all promotion materials produced in the future as well as in any new signposts installed in the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. The website of the protected landscape area should also include the logo of the European Diploma with a link to the website of the Council of Europe.

- 1. Despite deflation (combination of high inflation and decline in economy/HDP) suffering the country throughout the year the budget for the Protected Landscape Area (PLA) Administration has been stable. In 2023, operational budget reached CZK 1,250,000.00 (EUR 51,000.00) while for field nature conservation and landscape management measures CZK 12,154,000.00 were available (EUR 495,000.00). Within the PLA Administration, there currently are 24 staff members located at three workplaces (Luhačovice, Zlín and Veselí nad Moravou): at Brumov-Bylnice, the PLA runs a contact point open during office hours. In 2023, the Administration consists of the four departments: (i) Department of Operations; (ii) Department of Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection; (iii) Department of Nature and Landscape Management; and (iv) Department of Biodiversity Monitoring.**
- 2. In the Radejov hunting preserve/game park (1,600 hectares) owned by a private person the browsing and overgrazing impact of big game, particularly by the overpopulated non-native fallow deer (*Dama dama*) on vegetation, especially on forest natural regeneration has been significant. In addition, pursuant to the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Czech Republic from 2018, the owner had to make the hunting preserve open to the public although the area had been fenced. Therefore, the fine of CZK 800,000.00 (EUR 33,000.00) was imposed to the owner: he**

appealed to a higher court which upheld the fine in 2023. The fine has been in full paid.

Moreover, in 2023 the regular monitoring carried out, *inter alia*, according to the approved Kútky Nature Reserve Management Plan again revealed damage to vegetation including successional forest growths. Therefore, the PLA Administration consequently commenced administrative offence procedures against the owner for breaking Act No. 114/1992 Gazette on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, as amended later.

3. **The Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA has become famous due to its extremely species-rich meadows with one of the highest terrestrial species richness at small scale worldwide (up to 70 vascular plant species per m²). At the same time, almost 50% of its territory has been still covered by forests. Whereas higher elevations were not colonised earlier than the Middle Ages there, first settling activities along the rivers of the area go back to the later Stone Age. Because demand for wood and economic profitability in the past, the Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) is the second most frequent woody species there, while the European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) has been the most common: the pattern does not copy the situation in the Czech Republic as a whole where the Norway spruce is the most common forest woody plant species.**

Thus, current forest management prefers natural regeneration of broadleaved deciduous trees. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, overpopulated hoofed game poses, similarly to other parts of the country, a serious problem there. The highly possible risk to the PLA's coniferous, mostly Norway spruce growths, also is the European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typhographus*) plague, seriously negatively affecting forest ecosystems in many parts of the Czech Republic from lowlands to mountains, resulting in their large-scale and rapid destruction and even collapses. Therefore, special attention to reducing the proportion of the Norway spruce and to increase the share of broad-leaved deciduous trees as nature-based solution related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, has been paid by the PLA Administration. The efforts to maintain natural and close-to-nature forest growths and to change others to be more natural and thus more resistant and resilient are financed both from the State Budget and the EU funds. The measures in the field follow the new comprehensive Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. Protected Landscape Area Management Plan for 2022 – 2032 approved in June 2022 taking into account, *inter alia*, recommendations for the PLA as a European Diploma holder. The management also uses the scenario analysis of changes in vegetation zones in the Czech Republic developed by the Mendel University in Brno.

Mainly small owners (private persons, municipalities) efforts are also financially supported by the PLA Administration. In addition, funds from landscape management subvention programmes/subsidiary schemes are also regularly used for planting greenery in the open landscape outside forest and restoring pools and other wetlands helping to maintain water in the landscape and to provide wild plant and animal species and their communities with preferred/optimal habitats.

4. **The proportion of the land owned by private persons is quite high in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. comparing to other PLAs or National Parks in the**

Czech Republic. In 2023, the PLA Administration actively participated in the appropriate negotiations related to 13 municipal land-use/territorial plans, their updating respectively, aiming at maintaining the unique landscape scenery/character including the typical spatial human settlement structure, particularly folk architecture. The LIFE project implemented in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. in 2017 – 2022 aimed, *inter alia*, at effective communication with land-owners as the key stakeholders there.

5. **The fact that the PLA has been a holder of a prestige pan-European award is regularly mentioned in publications issued by the PLA Administration. The NCA CR's web pages as well as those of the PLA provide the appropriate information on the European Diploma in Czech (<https://nature.cz/clenstvi-v-mezinarodnich-organizacich>, <https://www.dumprirody.cz/en/information-centre-of-the-bile-karpaty-pla/en/chko-bile-karpaty/>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fBAAtA0jf1E>), English pages have been under construction. Some municipalities within the PLA (<https://www.obecbrezova.cz/obec/informace-o-obci/chko-bile-karpaty/chko-bile-karpaty-340cs.html>., <http://www.mesto-slavicin.cz/redakce/tisk.php?lanG=cs&slozka=23709&xsekce=23710&clanek=24430&>) as well as Lesy ČR/Forest of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise (<https://lesy.cz/pece-o-les/ochrana-prirody-u-lcr/>) also highlight that the PLA is the European Diploma holder.**

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.

none

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.

In 2023, the PLA Administration has continued the procedure to review the current PLA boundaries to include also some valuable habitats in the PLA's vicinity, to enhance the PLA's zonation and to more effectively protect and conserve the PLA's most valuable parts.

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.

In May 2023 experts from Slovakia, Poland, Austria and the Czech Republic met in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. to present lessons and best practices from reintroduction of the Apollo butterfly (*Parnassius apollo*). Within the Apollo2020 project launched in 2020, suitable habitats have been managed before releasing the remarkable butterflies into the wild

and breeding facility has been running there to produce individuals for that measure combining *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation.

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