

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1
on the revised regulations for the Euroean 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 2024

State: Czech Republic

Name of the area: Karlštejn National Nature Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2024, 4 years since renewal (2020)

Central authority concerned:

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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.

N/A

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. continue the restoration of non-forested areas of forest steppes and xerophilous calcareous grasslands through appropriate management; and make funding available to continue contractual agreements with goatherds and/or shepherds in order to guarantee grazing, and thereby maintenance, in the long term;

Goat and sheep grazing management, shrub and tree removal on dry calcareous grasslands and forest steppe localities continued on similar area compared to previous years (conservation grazing on 46 hectares, shrub removal on 4 hectares, 8.5 hectare of mowing funded from agri-environmental schemes). In addition, grazing funded from agri-environmental schemes has continued on 12 hectares. The obstacle for long term contracts is that financial funding is always announced only for the current year.

2. continue the restoration of the deciduous broad-leaved forests by gradually reducing conifer presence in the reserve; and monitor the results of these interventions as well as the occurrence of pest species in the area;

Removal of non-native conifer tree species (mostly black pine and European larch) on several hectares and their exchange for broad-leaved species (beech, oak, and lime) has continued. Natural regeneration of broad-leaved species prevailed over artificial planting. Due to vast bark beetle outbreak since 2015 Norway spruce has been almost completely eliminated. The most important pest in forest, *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, the causal agent of European ash dieback seems to be over the culmination point and European ash has started to appear in natural regeneration. However, the percentage of mature ash trees has been significantly reduced in the last 20 years.

3. continue to implement nature-based solutions and management in the face of climate change, ensuring, *inter alia* the recovery of native tree species in the forested areas, the installation and adequate management of permanent grasslands or the restoration of the natural floodplains within the reserve;

As stated above, several hectares of non-native conifer tree species stands, suffering from drought and increased temperature, has been replaced by native broad-leaved species. Most of native tree species recovery comes from natural regeneration. Analogously as stated above, permanent grassland has been managed in almost traditional manner.

4. ensure that human pressure and related constructions remains compatible with the natural values and conservation objectives of the national nature reserve;

In 2024 no construction activity took place inside the reserve; only several objects of important utility lines inside the buffer zone of the reserve have been repaired (roads, electricity pylons). The impact of these constructions was strictly local and no natural values or conservation objectives have been affected.

5. evaluate the need to review the land-use plans of all municipalities and explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation and stimulate the establishment of regular consultation procedures with relevant local and regional authorities, scientists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs);

At present, no review of the land-use plans is needed. The cooperation with big stakeholders and scientific institutions has continued, mainly on enlarging and monitoring of conservation management, such as experimental coppicing. The main partner institutions are Lesy ČR („Forests of the Czech Republic“), Charles University in Prague, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and University of Hradec Králové in East Bohemia.

6. stimulate the development of high-quality visitors' centres and organise environmental education programmes for the wider public; and encourage local authorities to disseminate information on the merits of the national nature reserve and its position in Europe in appropriate places (such as railway stations, camping sites, municipal halls, museums, etc.);

The visitor centre for Bohemian Karst and Koněprusy Caves opened in April of 2024. The delay was caused by economic inflation and shortage of working labor in construction industry due to the war in Ukraine. During the year, several educational excursions for the public were organized by the Administration staff.

7. ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the reserve's staff, including administration, research, surveillance, education and training, as well as habitat management;

In 2024, the budget of the Administration, including the budget for active management of target species and habitats, was provided in a regular extent in accordance to needs and capabilities of the office. Several LIFE projects started in 2024, one aiming at action plans for the most important species, the other one focusing on invasive species. All the new LIFE projects cover the area of the Karlštejn Reserve.

8. improve signposting, notably by including information in English or German, and by displaying the European Diploma logo on the signs.

No new panels have been installed in 2024.

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.

Site management has not changed.

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.

A legal revision of boundaries of Karlštejn National Nature Reserve took place in 2024 in order to comply with plot boundaries in the land register. Resulting minor changes have no effect on nature conservation.

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.