

**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*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year

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: Podyjí National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2020, 5

Central authority concerned:

Name: *Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic*

Address: *Vrsovicke 1442/65, 100 10 Praha 10*

Tel: *+420 267 121 111*

Fax: *+420 267 310 308*

e-mail: info@mzp.cz

www: www.mzp.cz

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: *Podyji National Park Administration*

Address: *Na Vyhlidce 5, 669 01 Znojmo*

Tel: *+420 515 282 241*

Fax: *+420 515 282 241*

e-mail: info@nppodyji.cz

www: www.nppodyji.cz

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. *pursue the collaboration with the operator of the hydroelectric power station at Vranov to manage a nature-friendly flow regime and guarantee a minimum residual flow rate;*

There have been no changes. The minimum residual flow is set out in the water management permit. Other rules are in a declaration signed by the NP Administration and the operator. The operator still respects all rules.

2. *by 2022, adopt and begin the implementation of the management plan for the period 2020-2029. Prepare this management plan in a participatory manner, taking into account particularly: visitor management in light of the new allocation of quiet zones, the development of leisure activities on the Dyje river, the agreement on water use, the harmonisation of fishing regulations, population control of ungulates in the buffer zone and specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term conservation of threatened and rare species;*

All field and surveillance activities continue to be directed toward implementing the management plan. Both objectives of nature conservation are respected in the management of biotopes:

- 1. increasing the naturalness of habitats in the natural zone – the new Forest Management Plan (FMP) approved in April 2025 respects the strategies set out in the management plan, particularly the target representation of non-managed zones of 75% of the area. The evaluation of the previous FMP shows a twofold increase in the stock of dead wood left in stands over the last 10 years, the new FMP intends to continue this trend.

- 2. to support biodiversity dependent on human care in semi-natural zones – in the new FMP, new areas for the restoration of coppice forests as a habitat, which is a biodiversity hotspot in the Podyjí region, are defined within the area for permanent care (25% of the NP area). In May, a new pasture for Exmoor ponies was opened on 100 ha of former pastures, which is a refuge for rare species of steppe grasslands. At the end of winter, the first controlled burning of steppe grasslands to support biodiversity was successfully carried out.

Several dozen specimens of the most endangered plant species were planted in the cooperating botanical garden (The Prague Botanical Garden) and are being prepared for planting back in suitable locations in the NP.

We welcome the spontaneous arrival of the golden jackal into the area, even if it will mean demanding educational work with farmers (livestock breeders) and their direct support (subsidies, compensation for damage). The quiet zone is guarded by rangers, and we also use camera traps with online reporting and subsequent intervention by a ranger to check places of frequent illegal entry.

Long-term monitoring of visitor numbers (www.mereninavstevnosti.cz) indicates a steady increase in the number of tourists, but not yet above the tolerable limit. In the vicinity of places with a large concentration of visitors (parking areas), undesirable eutrophication of biotopes occurs due to excrement. Therefore, composting public toilets were opened for visitors in the largest parking area. This is an ecological solution that does not consume water and does not require a connection to the sewerage system. Waste needs to be taken away only 1-2 times a year. The toilets are equipped with an information panel and a source for recharging batteries, e.g., electric bicycles.

To address climate change, we continue to care for woody elements in the landscape (2 new sets of traditional local varieties of fruit trees were planted on a total of approximately 5 ha) and wetlands (the new wetland with a small periodic pool was established on approximately 0.5 ha).

3. *continue and further develop the established good relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park, in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan;*

We have again supported several municipalities and local stakeholders in care of alleys, fruit plantations, and trails with expert consultations and subsidies. We are pleased with the growing interest of citizens in the harmony and resilience of the landscape in which they live.

In response to the increasing number of records of the presence of wolf individuals in the region, we organized two seminars for mayors and farmers about coexistence with this predator and the possibilities of support we can provide them.

4. *in the management plan, give special emphasis to the issue of extending vineyards on valuable dry grasslands; and promote traditional, small-scale vineries within the national park;*
 These landscape structures are still under protection. We continue to take care of 10 newly grassed or forested areas with a total area of approximately 6 ha within approximately 300 ha of field area in the eastern part of the buffer zone near Konice, Popice and Havraníky, which means a great increase in diversity and the creation of important ecological stepping stones for nature.

5. *continue encouraging sustainable agriculture, particularly in the buffer zones;*
 We continue to participate in the preparation of program documents for the new period of agricultural subsidies to support nature-friendly agriculture (in 2025, 4 meetings of republican experts were held on the topic). When leasing state agricultural land in the NP and in the protection zone, which are under our administration, we prefer organic farmers and small farmers. In the case of leasing to conventional farmers, we set restrictive conditions in the lease agreements, e.g. to reduce the amount of pesticides used. We have established contact with two farmers who are interested in bringing grazing animals to the region, and we are looking for suitable pastures for them with a total area of over 70 ha. A large part of the selected land will change the owner in the coming weeks and will now be under the control of the NP Administration. Therefore, we hope that grazing will begin next year.

6. *continue to strengthen the co-operation with the Thayatal National Park within the framework of the existing twinning agreement;*

Regular meetings between the management teams of Thayatal and Podyjí National Parks continued according to the established agreement.

We cooperate intensively on cross-border projects. As part of the BioReMo project (Interreg ATCZ: ATCZ00178) approved last year, for example, we obtained a terrain model of both NPs using the airborne laser scanning method with a point resolution of 5 cm, from which detailed terrain models can be created, including the detection of small elements, e.g. traces of historical paths and extinct buildings or lying dead wood. We are also preparing a joint database of plant and animal species, usable not only for the Podyjí and Thayatal NPs, but for all data collectors and users in the Czech Republic and Austria. We also cooperate on other projects; for example, as part of the Brücke Dyje project (Interreg ATCZ: ATCZ00096), the construction of a new cross-border pedestrian bridge near Hardegg is being prepared, which will be built next year.

German courses are continuing, and new participants have joined them.

7. *use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, and encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo.*

No changes have been made. We continue to use the logo or flag as frequently as possible and actively highlight the significance of the European Diploma during lectures and public events.

Information about the European Diploma is visible on our website and on most of boards in our field visitor information system.

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.

The first controlled burning event is a great example of good cooperation between conservationists, firefighters, research experts, and local government. We hope that this is the first step of a long-term cooperation with high benefits for biodiversity and fire safety.

The diverse structure of the new pasture on an area of more than 100 ha with a mosaic of grasslands, shrub and tree groups, wetlands and rocks gives the first opportunity to start the natural dynamics of semi-natural grazing, which is the main goal of the Exmoor pony pasture in Podyjí.

We have had a new director since February 2025 – Ing. Pavel Müller. He respects the current trends and strategic goals of the site management, so the implementation of our management plan continues.

The current government of the Czech Republic is ending its work; the new government should be established by December. It seems that the new political representation gives nature conservation a lower priority than the previous one. We hope that this situation will not have a negative impact on the protection of the NP.

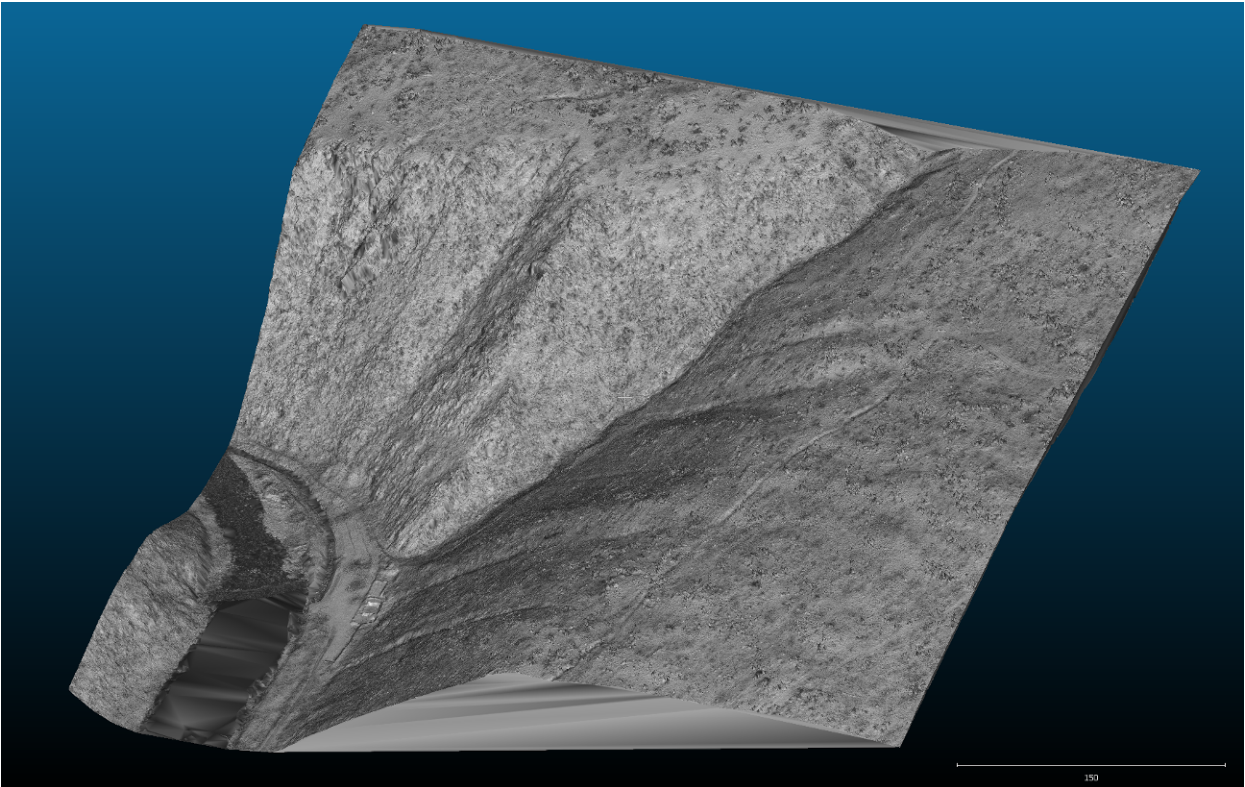
4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have 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 first controlled burning event in Podyji



Continuous relief surface (mesh) of a part of the Dyje valley created from aerial laser scanning data using the triangulation method