

**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 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: 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, 3

Central authority concerned:

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

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Tel: *+420 267 121 111*

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Authority responsible for its management:

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Tel: *+420 515 282 241*

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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>

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

1. 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;*

No changes. Minimum residual flow is set in the water management permit. Other rules are in declaration signed by NP Administration and the operator. The operator 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;*

The management plan approved by the ministry of environment in 2022 contents all rules and it is gradually being fulfilled. In the field of habitat care, we focused on the regulation of invasive species (especially trees), fire management testing and support of xylophagous beetle populations. Activities to support aquatic and wetland organisms are being prepared for the next years (project preparation and all necessary official permits). Changes in landscape structure to increase drought tolerance continue. For details, see the **Site management** chapter. Rules for forest management established in new management plan are ready to inclusion in the new forest management plan which will begin to be prepared in 2024. Research of fish migration in Dyje river is ongoing. Tourist and bikers trail was newly established according the new law (the status quo was maintained). New research has begun focused on determining the measure of contamination of small streams with foreign chemical substances and on the level of atmospheric nitrogen fallout in individual parts of the territory.

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;*

The cooperation with municipalities continues. We helped with tree planting along the next newly created field way (renewated by municipality). In cooperation with land owners (most often municipalities), we have established 7 remarkable trees and groups of trees (specially protected trees which are a part of natural heritage) – a total 49 trees. We have treated cca 70 “very important” old trees in villages. We still take care on the educational trail focused on native tree species, which were prepared in cooperation with local NGO. Our work in several working groups that prepare rules for drawing subsidies, conceptual documents such as common policies (eg. CAP), laws or methodologies continues as well.

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 principles are included in the management plan. During the ongoing revision of cadastral maps, we supervise the maintenance of lawns in the register and prevent the registration of illegally established vineyards.

5. *continue encouraging sustainable agriculture, particularly in the buffer zones;*

As every year, several organic farmers got subsidies to support their way of land management. We prefer small farmers to large national and multinational companies in the lease of our land near villages. We have established strict rules for agricultural management in a large part of the buffer zone, which will cause increasing of the area farmed organically.

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

We collaborated with Thayatal NP on the preparation of joint management plan, in which we also set rules for cooperation between administrations, for example the minimum frequency of management meetings, the obligation of employee exchanges or the requirement for mutual visits in the field. Regular meetings of Thayatal/Podyjí management continued. We regularly prepare joint subsidy projects (e. g. Interreg).

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. We still try to use the logo or the flag as frequent as possible, and inform about value of European Diploma during lectures and other public events.

2. **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.

Fire management: Several patches of dry grasslands were experimentally managed by fire to restore grassland habitat and support populations of endangered species. We prepare field guide and safety handbook for possibility to extend fire management to bigger patches.

Biodiversity support: This year we tested technique called tree veteranisation for the first time. The technique means intentional damaging of younger trees in order to start the process of decay and "aging". We treated about 60 trees, mostly oaks, in two localities in the eastern part of NP.

New pasture (in preparation): This year we started preparation of a new pasture near Havraniky in the eastern part of NP. Apart from "office work" we already started field works consisting mostly of clearing a corridor for fence installation. We already have two pastures with Exmoor ponies near Havraniky and Masovice, established in 2018. As horse grazing showed to be a very effective tool to manage grassy and shrubby habitats, we decided to establish a new pasture in an area where we need to improve the habitat quality. The newly prepared pasture will have an area of cca 110 hectares and it includes open oak woodland with remnants of dry grasslands. Originally the area is an ancient community pasture that have been afforested after the 2nd World War. Horse grazing will be the major management tool in the area, together with black locust control and stand thinning as a part of open woodland restoration.

Invasive species regulation: We continued with control of invasive trees, such as black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) in the eastern part of NP, in the habitats of dry grasslands and open woodland. The preferred control method was stem injection. After injection the trees are left to decay naturally in the "core zone" of NP or are removed as part of habitat restoration. Some patches of highly degraded habitats were seeded by local seed-mix after removal of black locust. Thanks to very effective stem injection technique we slowly reduce the total area of black locust stands in NP (every year by 5-10 hectares).

This year we focused more deeply on control of giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*). Most important infestation sites of this plant in the Dyje river valley were controlled by foliar application of selective herbicide. Timing of foliar application is a key to maximal effectiveness. We sprayed giant goldenrod in the first decade of May, when the plant has about 8-12 leaves. In later phenological phases the effectiveness is decreasing. It is to point out that our effort in the field of invasive plant control was higher in comparison to previous years thanks to Norway Grants, which allowed us to contracted two specialized field workers.

Landscape structure: We planted 140 new trees in small groups or avenues in large fields and took care of more than 300 trees previously planted. This method is the best for biodiversity because it uses exclusively local seed sources. Green patches help to improve the water regime of the landscape.

Staff and finances: We still face lack of human sources. We have few employees not only for specialized interventions in the field, but also for ranger service and work in public relations and ecological education. The small budget intended for employee salaries does not allow us to employ enough quality workers. We have now received support from subsidy projects (Norway Grants, Interreg) for staff for specialized management, but this is a very weak point because the projects last only 3 years.

3. **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

4. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.