

**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 2024

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: Podyji National Park

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

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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¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

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 in the water management permit. Other rules are in a declaration signed by the 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 serves as the foundation for all our activities, ensuring that our work aligns with its principles. The National Park includes a single quiet zone, covering nearly half of its territory. This zone encompasses the park's most vulnerable habitats, such as the Dyje River valley, close-to-nature forests—including ravine forests severely threatened by erosion—rocky slopes, block fields, caves, and other critical sites supporting bats and rare species.

Game management efforts are ongoing, with gradual improvements observed. However, the wild boar population remains a significant challenge, and we are actively seeking an effective solution.

To address climate change, we are systematically transforming the landscape through measures such as tree planting, wetland revitalization, and the creation of new wetland habitats. Additionally, we have launched a targeted program to support the most threatened plant species. This initiative prioritizes species with suitable habitats in Podyji for replanting and long-term conservation."

This version improves readability, adds a professional tone, and emphasizes the positive actions being taken.

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;*

Several municipalities and local stakeholders have collaborated with the National Park Administration to implement various landscape enhancements. These include creating new alleys, trails across fields, and fruit plantations. The National Park Administration also occasionally facilitates subsidies to support the ongoing maintenance and care of these newly established landscape features.

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 incorporated into the management plan. During the revision of spatial planning documents, several dry grasslands in the buffer zone were designated as important biotopes for specially protected plant and animal species. These areas are now safeguarded from construction and land-use changes within the spatial planning framework. Additionally, in the process of revising land records for the vineyard enclave within the National Park, the traditional landscape structure of small vineyards and stone terraces was preserved and protected.

5. *continue encouraging sustainable agriculture, particularly in the buffer zones;*
In the policy domain, we actively contribute to the development of program documents for subsidy schemes to ensure that support for sustainable agriculture is maintained or expanded. In agricultural practice, we facilitated the restoration of a portion of an abandoned vineyard, enabling its cultivation using traditional historical methods within an organic farming framework. Furthermore, we continue to support local small-scale farmers, with a particular focus on those raising grazing animals.

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 as per the established agreement. As part of the training program for new voluntary rangers of Thayatal National Park, a two-day session was organized for participants on the Czech side. Approximately 25 participants received an introduction to the natural features of the Czech side, and an overview of the nature protection system in the Czech Republic, and participated in a field trip showcasing examples of biotopes and territory management. A new joint project (Interreg ATCZ: ATCZ00178 – “BioReMo”) has been approved. The segment involving Podyjí and Thayatal partners focuses on preparing documents for a future research center in Hardegg and on harmonizing knowledge levels across various biological disciplines in both areas. To further enhance cooperation, language courses are being conducted on both sides of the border to eliminate language barriers among staff.

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.

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.

We are continuing the projects outlined in last year's report. A new genetic orchard, featuring old local varieties of fruit trees, has been established on approximately 2.5 hectares. This orchard will serve as a source of genetic material for future plantings, helping to preserve this historical heritage and safeguard the genetic diversity of these fruit trees. The personnel challenges mentioned in last year's report remain; however, we successfully secured a new grant that will enable us to extend the employment of key staff involved in specialized management for an additional three years. Additionally, a new team member has joined the ranger staff, contributing to patrol duties, joint guard services with our cross-border partner, and environmental education programs as a lecturer.

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 President of the Czech Republic Mr. Petr Pavel visited the site on November 12, 2024, where he was briefed on the significance of ED for the region.
