

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2020)5
on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected areas awarded to the biosphere reserve of
Danube Delta (Romania)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 23 September 2020
at the 1384th 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: **Romania**

Name of the area: **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve**

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

2020 – 4 years since the renewal of EDPA

Central authority concerned:

Name: **Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests**

Address: 12, Libertatii Blvd, Sector 5, Bucharest, 040129

Tel: 004021 408 9642

Fax: 004021 408 9615

e-mail:

www: www.mmediu.ro

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority

Address: 34A, Portului Street, Tulcea, Tulcea County, 820243

Tel: 0040 240 518945

Fax: 0040 240 518975

e-mail: arbdd@ddbra.ro

www: www.ddbra.ro

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. contribute to the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the Sturgeon ([T-PVS/Inf\(2018\)6](#)) adopted by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and implement a monitoring system to assess the development of the sturgeon population in the Delta;
The project "Development of the Monitoring Station for migratory fish: sturgeon and mackerel - Isaccea", was implemented until the end of the 2023 year with funds from the Large Infrastructure Operational Program 2014 – 2020 and starting with 2024 the implementation will be continued in phase II under the Sustainable Development Program 2021-2027. According to Common Order no. 85/662/2021 of April 13, 2021 regarding measures to restore and conserve sturgeon populations in natural fish habitats, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, fishing of any species of sturgeon is prohibited all year round, and accidental catches must be released into the natural environment regardless of size, species or condition.
2. include in the management plan in preparation specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species;
The revised management plan was subject to a public consultation/debate in the period 2022 - 2023. The specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species were included in the management plan. The final form of the management plan is in the environmental approval procedure, then following the governmental level approval.
3. request the responsible ministry to increase the number of staff members to the maximum limit foreseen to enable efficient work and add part-time contracts whenever needed for additional projects;

The Governmental Decision HG No. 1217/2012, regarding the approval of the Organization and Operation Regulation and the organizational structure of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve Authority was amended in 2024 by the Governmental Decision HG No. 679/2024, for the modification and completion of the annexes, providing: <<1. In annex no. 1, in article 8, paragraph (2) is amended and will have the following content: "(2) The maximum number of positions for the Reserve Administration's own apparatus is 127.">>
In 2024 the total number of staff members is so far 122 persons from a total of 127 persons as required by current legislation. Due to the economic crisis, that is manifesting in Romania as well, employment at public institutions is currently blocked. The low salary level makes the ARBDD staff members look for other better paid jobs.
4. secure a basic budget for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve to enable the authority to fulfil its administrative tasks and allocate project funds fully to the projects themselves;
The annual budget allocation is made at the ministry level, depending on the available funds. Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority has its own revenues, from the tariffs for carrying out activities on the territory of the reserve, but not enough to fully support itself, without other funds. Due to the economic situation, many of the current and maintenance expenses will have to be limited to the strictly necessary.
5. ensure that the responsible authorities work out a master plan for wind farms in the perimeter of the protected area to prevent any impact on the birds and/or bats in the Danube Delta and consider the participation of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve administration in this process;
There are no wind farms inside the reserve. Outside the limits there are several such installations.
6. evaluate the rising number of permits for car and boat traffic and public access and define a maximum number of these permits, which should only be exceeded under exceptional circumstances;
The new management plan is analysing the activities with potential impact (pressure and threats) on the natural protected areas and on species and habitats of conservation interest, proposes protection and conservation measures to maintain the appropriate state of conservation.

7. request that the Ministry of Environment review the appointment system for the management/governor with regard to the minimum length of a working period to enable the manager to develop and guide mid- and long-term strategies for the further development of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve;

There are no changes compared to the previous report.

8. make extensive use of the European Diploma logo and explain the relevance of the diploma in the information centres and in all information material provided to the tourist sector (boat excursions, accommodation, etc.).

European Diploma logo is used on each document produced by DDBRA and also on the web page www.ddbra.ro.

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.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority continued to implement projects that provide unclogging activities for some canals (3 projects) and for some lakes (2 projects), in different areas of the reserve. However, these actions are not enough to combat the effects of climate change, which are becoming more and more evident from year to year.

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.

There are no changes compared to the previous report.

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.

Danube Delta and its adjacent areas: Maritime Danube to Cotul Pisicii, Isaccea- Tulcea sector of the Danube flood plain, Sărăturile Murighiol - Plopu brackish lake, Razim- Sinoie lagoon complex, the coastal Black Sea from Chilia Branch to Midia Cape, the coastal marine waters up to 20 m depth were declared in 1990 as a biosphere reserve, with a total area of 580,000 ha. (<http://www.ddbra.ro>)

In 1991, an area of 312,440 ha from the Danube Delta was included on the List of the Natural World Heritage under UNESCO, the site no. 588.

In 1991 Danube Delta and some adjacent areas were also included on the List of the Ramsar sites, with a total area of 647,000 ha, site no. 521.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is also part of the Natura 2000 Network.

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

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