

**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 2023

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: ESTONIA

Name of the area: MATSALU NATIONAL PARK

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

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Climate
Suur-Ameerika 1, 10122 Tallinn
+372 626 2802
info@kliimaministeerium.ee
<https://kliimaministeerium.ee/en>

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Republic of Estonia Environmental Board
Address: Roheline 69, 80010, PÄRNU
Tel: +327 662 599
Fax: -
e-mail: info@keskkonnaamet.ee, kaja.lotman@keskkonnaamet.ee
www: <https://keskkonnaamet.ee/en>, <https://kaitsealad.ee/en/protected-areas/matsalu-national-park>

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.

1. ensure that the management plan for 2015 to 2024 is implemented and appropriately funded, and revised before the end of the plan's period in 2024;

2. *The nature conservation activities planned for until 2023 in the management plan are fulfilled almost 85%. The activities of first and second priority were implemented 100%.*

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 co-operation with the local farmers and other stakeholders to improve the management and well-being of the grassland communities of the national park. Liaise with both farmers and others in relation to the use of the cut hay;

There are 96 farmers or small entrepreneurs involved in meadow management and 6960 ha of meadows were managed by grazing and hay cutting, 25 ha of wet meadows and 3 ha of wooded meadows were restored in Matsalu NP in 2023.

Additional consultation service for landowners was proposed from the LIFE IP ForEst and Farmland in order to involve more landowners to meadow management.

Hay has very high price as the summer was very dry and hay growth was not good.

There was information day for farmers and other stakeholders about new system of subsidies. The new system of management of seminatural grasslands was introduced at the meeting of Matsalu NP stakeholders' board on 01.12.2023.

3. envisage the setting-up of a scientific advisory group in order to achieve the full potential of the national park for scientific research and education. The group would provide strategic advice and, upon request, review the quality of research proposals and scientific results, and provide other scientific advice;

The cooperation with scientists was very close in frames of renewing regulations of Matsalu National Park.

New scientific research was continued on island Kakrarahu with leading scientist Jeffery Carbillet to investigate toxic substances in fish and birds.

Tartu University Maritime Institute of Estonia monitored the coastal fish stock's and monitored restored pikes' spawning area the lake Teorehe. The results were positive

Tartu University Institute of Ecology continued research on “Managing coastal grasslands for endangered wader species” in the frame of IP LIFE ForEst and Farmland

4. despite the hunting restrictions within the national park, strengthen co-operation with hunters for the management and control of some invasive species;

In cooperation with hunters invasive predators’ control has been organised on 4 islands before the arriving of birds on 2023.

4. set up a warning system to detect, at an early stage, and enable appropriate action to be taken against alien, invasive species which could threaten the biodiversity of the national park;

There are some web-cameras in the nature to monitor the predators.

There is a state monitoring scheme for mammals’ footprints in the park in two areas (square 1kmX1kmX1km monitoring time in February) which helps recognize alien mammals as well.

*The works for eradication of giant hog-weed *Heracleum sosnowskyi* took place in four areas in National Park in 2023. There is open system to inform Environmental Board about the new places of this species: [Alien species of hogweed and their management | Keskkonnaamet](#)*

New national geo-information system for invasive snails has been created that will help in tracking these also in Matsalu if needed (no cases in the national park this far): <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/f50da40017564ae28439e93aefc44159>

5. prepare a climate change adaptation plan for the national park by 2024;”

Project Horizon Blue4all is analysing the climate change mitigation possibilities on western coastal areas.

In the frames of EU Biodiversa+ Salbes project the model of climate changes and agriculture was worked out to the territory where also Matsalu NP is located.

6. ensure that printed guides to the hiking trails and routes in Estonian and translations into the major European languages are available for national and international visitors and assess the opportunity and feasibility of an increase in the number of trails.

Two new informational boards were erected and English texts are available with QR code.

The website was refreshed for visitors <https://visitmatsalu.ee/en/> and

<https://loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/national-parks/matsalu-national-park>

The website to visit Matsalu was refreshed- <https://loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/national-parks/matsalu-national-park>

<https://kaitsealad.ee/en/protected-areas/matsalu-national-park>

<https://www.visitestonia.com/en/where-to-go/west-estonia/matsalu-national-park>

7. **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.

Renewing process of protection rules Regulation and borders for the Matsalu National Park has started in 2020 with public hearings and this process was continued also 2023 and the new regulation was accepted by the government in March 2003
<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/122032023021> .

8. **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.

The comparison of old and new regulations, zones and borders are given in Annex 1, 2 and 3 of the report

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

Minister of Rural Affairs visited Matsalu NP in frames of Matsalu International Nature Film Festival on 20 September 2023 <https://www.maff.ee/en> .
In frames of Erasmus + KnowNature was held an virtual cours for sustainable tourism and study tour to Latvia for nature tourism entrepreneurs.

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