

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2020**

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: Russian Federation

Name of the area: Tsentralno–Chernozemny Region, Kurskaya Oblast

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:  
the award – 1998, the 1-st renewal – 2003, the 2-nd renewal – 2008, the 3-d renewal – 2018 (for 10 years)

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation

Address: 123995, Russia, Moscow, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya str., 4/6

Tel: +7(495) 254-76-33

Fax:

e-mail: [pr@mnr.gov.ru](mailto:pr@mnr.gov.ru)

www: <http://mnr.gov.ru>

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Tsentralno–Chernozemny State Biosphere Nature Reserve named in honour of  
professor V.V. Alekhin (TsChZ)

Address: 305528 Kurskaya Oblast, Kurskiy rayon, p/o Zapovednoye

Tel: +7(4712) 59-92-56

Fax:

e-mail: [alekhin@zapoved-kursk.ru](mailto:alekhin@zapoved-kursk.ru)

www: <http://zapoved-kursk.ru>

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<sup>1</sup> 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. clarify by 2020 the status of the three units withdrawn from the management of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve (Janskoy, Lysyye Gory and Stinky Izgoria) in 1990 and entrusted since then to the Belogorye Strict Nature Reserve; maintain, if possible, these three units within the diploma-holding area given their contribution to its European significance;

In accordance with this Administration of the reserve emphasizes the following:

At the present time three sites (Yamskoy, Lysyye Gory, St'enki Izgoria) belong to the State Nature Reserve «Belogorye» and status of these three units has not been changed in 2020. Administration of Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve planned to offer to the Administration of Reserve «Belogorye» to conclude an agreement about maintaining the status of these sites as the holders of the European Diploma for Protected Areas, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conclusion of the contract was postponed until the next year.

**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. ensure that the necessary funding for the diploma-holding area is provided for in the federal budget and obtain greater financial support from the Kursk regional authorities;

2. draft and implement a programme to update and renovate the museum;

3. ensure that the current project for the extension of the biosphere reserve is completed as soon as possible and link it by 2022 to a management plan for the buffer and transitional zones in particular, thereby ensuring the European significance of the diploma-holding area and maintaining its integrity;

4. continue and strengthen the international co-operation efforts of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve by means of projects that meet the major interests of steppe environments in this part of Europe and which contribute to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity targets.

In accordance with these items Administration of the reserve emphasizes the following:

1. In 2020, funding was received for a project to survey the territory for the construction of the Concentrate Enrichment Corpus of the Mikhailovsky Mining and Processing Integrated Works to identify rare and endangered plant and animal species listed in the Red Books of the Russian Federation and the Kursk Oblast in the amount of 50 000 RUB. There was no financing from the regional authorities of Kursk Oblast.

2. In 2019 the repair of the Museum of Nature of the Reserve was completed from the financial resources allocated by the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant.

3. Whole set of documents for establishing a biosphere range "Stepnoy" was sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation in 2016. However, in connection with the organizational circumstances (personnel movements and formation of new department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology) creating of biosphere range was suspended. At the present time in light of different reasons the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology is inclined to the option of establishing a new site of the Reserve, rather than the biosphere range. To initiate its creation, it is necessary to submit to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia the borders of the proposed protected areas in a new format. The Reserve was supposed to receive a new format of borders and submit it to the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources by the end of this year, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lack of funding it is likely to postpone this work to the next year.

4. Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve is working to develop international cooperation in order to preserve the steppe environments. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no foreign experts visited the reserve in 2020.

**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.

No changes of the territory of the reserve took place in 2020, also the staff number of employees and total funding remained practically at the previous level.

**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.

The problem of cooperation between Administration of Reserve and Administration of Kursk Oblast in the buffer zone of the Reserve escalated in 2018. The whole existing at the present time buffer zone of the reserve (3 km around 4 sites of the reserve) in the end of 2017 – beginning of 2018 was put on cadaster and expressed on public cadastral map. Administration of Kursk Oblast tried to challenge in court the cadastral registration of the buffer zone of the Reserve, however the court left the decision unchanged. Besides, Investigating Committee of Kursk Oblast opened a criminal case in relation to unidentified persons of Administration of Kursk Oblast upon illegal issuance of building permits for individual dwellings in the buffer zone of the Reserve.

Currently, the Reserve has won (in the Kursk Regional Court) 27 lawsuits from citizens trying to put their unfinished residential buildings in the buffer zone of the Reserve for state cadastral registration. The work is not finished yet and will continue in 2020. Also, in relation to one commercial building, there is a decision of the Kursk Regional Court on its demolition.

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in November 2019 confirmed the legitimacy of the Regulation on the buffer zone of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve, which was adopted in 1988.

At the present time, the Administration of the Kursk Oblast is working with the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources to conclude the so-called "Road Map" agreed with the Administration of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve to overcome the current situation. The signing of the Road Map was planned for the end of 2020, however due to personnel changes in the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources it is likely to be postponed.

**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.

In light of the situation in the buffer zone of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve, Administration of the reserve emphasises a high value of the European Diploma, the existence of which among other things provided opportunity to draw the attention of local media and law-enforcement authorities to the problems of the reserve.

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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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