

**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 2021

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, Kursk 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

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 Kursk Oblast, Kursk rayon, p/o Zapovednoye

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

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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>

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 clarify by 2020 the status of the three units withdrawn from the management of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve (Janskoy, Lycie Gory and Stinky Izgoria) in 1990 and entrusted since then to the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 ("Yamskaya Steppe", "Lysyye Gory", "Stenki Izgoria") belong to the State Nature Reserve «Belogorye» and status of these three units has not been changed in 2021. On 15.09.2021, the administration of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny State Nature Reserve and the administration of the Nature Reserve "Belogorye" signed an agreement on the validity of the European Diploma stating that the administration of the Nature Reserve "Belogorye" will position the sites "Yamskaya Steppe", "Lysyye Gory" and "Stenki Izgoria" as having a European Diploma.

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.

1. In 2021, compared to the previous year, the basic funding of the reserve has been increased by 2 million RUB (up to 21 million RUB). In 2021 an agreement was concluded with the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant for 3 years (2021-2023) on services in biological monitoring of the environment on the territory of the sanitary protection zone of the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant in the amount of 1.8 million RUB. In 2021 the contract with Mikhailovsky Mining and Processing Integrated Works for a project to study biodiversity (flora and fauna) of anthropogenic landscapes of Mikhailovskiy Mining and Processing Integrated Works in the amount of 1.4 million RUB. There was no funding from the regional authorities of the Kursk Oblast.

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

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 2020, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lack of funding it is likely to postpone this work.

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 2021.

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 and the staff number of employees took place, however the basic funding has increased in 2021.

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.

In 2021, the problem of interaction between the Kursk Oblast Administration and the Reserve's administration in the buffer zone of the Tsentralno-Chernozemnyi Reserve was solved. In March 2021, A.A. Kozlov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, visited the protected area. The Minister instructed the Scientific-Technical Council of the Reserve to approve the construction of individual houses in the Kukuevka settlement and the Kislino village up to the bypass road which is 600-800 m from the Reserve's boundary. The area between the Reserve and the bypass road shall not be developed and shall be converted to agricultural and forestry land. The garage building, which was built on this area without coordination with the Reserve, has been dismantled by the decision of the Kursk Regional court, which was confirmed by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. At the moment, the new general plans for Kukuevka and Kislino have been approved in agreement with the Reserve and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology. Also, the Scientific-Technical Council of the Reserve has issued over a thousand approvals for individual housing construction in Kukuevka. Under an agreement concluded in February 2021 between the Kursk Oblast Administration and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, the Kursk Oblast Administration is required to provide the Ministry with a complete set of documents for the establishment of two new sites of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve in other parts of the Kursk Oblast.

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.

With regard to the events in the protected area of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve, the Administration of the Reserve emphasised the high value of the European Diploma, which, among other things, helped to draw the attention of federal and local media, as well as law enforcement authorities to the problems of the Reserve.

5.1 Visitors - information policy

During 2021, 1284 people visited the territory of the reserve due to quarantine. 6 exhibitions and 7 lectures at schools, libraries and kindergartens were organized in the Kursk Oblast. In the press there were published 15 popular science articles about the Reserve. 40 reports were made on regional TV and radio. In April, an annual international environmental action 'March of parks-2021' was held, in May, a city action of counting singing nightingales within the Kursk city limits was held, in November, a regional action of feeding wintering birds "Feed the birds!", in which took part about 1000 people.

5.2 Measures and tools to inform the public (publications, booklets, maps, postcards etc.)

In the Reserve on the territory of the Central manor there are buildings of the Museum of Nature of 164.3 square metres, operating since 1971, and the Ecological-Information Centre of 128.5 square metres, two excursion ecological trails. The video and photo libraries and the library of methodological materials of the Ecological-Information Centre are being replenished. The Reserve has published 500 copies of leaflets, 600 pocket calendars, 100 copies of postcards and 200 copies of ceramic magnets.

5.3 Frequency of visits and mode (number, time and space distribution)

The park was visited by 1284 visitors, 60% of them were students. The number of family excursions has increased. There are practically no excursions in winter months. All visitors were at the Streletsky site, where there are two ecological trails, the Museum of Nature and the Ecological-Information Centre.