

**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: Hungary

Name of the area: The volcanic phenomena of the Tihany Peninsula

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

2018, 6 years

Central authority concerned:

Name: Department of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture

Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 11., Hungary

Tel: +36 1 795-2399

Fax: -

e-mail: tmf@am.gov.hu

www: www.kormany.hu

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate

Address: H - 8229 CSOPAK, Kossuth L. u. 16. Hungary

Tel: +36 87 555 260

Fax: +36 87 555 261

e-mail: bfnp@bfnp.hu

www: www.bfnp.hu

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. by 2020, prepare an overarching management document integrating the relevant planning instruments currently applicable to the site; define management objectives for the five main zones;

We made further clarifications in the management plan documentation. Due to the growing walking and bicycle tourism, we have made changes to the traffic regulations. The transfer of the fishing rights of Belső Lake to the NP was a significant change. Thanks to this, we can regulate fishing use of the lake much more strictly than before. Our new regulations based on this have also been included in the management plan. The clarification of the zoning of the NP is in progress. The area of the Balaton-felvidéki National Park is about 60,000 ha, due to the very complex ownership conditions, diverse and highly mosaic habitat structure, the establishing and clarifying zoning is a long process. In 2022 the Natura 2000 conservation plan of the Tihany-peninsula (HUBF20016) has been passed. The Ministry of Agriculture approved the new management plan for the European Diploma holding area. In accordance with Hungarian legislation, we continued the adoption of the management plan as an act, as part of which negotiations with the concerned authorities and farmers took place in 2024. The conservation management of the area will continue to be carried out and coordinated by our Directorate in accordance with the management plan until it is published in law.

2. together with the municipal authorities, continue to enforce the ban on new buildings on the site;

No significant changes have occurred since the last report. The National Park Directorate has been able to reinforce the ban on new buildings on the European Diploma holding area with the help of the municipality and other state authorities. Local elections were held in Hungary in 2024. Contacts and initial discussions have been made with the new municipality of Tihany to ensure that the recommendations are respected.

3. continue to manage and control visitor pressure; together with the municipal authorities take measures to moderate the motorised traffic on the peninsula;

In 2024, there is no significant change in walking and cycling tourism to the area, but visitor pressure remains high. We tried to deal with the high number of people by continuously maintaining the indicated tourist routes and increasing the control of rangers. By managing and informing tourist traffic, we can reduce the pressure on natural values. Ongoing maintenance of the trails, which were upgraded in 2022-23, continued in 2024. The number of participants in organised walking and cross-country events has been capped and the actual number of participants is strictly controlled. The possible number of participants is fixed in the official permit for the event. Vehicle traffic is restricted by additional barriers and traffic signs.

4. keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas (open meadows, meadows with hedges and bushes, lavender fields with oaks and almonds);

The results achieved until now have been maintained with mechanical and manual activities by the National Park Directorate. Professionals from our Directorate have also done important work in the Life4OakForests project to maintain and create diverse forest habitats. We have also managed closed forest stands and forest habitats mosaic with grassland. The main objective is to create species-rich habitats with a more diverse structure similar to the natural ones. To this end, the main activities include small-scale cutting to improve forest structure, reducing the impact of large herbivores, replacing and planting missing native tree and shrub species, and removing invasive species, especially *Ailanthus altissima* and *Robinia pseudoacacia*. Since 2003, we have successfully reintroduced the european ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) to the area. Three populations of the species are currently present on the peninsula, all three showing a stable, slightly increasing trend as a result of effective grassland management.

5. encourage farming and wine-growing practices consistent with the conservation of natural and landscape assets and establish a functional buffer zone between the vineyards and the wetland zone;

The 17-hectare vineyard area on the northern side of Lake Külső, which was placed under the management of the BfNPD in 2018, plays an important role in maintaining the nature values of the lake. The 17-hectare area will be treated as grasslands, ensuring the development of the natural zonation of the lake shore. We continued cutting down the former vineyard and turning the area into grassland. Furthermore, since the *Ailanthus altissima* has spread rapidly on the former vineyard in recent years, in 2024 we continued its chemical eradication by trunk injection treatment. As a result of our work, by 2024, we were able to manage around 12 hectares of grassland on the site of the former vineyards.

Many privately owned vineyards have been abandoned. Some former vineyards are being converted into lavender plantations. This process is also supported by our management, which provides professional assistance for the conversion. The cultivation of lavender on the peninsula is a centuries-old tradition and has a much more positive impact on nature conservation than vine plantations.

6. pursue the policy of acquisition of private land;

Because of the very high land prices on Tihany peninsula the National Park Directorate had not been able to buy new land here this year.

7. take the necessary steps to improve the water quality of the Belső Lake;

Our project financed by a state-tender (Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme) to improve water quality and restore the natural state of the lake ended last year. As a part of that program established a shallow settling lake to filtrate the rainwater coming from the village. This natural filtrate system has started working. A multi-functional amphibian machine and tools had been bought to work as an aquatic weed cutter and vegetation harvester. This machine is suitable for the treatment of filtrate lake vegetation as well as other conservation interventions in the Külső Lake, Belső Lake and Felső Marsh. Using a special machine, we transferred around 50 tonnes of seaweed from the Outer Lake to the Inner Lake over the course of a project to accelerate the establishment of macro-vegetation and thus begin to improve water quality. Water quality is continuously measured with a floating instrument, the spread of seaweed in the Belső Lake is measured twice a year. The water level of the lake was still very low in 2024 due to the poor rainfall in recent years, but the transparency of the water has improved significantly. Seaweed continues to grow in the shallow southern part of the lake, which is important for its regeneration.

8. continue to control invasive species such as *Ailanthus*;

The achieved results have been maintained with mechanical and manual activities by the national park. The National Park Directorate participates in the Life4Oakforests project (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000245), which was started in 2017, as part of which will again be a large-scale intervention on the peninsula to reduce invasive species. The treatments of invasive tree species in the Life4OakForests project are in progress. In 2024, extermination by trunk injection treatment of about 1 ha of *Ailanthus altissima* has been carried out. Additionally, about 2 hectares of abandoned vineyards were cleared of *Ailanthus* this year. The work was carried out by our own staff.

9. pursue the co-ordinated management with nearby protected areas such as the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Külső and Felső marshes.

No significant changes have occurred since the last report. The National Park has managed the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and Lake Külső and Felső marshes with the same method as other parts of the protected area. The project of suppressing invasive weed species involves this area, too.

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 significant changes have occurred since the last report.

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 have occurred since the last 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.

The European Diploma will be displayed on all informational interfaces, websites and social media pages of the National Park Directorate (www.bfnp.hu). During the complete renovation of the board system of the study trails on the Tihany Peninsula, 54 new outdoor boards were placed, all of which feature the European Diploma logo. In 2024, the National Park Directorate continued to organise a number of events in the area and at the Lavender House Visitor Centre. The theme of the European Diploma is present at all our events, guided tours, open-air school programs, etc.