

**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 2025

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, 7 years

Central authority concerned:

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Authority responsible for its management:

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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.

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;

Our national park directorate has prepared and the Ministry of Agriculture has approved the new management plan for the European Diploma holding area. The entire peninsula is part of the Balaton-felvidéki National Park. An important part of the management plan of the European Diploma area is the application of the national park's zoning, but this has not yet been implemented. 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. 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 2025. 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. Continuous and effective cooperation has been established with the new local government of Tihany, which took office in 2024.

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

In 2025, we did not observe any significant change in the quantitative ratio of pedestrian and bicycle tourism on the peninsula. The increase in pressure on the natural part of the peninsula observed in previous years has stopped. At the same time, we observed a shift between individual locations. There was a significant increase in the number of visitors to the European ground squirrel population near Lake Belső. In terms of the size and condition of the ground squirrel population, we do not consider this to be a harmful phenomenon at this point, but we have been forced to regulate traffic and parking (e.g., by establishing paid parking zones).

We will continue to maintain and, where necessary, further develop the signposting system designed to guide pedestrians and cyclists and provide information to tourists. The National Park's ranger service also plays an ongoing role in this work. 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 national park administration continuously carries out nature conservation work on the areas under its management. In order to maintain the mosaic nature and good condition of the habitats, it has its own fleet of machinery and specialists at its disposal. In 2025, we expanded our grazed grasslands by an additional 15 hectares. We manage the area near Külső Lake with Hungarian spotted cattle. Work continued on the Life4OakForests project. During the project, which primarily targeted oak-dominated forests, we carried out further interventions to suppress the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and reduce the impact of large herbivores. An important part of our interventions is the maintenance of the grassland-forest mosaic characteristic of the peninsula, especially the so-called geyser field, including the management of rocky, sun-exposed habitats. As part of this, we carried out three times of shrub cutting on the hot spring cones, involving a total of around 100 volunteers. The work was supervised by our experts.

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 ended cutting down the former vineyard in 2025. Furthermore, since the *Ailanthus altissima* has spread rapidly on the former vineyard in recent years, in 2025 we continued its chemical eradication by trunk injection treatment.

In recent years, many vineyard owners in the inner part of the peninsula have abandoned cultivation. The abandoned vineyards provided significant opportunities for *Ailanthus* to spread. In 2025, grapevine phytoplasma disease also appeared on the peninsula. As part of the mandatory measures imposed by the authorities on vineyard owners, significant progress has been made in curbing *Ailanthus*. This year, numerous neglected vineyards were cleared to prevent grapevine phytoplasma disease. The future use of these areas is still uncertain. As economic and natural conditions are currently unfavorable for establishing vineyards, these areas are expected to remain grassland for the time being.

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;

Rainfall in recent years has been significantly below average, resulting in a drop of approximately 1-1,2 meters in the water level of Lake Belső compared to the usual level in recent decades. Due to the morphological characteristics of the lake, this also means a significant reduction in the surface area of the water. A small island appeared in the middle of the lake, which then turned into a peninsula and was visible throughout 2025. According to archival maps and documents from past centuries, periods of low water levels and even periodic drying up are natural characteristics of the lake. The low water level further increases the salt concentration of the lake water, but no other negative effects on water quality are apparent. At the same time, the coastal habitats that developed on the shores of the lake, on the island and then on the peninsula, provided opportunities for the appearance of numerous coastal bird species, including some very rare species such as the Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) and the pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). We also observed the latter nesting successfully. The water level in the Külső Lake is similarly low. However, the low water level does not adversely affect the general ecological status of the lakes. The low water level has sparked considerable public interest, which may give impetus to hydrogeological research on the peninsula.

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 2025, extermination by trunk injection treatment of about 1 ha of *Ailanthus altissima* has been carried out. Additionally, about 2 hectares of abandoned vineyards and other grasslands were cleared of *Ailanthus* this year. The work was carried out by our own staff. Unfortunately, the invasive common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) has appeared in the area in recent years, and we have also begun to take measures to prevent the spread of this species.

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 and grasslands 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. A forest planting plan has been drawn up for two abandoned arable areas, covering a total of approximately 4 hectares, in the Felső marsh and Külső Lake regions. The proportion of forest habitats consisting of native species (willow, poplar, and maple sp.) will increase as a result of the afforestation expected to be completed in 2025-26.

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 2025, 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.

We had the opportunity to participate in the event of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma in Granada. During the professional part of the event, we gave a presentation on the European ground squirrel reintroduction program of our national park.