

**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*

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: Czech Republic

Name of the area: **Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. Protected Landscape Area (PLA)**

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

Central authority concerned:

Name: Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny České republiky/Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA CR)

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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.
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. Keep at least the existing access to the Radejov hunting reserve for the visitors and decrease the population size of the non-indigenous game species, such as fallow deer, control the pressure exerted by game so that the forest may regenerate, draw up a hunting plan in conjunction with the administration of the protected area, and finally refrain from building any new facilities (e.g. hunting lodge);
2. Amend agri-environmental funding rules in accordance with the protected area's management plan in order to secure financing of management needed to attain objectives set.

1. The negotiations with the Radejov hunting preserve (1,600 hectares) managers representing the main private owner on possible measures to significantly reduce the non-native game species population sizes, particularly the fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and thus mitigating browsing impact of the game on forest natural regeneration, has been continuing in 2020. Pursuant to the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court from 2018, the owner had to make the hunting preserve open to the public although the area was fenced.

2. In the Czech Republic including the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians, the subvention programmes/subsidiary schemes support suitable management activities aiming at enhancing state in nature and the landscape. For climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, preferably for nature-based solutions, the agri-environment-climate measures can be used. In addition to activities funded from the EU budget (e.g., Operational Programme The Environment funded from the Structural Funds), funds can be obtained from subvention programmes/subsidiary schemes finances from the State Budget, have been allocated from. These include e.g. the Landscape Management Programme, or Landscape Natural Function Restoration Programme. In the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA, displaying one of the highest percentage from the total size owned by private owners among the large-size Specially Protected Areas, i.e. National Parks and PLAs, in the country the above funds are of great importance because they help to raise awareness of nature conservation and landscape protection among the private owners. In addition to communication, education and public awareness activities carried out by the PLA Administration itself, there is huge range of actions implemented by NGOs in cooperation with the PLA Administration.

Within the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA, CZK 15 600 000 (EUR 624 000) was spent from the subvention programmes/subsidiary schemes in 2020.

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. Reassess and guarantee the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan;
2. Arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management that promotes the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area through close co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the departments active in the field (agriculture, forestry and Bílé Karpaty departments) as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved;

3. Eliminate non-indigenous species, namely fallow deer, from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas and further develop consultation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment in order to control big game populations;
4. Continue the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of existing hardwood forests;
5. The European Diploma should be more visibly associated with the image of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (for example, in the information centres, in publications and on the website).

1. **The budget for the PLA Administration has been improving since the economic crisis in the late 2000s. In total, there is 28 staff members located at three workplaces (Luhačovice, Zlín and Veselí nad Moravou). The Administration consists of the departments as follows:**
 - i. **Department of Operations**
 - ii. **Department of Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection**
 - iii. **Department of Nature and Landscape Management**
 - iv. **Department of Biodiversity Monitoring.**
2. **Due to the specific nature and landscape character, agriculture and forestry have for a long time been a key driver for the PLA. Therefore, cooperation between the agriculture sector which also is in charge of forestry, and the environmental protection sector, nature conservation and landscape protection respectively, is of utmost importance, *i.a.* through agri-environment climate schemes (see above). Moreover, the high large ungulate high numbers have been a serious problem, similarly to other parts of the Czech Republic.**
3. **See above**
4. **In addition to famous Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. species-rich meadows, almost half of the PLA is covered by forests. Thanks to favourable natural conditions and location, the area has been inhabited by humans for a long time: its natural conditions had significantly been shaped by the Wallachian colonisation. In the 19th century, the first non-native woody species, particularly the Norway spruce, were introduced to the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. forests. Thus nowadays, the Norway spruce is the second most frequent woody species there, while the European beech has been the most common. Current forest management reverts to natural regeneration of broadleaved deciduous trees. Moreover, overpopulated hoofed game poses, similarly to other parts of the country, a serious problem there. There also are many small forest owners within the PLA, often of old age. From a point of view of forest typology, a nutrient-rich series and a series enriched by mull prevail in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. The high possible risk to the PLA's coniferous, mostly Norway spruce growths, also is the European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typhographus*) plague, seriously negatively affecting forest ecosystems in many parts of the Czech Republic, resulting in their strong destruction and collapses. Therefore, more attention to reducing the proportion of the Norway spruce and to increase the share of broad-leaved deciduous trees has been paid not only by the PLA Administration, but also by some other stakeholders.**
5. **The fact that the PLA has been a holder of a prestige pan-European award is regularly mentioned in publications recently issued by the PLA Administration. The NCA CR's web pages lay-out has been under reconstruction (reshaped and updated) and there**

will be special detailed information on the importance of the European Diploma and both the sites managed by the NCA CR, having been awarded by the ED since 2000 (*i.e.* Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA and the Karlštejn National Nature Reserve) in Czech and English (cf. <http://www.ochranaprirody.cz/o-aopk-cr/aopk-cr-informuje/aktuality/evropsky-diplom-pro-chranena-uzemi/>, <http://www.ochranaprirody.cz/mezinarodni-spoluprace/mezinarodni-organizace/> respectively). In 2021, the new NCA CR's pagews shall fully operational. Moreover, the ED award is also presented on some webpages in English, *e.g.* http://www.cittadella.cz/europarc/index.php?p=index&site=CHKO_bile_karpaty_en.

- 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.

Newly, the occurrence of the Grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and the Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*) has been conformed in the PLA, i.a. due to using camera traps. The former is of the Carpathian origin, not from the increasing German-Polish lowland population.

In 2020, Guidelines for Grassland Management in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA were published.

After releasing the strict anti-COVID-19 measures across the country, the sharp increase in visitors' numbers in the PLA was recorded in late spring, summer 2020 respectively.

- 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

- 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 *Ochrana přírody/Nature Conservation Journal*, there was an article, inter alia informing on renewal of the ED to the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA.

In November 2020, the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA celebrated 40th anniversary since its establishment.