

**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>*

**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: 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:  
2021 (21 years)

**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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<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.

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 budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area's staff, including administration, research, surveillance and habitat management;

2. take strong measures to control non-native species in the national nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas. Continue the necessary negotiations with relevant stakeholders aiming at controlling non-native big game populations in the protected landscape area; ensure that the monitoring of the population of fallow deer in the Radejov hunting reserve is continued and regularly validated by Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area staff;

3. continue to implement nature-based solutions and management in the face of climate change, ensuring the continuation of the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of native hardwood forests;

4. evaluate the need, and take the necessary actions, for having a stronger presence of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area during the preparation or review of the urban plans of the major urban areas within or bordering the protected landscape area. Additionally, identify any areas where urban development may become a risk in the near future and evaluate the necessity of drafting an urban plan for these areas (if one does not exist);

5. include the European Diploma logo and information about the European Diploma in all promotion materials produced in the future as well as in any new signposts installed in the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. The website of the protected landscape area should also include the logo of the European Diploma with a link to the website of the Council of Europe.

**1. The budget for the PLA Administration has been stable and has not been decreasing in 2021 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Operational budget reached CZK 1,500,000.00 (EUR 59,000.00) while for field nature conservation and landscape management measures CZK 15,650,000.00 were available (EUR 618,000.00). In addition, the PLA Administration received CZK 3,000,000.00 (EUR 119,000.00) from the EU IP LIFE project for 2021.**

**In total, there currently are 28 staff members located at three workplaces (Luhačovice, Zlín and Veselí nad Moravou): two new staff were recruited thanks to funding from the above LIFE project in 2021 aiming at communication with land-owners and field landscape management measures. 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. In the Radejov hunting preserve/game park (1,600 hectares) browsing impact of big game on vegetation, particularly on forest natural regeneration as well as the fallow deer (*Dama dama*) numbers have been regularly monitored by the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA Administration staff. Therefore, due to browsing and overgrazing by big game causing damage to**

the subject of nature conservation there, in 2021 the PLA Administration began the offence proceedings with the Radejov hunting preserve owner and a fine was imposed. Moreover, the decision has not been final and lawful yet because the accused appealed against it.

3. Although the the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. have become famous due to their species-rich meadows with one of the known highest terrestrial species richness at small scale worldwide, up to a half of the PLA's territory 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, *inter alia*, by the Wallachian colonisation introducing specific agriculture practices including ranging and grazing livestock, particularly sheep. Moreover, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first non-native woody plant species, particularly the Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), were introduced to the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. forests by owners. Thus nowadays, the Norway spruce is the second most frequent woody species there, while the European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) has been the most common: the pattern does not copy the situation in the Czech Republic as a whole where Norways spruce is the most common forest woody plant species.

Current forest management carried out and supported by the PLA Administration prefers natural regeneration of broadleaved deciduous trees. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, overpopulated hoofed game poses, similarly to other parts of the country, a serious problem there. Contrary to some other National Parks or Protected Landscape Areas in the Czech Republic, there also are many small forest owners there, often of old age. The highly 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 from lowlands to mountains, resulting in their large-scale and rapid strong destruction and collapses. Therefore, special attention to reducing the proportion of the Norway spruce and to increase the share of broad-leaved deciduous trees as nature-based solution related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, has been paid by the PLA Administration. Mainly small owners (private persons, municipalities) efforts are also financially supported by the PLA Administration. In addition, funds from landscape management subvention programmes/subsidiary schemes are also regularly used for planting greenery in the open landscape outside forest and restoring pools and other wetlands.

4. In 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the PLA Administration actively participated in all negotiations related to municipal land-use/territorial plans. In this respect, the PLA's aim is to maintain the valuable landscape scenery/character and at the same time to keep the typical spatial structure of villages and towns in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts.

5. The fact that the PLA has been a holder of a prestige pan-European award is regularly mentioned in publications 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/> or <http://www.ochranaprirody.cz/mezinarodni-spoluprace/mezinarodni-organizace/>).

**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.

**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 PLA Administration has started the procedure to review the current PLA boundaries to include also some valuable habitats in the PLA's vicinity.**

**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 2021, the PLA Administration has started to elaborate a new Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. Protected Landscape Area Management Plan taking into account, *inter alia*, recommendations for the PLA as a European Diploma holder. The Plan should be negotiated with all the key stakeholders including municipalities.**

**After releasing the strict anti-COVID-19 measures across the country in May 2021, the sharp increase in visitors' numbers in the PLA was recorded in late spring and summer 2020: most tourists were domestic ones including the whole families.**

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**

