



European Diploma

Annual report 2023



Photo: Tanja Menegalija

Triglavski narodni park (Triglav National Park) Slovenija



**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 2023

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: **SLOVENIA**

Name of the area: **TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK**

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

- Award 2004 (18)
- Renewal 2009 (13)
- Renewal 2019 (3)

Central authority concerned:

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Address: Ljubljanska cesta 27
Tel: + 386 4 5780 200
Fax: + 386 4 5780 201
e-mail: triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si
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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. National authorities should guarantee the necessary budget in order to fully implement the Triglav National Park Management Plan adopted in 2016 including a comprehensive monitoring scheme, and to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural and cultural values of the park.

For the implementation of the annual program of the Triglav National Park Public Institution, 3.500.985 € is planned in 2023. Most of the funds (part of 78 %), 2.736.195 € are provided from the state budget. Other funds (764.790 €) are provided from international projects (376.890 €), so-called non-public sources (165.200 €) and marketing activities (222.700 €). The financing follows the dynamics defined by the Triglav National Park Management Plan 2016 – 2025 and the items of adopted state budget. Other holders of management tasks and activities provide funding sources through their own annual programs of work and financial plans. Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning in 2023 provided over five million Euros for co-financing of developmental projects of park local communities (see recommendation 6).

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. Strengthen the inter-ministerial coordination regarding the management of the National Park

Different sectors at state level (ministries with their agencies, directorates, institutes) and local communities have an important role in the implementation of management tasks and activities. As leading partners or cooperating partners they are involved in the management of the protected area, therefore some work and financial obligations should be included in their annual programs, staffing and financial plans.

Most of the expert work regarding improved collaboration with sectors and local communities has been done in the field of implementing measures for sustainable traffic mobility, the preparation of the landscape and building typology and tenders by the agricultural sector and partly Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport to co-finance individual environmental measures. In 2023, intersectoral collaboration was also improved regarding the large carnivores and the game species management, in particular the wolf and alpine ibex.

In general, level of measures implemented by sectors is below the indicators values foreseen by the Triglav National Park Management Plan. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia or the competent ministry (Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning), should strengthen the coordination of the activities of other sectors in the management plan implementation and co-financing of tasks, especially in the field of sustainable development (including education, healthcare, social care) and protection of cultural heritage.

2. Continue to follow up closely on the transition of land ownership in the park (denationalisation); pursue the active policy of acquisition of land important for nature protection and other park's activities.

Competent authorities for consideration of requests for denationalization are administrative units, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning. In 2023, no significant administrative steps were taken in order to speed up the denationalization process in the Triglav National Park.

The Triglav National Park Public institution is authorized to exercise a pre-emption right on agricultural land, forest land, water areas and urban or built-up land on behalf of the state of Slovenia. In 2023, a pre-emption right was exercised on 25,2 ha of privately owned forests. Purchased land is in 1st and 2nd area (core zone).

3. Pursue the efforts for transforming the zonation towards 1st zone (wilderness) and keep the 3rd zone for sustainable use, provided that the central of part of the National Park does not decrease in size.

There were no changes in zonation in 2023.

4. Continue the good collaboration with municipal authorities responsible for land-use planning when preparing land use plans and implementing them. Strictly apply the regulations related to new constructions and renovation works.

The Triglav National Park Authority is running expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions

in construction works. So far the typology for municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje, part of Kranjska Gora and Kobarid are prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design, materials and construction techniques.

In 2023, the Triglav National Park was involved in initial phase (expert bases) of preparation for regional spatial plans (Gorenjska and Goriška). We actively participated in the preparation of novelation of municipal spatial planning acts for the municipalities of Bohinj and Kranjska Gora. We are involved in the procedures for issuing consents for specific spatial interventions by preparing opinions.

5. Continue to work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human use.

As mentioned in previous report the activities of the project Vrh Julijcev are also focusing on the improved wastewater treatment by defining acceptable solutions in order to reduce the impacts of mountain huts and associated visitation on water quality of high-altitude lakes. In 2023 as part of the project, dry toilets have been constructed for the mountain hut Koča pri Triglavskih jezerih and the existing wastewater treatment plant has been upgraded. Technical improvements regarding the hut's wastewater treatment should be implemented by the end of 2023 at the latest. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/trajnostni-razvoj/projekti-in-raziskave/projekti/vrh-julijcev/>

6. Develop a funding mechanism to support local development projects of the National Park and municipalities within the Biosphere Reserve.

According to the Article 11 of the Triglav National Park Act and Decree on standards and criteria for supporting and co-financing of projects, investments and implementation of activities in the Triglav National Park http://www.pisrs.si/Pis_web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED8265 in 2023 financial resources of 5.689.853,00 Euros were provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning.

Rules on aid for the preservation and development of agriculture and rural areas in the Triglav National Park were adopted in 2020 and changed in 2023 <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/uprava/zakonodaja/>. They lay down aid measures, conditions and procedures for granting aid for agricultural conservation projects. The grants are financed from the state budget. Total amount of the aid in 2023 was 86.700,00 €, aid recipients were 14 <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/uprava/obvestila/>

The Triglav National Park Public Institution received 13.000 € from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (part of the state budget mentioned above) for the implementation of the UNESCO MAB program in the Julian Alps Biosphere reserve. In addition to the coordination of the biosphere reserve most of work was aimed at promotion and education the interested public (study tour for foreign journalists, excursion for stakeholders, new booklet, fair) and promoting the local quality brands via Triglav National Park Quality measures.

<https://www.tnp.si/en/park/area/julian-alps-biosphere-reserve/> (Biosphere Reserves in Slovenia pdf)

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/medijsko-sredisce/novice/novica/37/prva-skupna-sejemska-predstavitev-vseh-stirih-biosfernih-obmocij-v-sloveniji.html> (joint fair presentation of all four biosphere zones in Slovenia)

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/medijsko-sredisce/novice/novica/27/spoznavanje-biosfernega-obmocja-julijske-alpe.html> (study tour)

<https://www.tnp-kakovost.si/en/> (The Triglav National Park Quality Mark)

7. Together with local communities, prepare favourable conditions for social acceptance of increased populations of large carnivores such as brown bear, wolf and lynx. Further develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming with carnivores in the park.

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and lynx (*Lynx lynx*) are regularly observed in the Triglav National Park area. Due to observed incidents (property damages) with the wolf in 2022, this priority issue was the main topic of the Triglav National Park Council meeting in January 2023. All relevant and competent bodies attended the meeting and a recommendation for speeding up a decision-making process was adopted by the Council's members. During the 2023 season, three wolf packs are permanently present within the Julian Alps area, that is in Jelovica and Pokljuka plateaus and one in upper Sava valley. Latter migrates regularly to Italy as well and is consisted of hybrids. There's a common agreement between competent scientific and management authorities that hybrids present additional pressure (genetic pollution) for entire wolf population in the Slovenian Alps therefore a permit for taking of the wild the entire pack was issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning. Furthermore, one wolf specimen attacking the sheep herd in Krnica village was taken from the wild by the TNP park ranger in September 2023. Due to low social acceptance of the wolf presence within Gorenjska region, Triglav National Park together with Ljubljana University organized a meeting with farmers in Bled. Some further activities for reducing human-large carnivores' conflicts are expected also in 2024. As already reported, Triglav National Park also collaborates closely with Slovenia Forest Service (SFS) as a Coordinating Beneficiary of the project LIFE Lynx. As a result, altogether five animals equipped with the GPS collars were successfully released at Pokljuka and Jelovica plateaus. All of them

together with their offspring are still present in the Julian Alps wider area. Triglav National Park as a contracting partner to SFS regarding the wolf monitoring in Slovenia also participated in collecting the spatial data during the winter (snow tracking) and summer (howling) seasons in 2023. Furthermore, several educational and public awareness raising activities took place also in 2023 to increase the acceptance of large carnivores' presence in the Triglav National Park area.

8. Strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificially regenerated spruce forests to climax mixed forests and increase the area of protected forests; apply appropriate mitigation measures specifically adapted to the national park status after natural disasters.

The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration but some forest stands in Triglav National Park (e.g., high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are artificial due to past forestry practice. However, even artificial they're important from nature conservation point of view (e.g. crucial habitats for glacial relics such as Western Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) which presents an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in Triglav National Park.

As mentioned in previous reports, intensive interventions were required in order to limit further spread of bark beetles to healthy coniferous stands and several large open areas appeared. It is expected that the natural process of forest regeneration will speed up the conversion of artificial spruce stands to more natural but on the other hand, degraded areas present also a potential site for the introduction of invasive alien plant species which was one of the Triglav National Park management priorities also in 2023. A developed methodology for early monitoring of degraded forest areas was used in practice and it will be subject of field activities in the following years as well. The Triglav National Park Public Institution is in regular contacts with Slovenia Forest Service, Slovenian Institute for Nature Conservation and land owners to agree on interventions to be applied by respecting the protected area management objectives. Some actions of the project VrH Julijcev are focusing in improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka and Mežakla plateaus. More than 15.000 trees belonging to several broadleaved species were planted and some other activities were implemented in order to improve the habitat quality for the Western Capercaillie and Hazel Grouse.

9. In liaison with relevant partners, implement the tourism strategy and continue developing practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation, the development of new technologies and new forms of tourism, especially in seasonal hot-spot areas.

We continue to promote environmentally friendly mobility not only in the Triglav National Park but in the entire area of Biosphere Reserve Julian Alps <https://www.tnp.si/en/visiting-park/information/mobility>,

Information on organised public transport in the Triglav National Park and the Julian Alps Biosphere Area, guided tours, hints for excursions and tips for visiting is available also in printed version <https://www.tnp.si/en/sustainability/research-and-projects/publikacije/?c=1/>

Together with the representatives of Ministry of Infrastructure and municipalities of Kranjska Gora and Bovec we continue to work together to find the best solutions to cope with traffic on the Vršič road and Predel road.

Mangart Learning Trail was opened in August, at the same time the Triglav National Park electric vehicle was integrated into the park's local community to <https://www.tnp.si/en/javni-zavod/media-centre/news/article/23/integration-of-the-triglav-national-park-electric-vehicle-into-the-parks-local-community-and-opening-of-the-mangrt-learning-trail.html>

10. Prevent the extension of installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping. Renovation and upgrading of existing installations should be accepted only if nature and landscape protection's interests are duly considered. Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the National Park, with special attention to new sport development (electric biking, for example), ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives.

In 2023 we continue to work with a non-profit organization Digitize the Planet with an aim to digitize national park regimes and restrictions for making them accessible to a broad user group. The National Park protection regimes were implemented in the Outdooractive application and in the MAPZS application of the Slovenian Mountaineering Association.

In 2023, the National Park continued the preparation of the National Park Visitor Action Plan, which includes chapters that also address all important recreational activities in the area.

In the area of managing canyoning activities in two canyons in the national park, a reservation system was developed in 2023 and changes were introduced in the consenting of activities, which have proved successful.

11. Encourage the best integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings in respecting the traditional local style; ensure support to maintaining traditional agriculture practices and their related infrastructure (hay racks, shepherds, cattle mountain buildings, etc.); further develop the Park or regional branding system for goods and services.

In 2023 we financed the reprint of a booklet on architectural heritage (*Hiše naših dedov* - Houses of our grandfathers), which presents individual quality and well-preserved homesteads, also in the Triglav National Park <https://hisededov.si/knjige/>.

In last two years our experts were involved in a field inventory of the heritage of dry stone wall constructions in the Alpine area.

Public institute Triglav National Park participated in the preparation of guidelines for two municipal spatial acts (Kranjska Gora and Bohinj). We were also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park.

The brand Triglav National Park Quality was expanded to cover also services, goods and schools. <https://www.tnp-kakovost.si/en/> Five new Quality mark holders were selected this year.

12. Promote capacity building and specialisation among permanent park rangers and hire more seasonal rangers during the peak season. Use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, and in general promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas more actively.

No seasonal rangers were hired during high season. Permanent rangers attended a course on visiting mountains in winter conditions 18 junior rangers participated in the Junior Ranger Programme (Europarc Federation) and got the certificate of Junior Ranger <https://www.tnp.si/en/sustainability/education/junior-ranger/>

Diploma logo is used on all important park publications. Diploma was mentioned on all important events.

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.

There were no significant changes in terrestrial and aquatic environments. At the end of November 2023, the number of staff was higher (3 new employees) comparing to the December 2022. Budget was higher comparing to 2022 (see above).

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.

Project VrH Julijcevi will end at the end of the year.

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/trainostni-razvoj/projekti-in-raziskave/projekti/vrh-julijcevi/>

<https://natura2000.gov.si/novica/projekt-vrh-julijcevi-za-ohranjeno-naravo-je-kljucno-sodelovanje-razlicnih-sektorjev-in-spreminjanje-navad-ljudi/>

New publications: Visitor Guides and Brochures

<https://www.tnp.si/en/sustainability/research-and-projects/publikacije/?c=1>

New website was launched in September. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/> Now, the webpages of the Triglav National Park, The Triglav National Park Quality Mark and The Triglav Treasury Online Classroom are interconnected and on the same server, they also have the same graphic design. The webpage has embedded Outdooractive application

<https://www.tnp.si/en/visiting-park/information/actual-conditions/#cat=Closure.Notice&filter=r-fullyTranslatedLangus-s-condition-1&zc=11,13.88054,46.35925>

Project LIFE FOR SEEDS: activities are in progress <https://www.tnp.si/sl/trajnostni-razvoj/projekti-in-raziskave/projekti/life-semenska-banka/>.

Project FRACTAL_started in April <https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/fractal/>

Candidature to a MAB UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Julian Alps <https://www.julianalps-mab.eu/>

Biosphere reserve Julian Alps on RTV Slovenija <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/medijsko-sredisce/novice/novica/50/biosferno-obmocje-julijske-alpe-v-oddaji-na-lepse.html>

Biosphere reserve Julian Alps at WTM London <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/medijsko-sredisce/novice/novica/106/na-londonski-turisticni-borzi-tudi-o-julijskih-alpah.html>

The Pocar Homestead on RTV Slovenia:

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/medijsko-sredisce/novice/novica/9/nedeljska-reportaza-na-radiu-slovenija-s-pocarjeve-domacije-v-zgornji-radovni.html>

New registration application for canyoning in the **Fratarica** and **Predelica** gorges in Log pod Mangrtom. Access to the application is granted by the consent of the Triglav National Parc public institution. <https://www.tnp.si/en/visiting-park/activities-and-sights/activities-in-the-park/water-sports/canyoning/>

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