

**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 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: Austria

Name of the area: Thayatal National Park

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

Year: 2018; Number of years since renewal: 3

Central authority concerned:

Name: Land Niederösterreich (Federal Government of Lower Austria) Department of Nature Protection

Address: A-3109 St. Pölten, Landhausplatz 1

Tel: 0043 2742 9005 14243

Fax: 0043 2742 9005 15220

e-mail: post.ru5@noel.gv.at

www: www.noel.gv.at

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Nationalpark Thayatal GmbH (Ltd.)

Address: Nationalparkhaus, Merkersdorf 90, 2082 Hardegg, Austria

Tel: 0043 2949 7005 0

Fax: 0043 2949 7005-50

e-mail: office@np-thayatal.at

www: www.np-thayatal.at

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. set the minimum flow in the river Thaya/Dyje at as large a level as possible; the present minimum levels of 2.8 m³/sec (summer) and 3.3 m³/sec (winter) should be maintained or increased and become legally enforceable; the flow rate should never be permitted to drop below these minimum rates, except at times of absolute necessity (i.e. during a prolonged drought) which should be on the basis of agreement between the Podyjí National Park (Czech Republic), the E.ON Company and the relevant agencies of national, regional and local government;

Ad. 1 The long-term agreement of minimum flows of 2.8 m³/sec (summer) and 3.3 m³/s (winter) with the operator of the Vranov Dam is being maintained. Neither in 2020 nor in 2021 was an exception necessary, because there was no absolute necessity and therefore the agreement was adhered to. The hydrological situation in 2021 allowed generally higher flow rates almost throughout the entire year.

2. pursue efforts to bring the river into "good ecological potential" according to the EU's Water Framework Directive; in achieving this aim the fish population needs to be improved and the presence of dead wood (coarse woody debris) in the river should continue to be encouraged and monitored;

Ad. 2 The research and monitoring of the fish population and their use of dead wood in the Thaya river is being studied in the current INTERREG-Project "Dyje 2020/Thaya 2020", which will be successfully finished by the end of December 2021. The results will provide information on fish population, use of the artificial spawning grounds and a definite utilization of deadwood of the local fish population. The studies will be published in January 2022. Both National Park authorities will discuss those results of the studies together and agree on the future management of the river.

3. avoid strong surges of water as far as possible, consistent with the safe operation of the Vranov Hydroelectric Plant; every effort should be made by the operators of the Vranov Dam to flatten out the peaks by more gradual build-up to higher flow rates, instead of sharp peaks in the flow rate;

Ad. 3 This year the hydrological situation allowed the Vranov Dam to operate accordingly as agreed and also to provide mostly higher flow rates and therefore sharp peaks were quite rare.

4. monitor periodically the fish stocks in the river by the national park authorities, in co-operation with appropriate stakeholders; management of the fish stocks can then be agreed on the basis of evidence gathered during monitoring; the results of all monitoring and research, irrespective of who funded it, should be made publically available so that the data are used for the benefit of all stakeholders;

Ad 4. The INTERREG-Project "Dyje2020/Thaya2020" includes the monitoring of fish stocks and will be completed by the end of December 2021. Multiple fish were equipped with a transmitter, providing the monitoring with data about the behavior of the local fish population in the National Park section of the river Thaya. Regarding the fish stocking, data and statistics are being taken about every single In- and Output of fish by the National Park Thaya. Since there is also stocking in the National park Podyjí, coordination efforts took place in 2020, since there was a change in the Czech National park Law, which now provides the National park Podyjí authority with more influence on the fishing and stocking situation. The results of the studies will influence the future stocking of both National Parks and will also be published in the beginning of 2022.

5. set up, in liaison with the Podyjí National Park, a programme for minimising fishing in the Thaya/Dyje River, with the ultimate goal of ending fishing activities there;

Ad 5. A study on the influence of fishing and activities related to fishing on the protection goals of National Parks with the specific focus on the disturbance on protected species from the activities related to fishing was carried out. The study was carried out by a team of experts from Austria and the Czech Republic together, which will provide one single report about the influence and consequence of fishery regarding both National Parks as one unit together. As a first step in the right direction is the planned adjustment of the fishing areas in the transboundary part of the river, so that they are identical on both sides. Future steps should include limitations of access and reduction of fishing areas, especially on the Czech side.

6. evaluate the existing agreement on co-operation between the Podyjí and Thaya National Parks in view of a possible twinning agreement.

Ad 6. On the 20. October 2021 both National Park Directors signed an updated version of the agreement of cooperation between both National Parks. Additionally, a common management plan will be created in 2022, stating the common goals and measures which the National Parks will pursue together. This document will also be published on the websites and demonstrates the transboundary cooperation to the public. Therefore another document, besides the existing agreements as the "Statement concerning cooperation between the Nationalpark Thayatal (Republic of Austria) and Národní park Podyjí (Czech Republic)" from the "Agreement on Common Objectives, Sources and Basic Principles of the Management in the NP Podyjí-Thayatal" and the "Agreement on mutual exchange of information from information systems" will strengthen the cooperation of National Park administration Thayatal and the National Park administration Podyjí. A new 10-year management plan of Nationalpark Thayatal consist of its own chapter on transboundary cooperation which was created and written together with the National Park Podyjí and is valid till 2030.

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 changes. The management of the Nationalpark Thayatal continues in accordance with the annual plans that are derived from the longer-range management plans. From 2021 till 2030 a new management plan is come in effect legally binding after it was unanimously decided by the advisory board.

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 since the European Diploma was renewed in July 2018.

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 the past period a multitude of research studies were finalized and published. These provide information on the conservation assets and necessary management measures, for example especially following topics: Mosses, vegetation of meadows and dry grasslands, birds, vascular plants, forest vegetation, fungi, historical landscape development, habitat connectivity through corridors, green infrastructure in the surroundings of the national parks, the situation of the wildcat. Most of the surveys were implemented on a transboundary basis and were published or presented at a joint research conference in October 2021 and are also mostly available online.

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

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