

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1
on the revised regulations for the Euroean 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: **Romania**

Name of the area: **Piatra Craiului National Park**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2021, 4 years.

The last renewal was due on 27th September 2021, but the validity of the Diploma was extended, on an exceptional basis (Covid-19), till 28th March 2024. The resolution CM/ResDip(2023)6 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14th June 2023 renewed the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park until 27th september 2031.

Central authority concerned:

Name: **Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests**

Address: **Bvd. Libertății nr. 12, Sector 5, București**

Tel: **004 021 408 9500**

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: **Piatra Craiului National Park Administration**

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Tel: **+40(0)268 223165**

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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.

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. secure the necessary budget for the national park administration to run and maintain the infrastructure for visitors and to conduct regular monitoring activities;

The national park budget is approved by a common order of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Finance. It is largely (90%) funded by the National Forest Administration (RNP ROMSILVA) with whom the Piatra Craiului National Park Administration signed a longstanding contract. The remaining 10% is self-raised, through visitor fees, tourist guiding fees, selling of merchandise in the Visitor Center and fees charged for processing and analyzing plans and projects submitted by various entities as part of the environmental impact assessment procedures.

The total park budget (without projects) for 2025 was 2,485,000 RON, of which salaries amounted to 1,987,000 RON.

In addition to the approved budget, the park administration has been successful in securing funds through several EU-funded projects, either as beneficiary or partner. In 2025 the park administration finalized a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which started in 2022 with the aim of developing a revised version of the management plan for the next ten years. The revised management plan is currently in the last evaluation stage for approval by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests.

In order to secure additional funds for implementing conservation measures, biodiversity monitoring and improve visitor experience, the park administration applied successfully for another project funded by the ERDF and co-financed by the Romanian state, a project that started in 2025 and will run through to 2029.

2. monitor the effect of climate change on species and habitats and ensure findings are considered in the management of the area;

Monitoring activities in Piatra Craiului National Park focus on species belonging to all major groups: plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, birds and mammals, as well as 16 habitats of European and national importance. A key element for monitoring the effects of climate change is the investigation of spatiotemporal dynamics of alpine timberline. The ecotone between forest and alpine shrubs is an ideal indicator in this sense. In order to draw any relevant conclusions long-term data must be collected (both remote sensing data and climate variables). In 2025, the park administration continued employing drones for collecting standardized photographs that in time will allow the analysis of trends in the response of timberline to climate changes. Moreover, through the newly funded project several tools and instruments (drones, temperature and humidity sensors) will be purchased and will help with data collection and monitoring activities.

3. maintain and strengthen the good relations with the local and the county authorities, as well as with tourist organisations to work together on future sustainable tourist development in the area surrounding the national park, with special attention to visitors' hotspots;

During 2025 the park administration continued to build on relationships with local and county authorities through individual meetings and through the Consultative Council of the park, which gathers together representatives of various stakeholders operating at local and county level. In addition, the park administration continued efforts to address issues relating to visitor hotspot management. As such, a solution was agreed on with local and county level authorities to resolve problems caused by the increased summer flux of tourists and vehicles in the Zarnesti Gorges area.

The ERDF-funded project, in addition to implementing active conservation measures will also contribute to improving visitor experience in the park area through the refurbishment of the Zarnesti Visitor Centre, the building of a new visitor information point in the southern part of the park and by improving accessibility on several tourist trails.

4. continue and strengthen the implementation of the building guide in the sustainable development area of the Piatra Craiului National Park;

The implementation of the building guide is a top priority for the park administration. The guide was widely distributed to local town halls and is available on the park website in order to facilitate compliance by those who wish to build in the park area. The park administration, with the help of the Scientific Council, assesses all requests for approval of building development projects for conformity with the specifications of the guide. In addition to individual housing projects, in 2025 three urban planning documentations (for three local communities) have been submitted for assessment and approval. The park administration ensures that the internal zoning of the park and the building provisions of the guide are enforced.

5. maintain regular control measures for forestry activities and enhance co-operation between owners, the forestry authority and the Piatra Craiului National Park administration;

In areas where forest harvesting activities are permitted, the park works closely with local forest offices to ensure the implementation of specific conditions issued for wood marking and harvesting. Moreover, the park rangers conduct regular patrols, independently or in collaboration with competent authorities, to monitor compliance with park rules and conservation measures.

The revised management plan provides for an extension of the park core area (strictly protected and integral protection zones), a result that came from working closely with forest owners and administrators. The meetings of the Consultative Council are also good opportunities for consultation and collaboration between owners, forestry authorities and the park administration.

6. continue the gradual replacement of spruce forests with broad-leaved forests in the middle-mountain level and ensure sustainable forest practices are systematically used within the national park;

The revised management plan makes provisions for the diversification of areas where conifers were planted in the past and for the gradual shift from conifer to mixed forests, thereby strengthening forest resilience (in view of climate change also). By legal requirement, all forest management plans have to be harmonized with the park management plan and to follow park zoning and conservation measures. This measure, together with monitoring activities undertaken by the park staff, will ensure the implementation of sustainable forestry practices in the area.

The newly-approved project funded by the ERDF, includes, among other conservation measures, the planting of broadleaf species on 10 hectares that were previously planted with spruce outside its natural range, and thus allows for the reconstruction of the natural character of the forests.

7. continue giving appropriate visibility to the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and explaining the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.

The European Diploma logo is used in all published material, in the administration letterhead and also on the website as well as in the Visitor Center.

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 since the last annual 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.

In the new management plan there were minor changes to the boundaries, for a higher precision.

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.

A new revised management plan for the national park and the overlapping N2000 sites was approved in December through the Ministerial Order No. 3226/12 December 2025.

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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