



Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Muddus National Park (Sweden)

(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: **Sweden**

Name of the area: **Muddus/Muttos National Park**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2023, 2 year ago

Central authority concerned:

Name: **Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)**

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Tel: **+46 8 698 10 000**

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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.

Authority responsible for its management:

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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.

No conditions are listed either in the Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma, nor in the Resolution Res(67)23 on the award of the European Diploma. Hence, no conditions to be explained.

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. consider merging the Muddus National Park and the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks into a larger site, including the whole territory of the Laponian Area World Heritage site:

This is a question to consider and discuss for the Swedish Environmental protection agency (SEPA). Will be discussed in the new management plan for Laponia starting 2026-27.

2. set up a co-ordination mechanism that covers all the national and international designations (European Diploma, World Heritage, Ramsar, Natura 2000, national parks and reserves); organize a joint international workshop with the participation of UNESCO and the Council of Europe, as appropriate:

Organizing workshops lifting these questions should be addressed to owners of the concepts: World heritage (RAÄ) and the Swedish Environmental protection agency (SEPA). Question returned to ED to rise the question to appropriate authority.

3. finalize and adopt the new management plan of the Laponian Area World Heritage site and take a rapid decision regarding the future of the Laponiatjuottjudus management organization; consider extending, without a time limit, the special government regulation on Laponiatjuottjudus:

Today Laponiatjuottjudus has six full time and three part time employees. Laponiatjuottjudus as an organization is well equipped to implement the management plan since we consist of a wide range of competence within the field staff. The future challenge is to continue the work of creating a steady platform to develop and maintain management work required to preserve and develop the Laponia World Heritage site.

The board of Laponiatjuottjudus holds regular meetings throughout the year where all parties attend, and all their decisions are made in consensus. This gives a guarantee that the work performed by the management employees is established from the joint cooperative effort of the board. Laponiatjuottjudus has been granted a new extended trial period from the Swedish Government to manage the Laponia World Heritage site until 30 June 2026. Before the end of the trial period a decision will be made by the Swedish Government if they will prolong the management of the World Heritage site in the care of Laponiatjuottjudus.

4. continue and possibly intensify research on the impact of climate change on food availability for reindeers, reindeer herding and predator populations, and regulate the grazing intensity as appropriate:

Laponia has no possibilities to do active research in these questions/fields, hence the question on reindeer grazing, grazing pressure, predator impact and environmental impacts is today researched by SLU (Swedish Agricultural University) together with CABN and the Saami parliament.

Muddus/Muttos is one of the large untouched wetlands areas in Sweden, hence it's also represented in the NMÖV program for aquatic environments (long term environmental survey, with multiple assessment objects), owned by SLU Aqua but in close collaboration with SEPA, where climate change is one of the main issues.

Laponiatjuottjudus supports and encourages continued research into the above-mentioned issues.

5. continue compiling inventories of predators and use the results to help conserve the exceptional predator populations; monitor illegal hunting and increase the number of field staff for this purpose; accordingly, stop issuing new hunting licenses for the Wolverine and the Eurasian lynx; take appropriate measures to stop the decline of the Eurasian lynx and Wolverine populations:

Norrbottn County Administrative Board (CAB) is the Government Agency responsible for the predator's inventories and preventing illegal hunting in Sweden. Field staff in these areas are employed by CABN.

SEPA and CABN are the responsible authorities for managing hunting permits for all large predators in Sweden according to EU directives on sustainable population goals in endangered species.

Further, Laponiatjuottjudus have an ongoing dialogue with the Norrbotten County Ornithological association regarding inventories of different birds of prey.

6. reconsider the mechanism of compensation paid for reindeer losses caused by large carnivores; increase compensation according to the inflation rate and increases in meat prices, as stated in the reindeer herding law:

These are issues that should be addressed to the Swedish government and the Swedish Environmental protection agency and the Saami parliament.

7. encourage research on the use of helicopters and drones, and their impact on reindeers and wildlife, and set restrictions if appropriate; reconsider the frequency of the use of six- and four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicles:

Laponiatjuottjudus supports and encourages continued research into the above-mentioned issues and have an ongoing dialogue with the decision-making authority (CAB) regarding permit licenses relating to the use of six- and four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicles.

The use of ATV (4WD and 6WD) has increased in recent years. Previously, 2-wheel offroad vehicles were used to gather reindeer, which caused minor damage compared to ATV. Laponiatjuottjudus is monitoring the effects on the nature values connected to the use of ATV in reindeer herding, to further analyze if it is possible to prevent damage in vulnerable areas.

8. continue the survey of visitors and consider possibilities for new tourism activities, such as paragliding, base jumping, ice climbing and heli-skiing; explore ways of improving the public transportation service to the three national parks to decrease the carbon footprint of visitors:

Laponiatjuottjudus continuously maintain the boardwalks, trails, bridges, cabins and information signs. Keeping the trails accessible is important to canalize visitors and support them to visit the park in a safe way.

Laponiatjuottjudus has an ongoing dialogue with relevant authorities, such as CAB, SEPA, the Sami communities and tourism companies about the above-mentioned tourism activities. So far, no new activities have increased significantly.

9. continue to develop a centralized database of research results for the whole area or, at least, ensure easy access to the different databases that exist:

Laponiatjuottjudus have developed a basic GIS system that is available for the management to use within the organization. The development of our GIS system is a long-term work in progress that will continue during the following years. The

management have not been granted access to existing systems used by the former county management. SEPA is responsible for the national environmental survey program, data holder for the different topic areas which also includes the Laponia area. Swedish University of Agricultural Science is responsible for landscape, species, fish and aquatic biota (including endangered and invasive species). Lund University is responsible for birds and butterflies. These data are both open access data and non-public data (endangered species). This way open data sources are available for everyone, and data that for some reason must be protected is closed for unauthorized access. However, certain employees at Laponiatjuottjudus have been granted access and can monitor the Laponia area.

10. pay special attention and, if appropriate, set restrictions to the construction of technology or energy infrastructures outside of the protected areas that may have a negative impact on the reindeer herding system and the fauna, including birds, for example planned mining, existing hydro power plants, housing or wind turbines:

Laponiatjuottjudus has an ongoing dialogue with relevant authorities and stakeholders, participates in consultation meetings and provides private companies and decision-making authority with data, information and consultation statements.

11. promote the European Diploma in the information material and (particularly) in the Naturum exhibition and Ajtte Sami culture Museum in Jokkmokk; improve communication to visitors to deter them from camping at reindeer herding sites and from disturbing grazing reindeer herds:

All the cabins include signs over the European Diploma for Protected Area. During 2023 we resumed the education in ethical guidelines and sustainable tourism, which is communicated to private individuals and companies who intend conduct activities in the area. We will continue to promote the ED in 2026.

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.

Laponiatjuottjudus allocated budget was lower in 2025 compared to 2024, due to limited governmental funding for SEPA. A lower budget has meant carefully considered priorities and Laponiatjuottjudus have limited authority due to regulations.

During some periods of 2025 we have been two full-time employees short. Staff shortage has required flexibility. It has sometimes been sapping but strengthened our cohesion.

The trails and cabins in Muddus/Muttos and major part of the cabins in Padjelanta/Bádjelannda is not in the "national mountain trail network", which means no designated funding for maintenance. Funding for the trails and cabins must be financed by "the general funding for protected areas" or we need to apply separately for other funding.

The future funding is still very uncertain and varies from one year to another. The uncertainty affects the opportunities for the management and complicates the long-term perspective.

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 of boundaries to report.

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.

2023 we did a pilot project which aimed to add woodchips to wearied parts of a trail. The measure is cost-effective and ecologically defensible, due to the local woodchips and because snowmobiles could deploy the material, which means minimum impact. The project has been evaluated for 2024-25 with positive results.

Result of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological Association in 2024:

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): two successful breeding's, with four chicks in total.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): very high success in breeding in the whole of Norrbotten no exception Muddus.

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*): no observation or successful breeding.

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*): DNA inventories fully implemented, higher estimates than inventories with family groups, no difference in Muddus , only stray individuals.

Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*): occasional observations including females with cubs in the area.

Wolf (*Canis lupus*): one individual tracked.

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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