

**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: 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:

Last renewal 2012, 10 years ago

Central authority concerned:

Name: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

Address: S-106 48 Stockholm

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e-mail: Jenny.Lindman-Komstedt@Naturvardsverket.se

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Laponiatjuottjudus

Address: Kvarnbogatan 11, S- 962 32 Jokkmokk

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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.

No conditions are listed neither 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 it follows that there are 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. provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new "Laponiatjuottjudus" (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;

Today Laponiatjuottjudus has six full time-and two part time employees. Laponiatjuottjudus as an organisation is well equipped to implement the management plan since we now consist of a wide-ranging 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 over the year where all parts 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 December 2022. 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.

The Management Plan was translated into English in 2014 and is available on http://laponia.nu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Laponia-forvaltningsplan-eng-web-150327_2.pdf

2. continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;

Norrbottn County Administrative Board (CAB) is the Government Agency responsible for the predators' inventories in Sweden. In the management task concerning the predators' inventories in Laponia we are continuously working with the Sami communities and CAB.

Laponiatjuottjudus also keep contact with the "Norrbottn County Ornithological association" (Norrbottns Ornitologiska Förening) regarding inventories of different birds of prey in the Laponian area.

3. establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;

Laponiatjuottjudus have developed a basic GIS system that is available for the management to use within the organisation. 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 (CAB).

SEPA is responsible for the national environmental survey program, data holder for the different topic areas which also includes the Laponia ;

SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Science)-Landscape, species (including endangered, invasive species), fish and aquatic biota.

Lund University -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 who wants more knowledge, and data that for some reason must be protected is closed for unauthorized access.

4. continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change;

In 2013 the Norrbotten County Administrative Board (CAB) summarized the studies, which have been conducted in the forest fire area, into a report. The Muddus/Muttos ecology and fire history is well

documented and it is an important task for the future to continue and encourage the research in the area. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences continuously perform research in the fire areas. It is important to encourage people to visit the park and give the visitors a broad range of information about the whole Muddus/Muttos area, including the value of forest fires for the biodiversity. In 2020 a scientific article about the beetle community in the area was published in the journal Ecological Processes (<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13717-020-00246-5>).

Muddus 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 overall responsibility SEPA, one of the assessment objects is changing climate.

5. assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact);

Laponiatjuottjudus continuously maintain the boardwalks, trails, bridges, cabins and information signs., Funding for maintenance is from the same money as nature conservation (protected areas). Keeping the trails accessible is important to canalize visitors and support them to visit the park in a safe way.

The new visitor entrance in "Skaite" is working well, we have an increase in visitors to the area and we can see on the wear and tear that "the daytrip to the waterfalls" is by far the most popular route. This gives by hand that the maintenance need also increases to minimize environmental impact. The entrance is accessible with wheelchair and contains an entrance portal with information panels of the WH area, fireplaces, toilet, recycling station and a large parking space..

The positive trend of number of visitors still keeping up with around 6000p/year (data from visitor counters). With this information the management get a good estimation of where and how people hike in the area.

The visitor cabins in the National park are equipped with books containing suitable information about the area that also mentions the European Diploma for Protected Areas. All the cabins include signs over the European Diploma for Protected Area.

During 2023 we resumed the education in ethical guidelines and sustainable tourism.

6 consider linking the Muddus National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site.

This is a question to consider and discuss for the board of Laponiatjuottjudus together with the Swedish EPA no decision taken in 2023.

7. reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.

Organizing workshop lifting these questions should be addressed to RAÄ and SEPA who are owners of the concepts World heritage sites (RAÄ) and protected nature (SEPA).

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.

The funding for 2023 was lower than 2022 due to limited governmental funding for Swedish EPA. This gives by hand that the priorities for 2023 was to maintain infrastructures, continue and finish ongoing projects. We also have limitations in what kind of actions we can undertake in nature conservation due to the legal settings in the regulations for Laponia.

Today Laponiatjuottjudus management crew consists of six full time and two part time employees.

The trails/cabins in Muddus and major part of the cabins in Padjelanta/Bádjelannda is not in the "national mountain trail network" which means that they do not have designated funding for maintenance. Funding for trails/cabins in Muddus and major part of Padjelanta/Bádjelannda cabins must be financed by the general funding for protected areas or we need to apply separately for extra funding.

The future funding is still very uncertain and varies from one year to another. This uncertain level of funding of course affects the management since it is very difficult to plan in the long-term as the funding varies every year, hence it is a question of prioritizing.

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.

None

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.

During 2023 a full-scale re-inventory has been made of all infrastructure in the park to harmonize the status and labeling systems for maintenance with CAB. During 2023 the whole platform for the birdwatching tower was replaced with a new.

We are doing a pilot project in 2023 adding wood-chips to a part of the most worn trail. This is both cost effective and ecologically correct because the origin of the wood-chips is local, transportation onto the trail can be done with snowmobile which means minimum impact and the project will be evaluated the following years.

Result of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological Association in 2023:

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): two successful nestings with 3 chicks each was found by the Ornithological Association.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): no successful breeding confirmed

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*): no successful breeding confirmed

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