

**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 2020

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: ESTONIA

Name of the area: **MATSALU NATIONAL PARK**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
awarded in 2003 (17 years ago) and renewed in 2017 (3 years ago).

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment, Department of Nature Conservation

Address: Tallinn Narva mnt 7A

Tel: +372 626 2871

Fax: -

e-mail: taimo.aasma@envir.ee

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Environmental Board Republic of Estonia

Address: Pärnu, Pikk 20a, 80011

Tel: +372 5247899

Fax: -

e-mail: Kaja.lotman@keskkonnaamet.ee

www: www.kaitsealad/matsalu.ee,

¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

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. ensure that the management plan for 2015 to 2024 is implemented and appropriately funded, and revised before the end of the plan's period in 2024;

The nature conservation activities planned for until 2021 in the management plan are fulfilled almost 85%. The activities of first and second priority were implemented 100%

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. continue the co-operation with the local farmers and other stakeholders to improve the management and well-being of the grassland communities of the national park. Liaise with both farmers and others in relation to the use of the cut hay;

There was informational day for farmers and other stakeholders about wet meadows where the scientists presented new research data about predation and tree growth influence on birds on September 15 and 16 2021

2. envisage the setting-up of a scientific advisory group in order to achieve the full potential of the national park for scientific research and education. The group would provide strategic advice and, upon request, review the quality of research proposals and scientific results, and provide other scientific advice;

The cooperation with scientist was very close in frames of renewing regulations of Matsalu National Park. Tartu University Maritime Institute of Estonia was supervisor of restoration of pikes' spawning area the lake Teorehe. Tartu University Institute of Ecology continued research on "Managing coastal grasslands for endangered wader species" in the frame of IP LIFE ForEst and Farmland

3. despite the hunting restrictions within the national park, strengthen co-operation with hunters for the management and control of some invasive species;

In cooperation with hunters invasive predators' control on islands has been organised, but this year not all islets were checked because of COVID-19 restrictions.

4. set up a warning system to detect, at an early stage, and enable appropriate action to be taken against alien, invasive species which could threaten the biodiversity of the national park;

There are some web-cameras in the nature to monitor the predators.

There is a monitoring scheme for mammals footprints in the park in two areas (square 1kmX1kmX1km monitoring time in February) which helps recognize alien mammals as well.

*The works for eradication of giant hog-weed *Heracleum sosnowskyi* took place in four areas in National Park in 2021. There is open system to inform Environmental Board about the new places of this species:*

https://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/et/uudised/keskkonnaamet-kogub-teavet-karuputke-voorliikide-uutest-kasvukohtadest?fbclid=IwAR0O8OBvtxFZRWUOck66fk9Tzr8yBsVr02P_b-pnOoAMgZvuD1GJ1GOgx0

New national geo-information system for invasive snails has been created that will help in tracking these also in Matsalu if needed (no cases in the national park this far):

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/f50da40017564ae28439e93aefc44159>

5. prepare a climate change adaptation plan for the national park by 2024;

Project application for research and modelling of climate change impacts on Matsalu area has been prepared. The research on flood areas has been started.

6. ensure that printed guides to the hiking trails and routes in Estonian and translations into the major European languages are available for national and international visitors and assess the opportunity and feasibility of an increase in the number of trails.

The State Forest Management Centre who is in charge of visitor management has renewed an application for visitor infrastructure in 3 languages: Estonian, English and Russian. Information on the national webpage is also in 3 languages. All informational boards have English translation.

There was visitor monitoring 2021. The results will be published next year. Reconstructions were made on two main trails (Penijõe, Salevere). The garbage sorting system was arranged at the National Park Centre. A garbage sorting game has been developed and is available on the web page of State Forest Management Centre for visitors. 4921 persons received information at the centre of the Park

2021 Newsletter for entrepreneurs: <https://mailchi.mp/9a14d7515cbc/matsalu-newsletter-4848366?e=25e08947fb> (EST), active information social media 1735 followers and 594 (English) Instagram 1703 followers

The NGO Terra Maritima created printed materials: "Matsalu region" in Estonian and English, leaflet „Matsalu plants and animals“ also in Estonian and English and the map of tourism services.

- 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.

Environmental Board and Environmental Inspection merged into one institution from January 2021, under the name of Environmental Board. Renewing process of protection rules Regulation and borders for the Matsalu National Park has started in 2020 with public hearings and this process was continued also 2021.

- 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 yet

- 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.

The public hearings started in order to change Matsalu National Park regulations and borders, the map and description is on webpage:

<https://keskkonnaamet.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d9996dbd7b06493bb6d16cd5b111a926>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a trip for ambassadors to Matsalu National Park on October 5TH 2021.

In the frame of Matsalu International Nature Film Festival Matsalu National Park prize was given to the film about a young Crane's long Journey, look more: <https://www.maff.ee/en>

There was managed 6847,44 ha of seminatural grasslands with 103 partners, 409,31 ha of meadows were restored and erected 6760 m of fences for pastures.

Matsalu National Park has applied for the prolongation of the certificate of EUROPARC Federation sustainable tourism (decision yet pending due to pandemic).

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

