

**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 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:

Name of the area: Retezat National Park

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

EDPA renewed on 14 June 2023, valid until 2 July 2033

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministerul Mediului, Apelor si Padurilor (Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests)

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: RNP Romsilva - Administratia Parcului National Retezat R.A. (Retezat National Park Administration)

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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.

facilitate the adoption of the management plan by the responsible authorities without further delay and work towards securing funding for its implementation;

The management plan of Retezat NP was approved in 30.09.2024. In the last day of 2024 RNPA submitted for financing a project which aims to implement some of the measures from the approved management plan. In 30 may 2025 it was accepted for funding the project implementation team was formed and the implementation of the project begun.

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. strengthen monitoring programmes and secure financing for their implementation; initiate in particular the monitoring of the effect of climate change on species and habitats and ensure findings are considered in the management of the area;

In 2025 Retezat National Park Administration (RNPA) continued the monitoring activities for a series of species and habitats (the ones considered more vulnerable or present in small numbers within the park's limits) according to the monitoring plan approved by the Scientific Council of the park. Also, for better results in monitoring activities RNPA became partners with Rewilding Romania who is participating in fauna monitoring activities with rangers and monitoring cameras. In September RNPA purchased a series of monitoring devices on the project funds: monitoring cameras, audiomoth devices, photo cameras, outdoor equipment for rangers, means of transportation, etc., which are already in use.

2025 was the final year for the two projects FishME and AlpChange, which study the alpine habitats (focusing on freshwater habitats), and the impact of climate change and other human activities on these alpine habitats. The scientific studies to publish the results of the projects are in work.

2. prepare a plan for maintaining and developing the infrastructure (such as headquarters, potential information points, entrance points, camp sites, shelters) of the national park and seek appropriate financing; **In May 2025 the project in which we have foreseen important works to modernize the Visitor Centre Nucsoara was approved. The works to modernize Nucsoara Visitor Centre will be achieved in the following 3 years. In 2025 we have focused on the maintenance of the tourist infrastructure owned by RNPA.**

3. maintain and strengthen the good relations with the local and regional authorities, as well as with tourist organizations to reach an agreement on future sustainable tourist development in the area surrounding the Retezat National Park;

Even if our relations with the surrounding communities and the local and county authorities are very good, we can't do much about it because our competences are legally limited to the territories of the protected natural areas that we administer.

4. strengthen the co-operation between the administration of the national park, the National Agency for Natural Protected Areas and the National Forest Administration (ROMSILVA) to ensure a coherent and harmonized management of the protected areas under their respective responsibility;

We always keep this attitude in mind, both because we have a hierarchical relationship with both mentioned structures, and because they are the only ones that can help us in our relationship with other entities at high level. And as far as ROMSILVA, the need of good co-operation is even clearer because it is our main (and often the only) financial supporter.

5. pursue the efforts to further enlarge the strict protection zone (zone A) and the integral protection zone (zone B);

In the approved management plan, the surface of the protection zones (A and B) represents 76% of the total surface of the park; this means that we managed to exceed the percentage recommended by IUCN regarding the proportion of the protection zones of the national parks (75%).

6. consider ways and means for a more sustainable use of forests within the buffer zone of the Retezat National Park;

This is not a simple matter, it involves two aspects: the social-economic one of the local communities whose existence is largely based on the wood harvested from the buffer zone of the park, and the legal-technical aspect related to the way this wood can be exploited.

Anyway, one thing is certain and clear: by law, stricter rules apply to wood exploitation in that area than to ordinary harvesting (the one that takes place outside the park).

7. make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.

In 2025 we continued to use the European Diploma logo on a large scale, both in our current activity and at the events we have participated in.

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.

Since last year there were no changes in the main/important issues that are subject of our activity.

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.

There were no changes to the boundaries of the park since the last annual 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.

Between 21 and 22 may 2025, Retezat NP's director, along with the directors from Delta Dunării Biosphere Reserve and Piatra Craiului National Park participated at the meeting held in Granada, Spain to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the awarding of the European Diploma for Protected Areas by the Council of Europe.

Park director,

Alin - Flavius Alimpesc
