



European Diploma

Annual report 2020



Lagopus muta is one of the eight species the project VrH Julijcev deals with. Photo by TNP

Triglavski narodni park (Triglav National Park)

Slovenija



**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: **SLOVENIA**

Name of the area: **TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK**

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

- Award 2004 (16)
- Renewal 2009 (12)
- Renewal 2019 (1)

Central authority concerned:

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 Address: Ljubljanska cesta 27
 Tel: + 386 4 5780 200
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 e-mail: triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si
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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK
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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.

1. National authorities should guarantee the necessary budget in order to fully implement the Triglav National Park Management Plan adopted in 2016 including a comprehensive monitoring scheme, and to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural and cultural values of the Park.

For the implementation of the annual program of the TNP Public Institution, 2.790.810 € was planned in 2020. Most of the funds (part of 77,2 %), 2.164.535 € was provided from the state budget. Other funds (626.275 €) are provided from international projects (350.425 €), so-called non-public sources (88.650 €) and commercial activities (187.200 €). The financing follows the dynamics set out in the TNP Management Plan from 2016 and the items of adopted state budget. Other holders of management tasks and activities provide funding sources through their own annual programs of work and financial plans. Funds (partly raised by the rebalancing in November 2020) are sufficient to cover most of the planned tasks of the TNP Management Plan. However, some further efforts should be dedicated to the budget to become more operational as its availability is strictly related to the adoption of the TNP annual program of work. For this reason, some measures which should be implemented in winter or early spring could not be financially supported.

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 the inter-ministerial coordination regarding the management of the National Park.

Different sectors at state level (ministries with their agencies, directorates, institutes) and local communities have an important role in the implementation of management tasks and activities. As leading partners or cooperating partners they are involved in the management of the protected area, therefore some work and financial obligations should be included in their annual programs, staffing and financial plans.

Most of the expert work regarding improved collaboration with sectors and local communities has been done in the field of implementing measures for sustainable traffic mobility, the preparation of the building typology and tenders by the agricultural sector to co-finance individual environmental measures.

In general, level of measures implemented by sectors is below the indicators values foreseen by the TNP Management Plan. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia or the competent ministry (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning), should strengthen the coordination of the activities of other sectors in the management plan implementation and co-financing of tasks, especially in the field of sustainable development and protection of cultural heritage.

2. Continue to follow up closely on the transition of land ownership in the Park (denationalisation); pursue the active policy of acquisition of land important for nature protection and other park's activities.

TNP does not have an active role in the denationalization process but it collaborates closely with the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the State Attorneys Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Administrative Unit Radovljica to follow the process as an interested party and to contribute in a decision-making process. According to the Denationalization Act when the state property is part of the denationalization process state attorney represents the state. First-instance authorities who consider the requests for denationalization are administrative units, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. According to the Triglav National Park Act, Triglav National Park Public institution is authorized to exercise a pre-emption right on agricultural land, forest land, water areas and urban or built-up land on behalf of the state of Slovenia. In this year, a pre-emption right was exercised on 15 ha of land. Since available funds dedicated specifically for land acquisition are quite limited, the TNP Public Authority has been seeking for other options for purchasing privately owned forests and grasslands.

3. Pursue the efforts for transforming the zonation towards 1st zone (wilderness) and keep the 3rd zone for sustainable use, provided that the central of part of the National Park does not decrease.

Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zone, 3rd is peripheral zone. There were no changes in zonation in 2020.

4. Continue the good collaboration with municipal authorities responsible for land-use planning when preparing land use plans and implementing them. Strictly apply the regulations related to new constructions and renovation works.

The TNP Authority is running expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. So far the typology for municipalities of Bohinj (<https://www.tnp.si/assets/Uploads/Tipologija-20170309-stisnjena.pdf>), Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora and Kobarid are prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and

recommendations for placement and architectural design. In 2020 a manual about building typology of Bohinj alpine pastures was prepared, edited and published (<https://www.tnp.si/sl/spoznajte/kultura/stavbna-tipologija/>).

5. Continue to work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human occupation.

There are 36 mountain huts in the Triglav National Park and at the end of the year 2020, 16 of them had wastewater treatment plants. Four of six by TNP owned mountain huts have wastewater treatment plants. For a few years Slovenian Alpine Association has a consultancy office that helps to solve environmental issues on the mountain huts. Together with the park staff regular consultancy and monitoring of the treated waste water is in place. Alpine clubs and managers accepted these activities in a very positive way and they are stimulated for improvements. A new Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater (Official Gazette RS, 98/15) was passed. According to the new Decree the proper treatment and discharge of the wastewater should be settled by the end of 2021. As a proper treatment of wastewater on the mountain huts are considered: wastewater treatment plants, 3-compartment septic tanks with drain field and dry toilets.

Project Vrh Julijcev also deals with wastewater treatment and finding solutions to minimize the impact of mountain huts and visitation on water quality of high-altitude lakes. Together with the Slovenian Alpine Association and Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (both partners in the project Vrh Julijcev) and the owner of the mountain hut (Koča pri Triglavskih jezerih) Alpine Club Ljubljana Matica we work on improving the conditions of high-altitude lake (Dvojno jezero). We try to find the best solution for wastewater treatment and consequently reducing the consequences of the operation of the hut on the lake Dvojno jezero. As part of the Vrh Julijcev project, we will study the possibility of introducing dry toilets and upgrading the existing wastewater treatment plant.

6. Develop a funding mechanism to support local development projects of the National Park and municipalities within the Biosphere Reserve.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted Decree on standards and criteria for supporting and co-financing of projects, investments and implementation of activities in the Triglav National Park <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED7944>. Financial resources, at the annual level of one million Euros, will be provided by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. On the basis of the Decree and the action plan made by TNP, projects of park local communities in the area of the national park will be co-financed from the state budget.

Rules on aid for the preservation and development of agriculture and rural areas in the Triglav National Park were adopted in 2020. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/zakonodaja/> They lay down aid measures, conditions and procedures for granting aid for agricultural conservation projects. The grants are financed from the state budget. Total amount of the aid in 2020 was 63.000,00 €, grants recipients were six <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/Zaklju-ek-javnega-razpisa-za-dodeljevanje-pomo-i-za-ohranjanje-in-razvoj-kmetijstva-ter-pode-elja-na-obmo-ju-Triglavskega-narodnega-parka/>

The TNP Public Institution received 8.000 € from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport for the implementation of the UNESCO MAB program in the Julian Alps Biosphere reserve. This amount is not sufficient to cover the costs of the planned activities. In addition to the coordination of the biosphere reserve, most of the work was focused on the network of elementary schools in the Julian Alps area (awareness raising and education), development of the sustainable tourism, cooperation with the local population and joint activities in all four of the Slovenia's biosphere areas. For more information see:

<https://www.triglavskazakladnica.si/>

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/spoznajte/skupnost-sol/>

https://issuu.com/tnp-publikacije/docs/vodnik_za_obiskovalce_biosfernega_obmo-ja_julijske

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/Na-obisk-v-Triglavski-narodni-park-in-Biosferno-obmo-je-Juljske-Alpe-tudi-letos-z-javnim-prevozom-/>

7. Together with local communities, prepare favourable conditions for social acceptance of increased populations of large carnivores such as brown bear, wolf and lynx. Further develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming with carnivores in the Park.

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and lynx (*Lynx lynx*) are regularly observed in the TNP area. In the past years, most conflicts with human (property damages) were due to the brown bear presence but during the wintertime 2018/2019, the genetic analyses of collected field samples confirmed the presence of several wolves and they are regularly observed in TNP. When the number of conflicts with brown bear is in decrease, the wolf incidents are increasing significantly, in particular in the field of traditional grazing at mountain pastures. The question of proper and effective management of large carnivores has therefore definitely become a priority issue. In order to reduce the possibility for conflict situations to appear, the TNP Public Institution collaborate closely with competent institutions and other bodies. Discussions with farmers started within the context of the project LIFE WolfAlps (2013-2018) were planned to be improved in 2020 in order to identify necessary mitigation measures. For that reason, a thematic workshop with farmers and scientific

institutions was planned to be organized before the grazing season starts but unfortunately, it couldn't be carried out due to Covid-19 preventative measures applied in spring and autumn this year. A workshop concerned will therefore be organized in early spring 2021. TNP also collaborates closely with Slovenia Forest Service (SFS) as a Coordinating Beneficiary of the project LIFE Lynx. It is planned that a release of at least two animals within the TNP territory will take place during the wintertime 2020/2021. TNP is a contracting partner with the SFS regarding the wolf monitoring in Slovenia (snowtracking, howling) as well. Furthermore, some educational and awareness raising activities took place in 2020 to increase the acceptance for large carnivores by the general public and different users of the Triglav National Park area.

8. Strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificial spruce forest to climax mixed forests and at increasing the area of protection of forests. Apply appropriate mitigation measures after natural disaster specifically adapted to the National Park status.

The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration but some forest stands in TNP (e.g., high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are artificial due to past forestry practice. However, even artificial they're important from nature conservation point of view (e.g. glacial relics such as Western Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) which presents an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in TNP.

As mentioned in previous reports, direct impacts of an ice storm (2014) in Triglav National Park were not so severe since the damages were limited to the lowland forest stands, but they caused increased attacks of bark beetles which, together with windstorms in 2017 (Pokljuka, Mežakla), 2018 (Soča, Trenta) and also in 2020 (Trenta, Soča) caused severe damages to the forests. As a consequence, intensive interventions were required in order to limit further spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands and several large open areas appeared. It is expected that the natural process of forest regeneration will speed up the conversion of artificial spruce stands to more natural but on the other hand, degraded areas present also a potential site for the introduction of invasive alien plant species which will be the TNP management focus in 2021. The TNP Public Institution is in regular contacts with Slovenia Forest Service, Slovenian Institute for Nature Conservation and land owners to agree on interventions to be applied by respecting the protected area management objectives. In 2019, the project VrH Julijcev (2018-2020; Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014-2020) was approved and some project actions are focusing in improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka plateau by planting different broadleaved trees (15.000 plants in 2021).

9. In liaison with relevant partners implement the tourism strategy and continue developing the practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation, the development of new technologies and new forms of tourism especially on seasonal hot-spot areas.

Detailed management plan which highlights problems related to traffic and transportation is part of TNP MP where transport and environmentally friendly mobility are on-going tasks.

In 2020 the sustainable mobility promotion day was held in the municipalities of Bohinj and Tolmin Mangrt High-mountain Road and in the Vrata Valley

<https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Vrata-Pericnik-2019-brezplacno-parkiraj-in-uporabi-avtobus.pdf>

https://issuu.com/tnp-publikacije/docs/publikacija-dolina_tolminke_2020_preview-book

For different ways of slowing down the traffic in Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve see <https://www.tnp.si/assets/Spoznajte/Publikacije/Odkrivaj-Discover/Javni-prevozi-v-Biosfernem-obmocju-Julijske-Alpe-2020.pdf>

Together with the representatives of Ministry of Infrastructure and municipalities of Kranjska Gora and Bovec we continue to work together to find the best solutions to cope with traffic on the Vršič road (the road through the pass Vršič is the highest mountain pass across Julian Alps) which is one of the busiest roads in the park due to picturesque landscape.

In 2020 the traffic regime on the Mangrt High-mountain panoramic Road was changed during summer season (limitation of the number of vehicles and organized public transport on weekends)

<https://www.promet.si/portal/sl/nova-stran.aspx> .

Working group on Traffic Management on Pokljuka high plateau continues to work on finding solutions on how to cope with increased stationary traffic during winter and winter sports events on Pokljuka, based on reducing speed limit and traffic monitoring. In 2020 two new speed control monitors were installed in Rudno polje <https://www.tnp.si/javni-zavod/obvestila/Nova-prikazovalnika-hitrosti-Vi-vozite-na-Pokljuki/>

10. Prevent the extension of installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping. Renovation and upgrading of existing installations should be accepted only if nature and landscape protection's interests are duly considered.

Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the National Park, with special attention to new sport development (e.g. e-biking, etc.); ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives.

According to the Triglav National Park act it is forbidden to construct new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing ones in the whole territory of the park. Where in the TNP cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, paragliding and mountain biking is allowed is shown on detailed maps which are part of TNP MP.

In 2020, the preparation of an action plan for the management of sports and recreational activities was merged into a joint action plan for directing visits to the area of the national park.

11. Encourage the best integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings in respecting the traditional local style; ensure support to maintaining traditional agriculture practices and their related infrastructure (hay racks, shepherds, cattle mountain buildings, etc.); further develop the Park or regional branding system for goods and services.

The TNP Authority continue to run expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. So far, the typology for municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje and part of of Kranjska Gora and Kobarid are prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design. In 2020 a manual Typology of Alpine pasture of Bohinj was published <https://www.tnp.si/sl/spoznajite/kultura/stavbna-tipologija/> Public institute TNP is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park.

In 2020 we continue to work on the brand for local products – ‘Quality Mark’. Web page <https://www.tnp.si/en/visit/quality-mark/> was upgraded. Five new Quality mark holders were selected. Information for those who would like to get the certificate is available on link <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/znak-kakovosti-triglavskega-narodnega-parka/>

12. Promote capacity building and specialisation among permanent park rangers and hire more seasonal rangers during the peak season. Use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, and in general promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas more actively.

Permanent park rangers attend different training programmes every year. In 2020 park rangers participated in Life Safety and Fire Protection Fundamentals Training and attended a lecture on negative effects of exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation at higher altitudes. During the high season no seasonal rangers were hired, because no one applied for the tender.

Diploma logo is used on all important park publications. Diploma was mentioned on all important events.

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 in terrestrial and aquatic environments. At the end of 2020 the number of staff was slightly higher (two new employees) than at the end of 2019. There were no significant changes in the budget.

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.

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.

VrH Julijcev - Improving the condition of species and habitat types in the Triglav National Park has officially started in 2019: <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/projekti/vrh-julijcev-izboljšanje-stanja-vrst-in-habitatnih-tipov-v-triglavskem-narodnem-parku/>

The main goals of the project are improving the conservation status of eight species *Eryngium alpinum*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Bombina variegata*, *Tetrao urogallus*, *Tetrastes bonasia*, *Lagopus muta*, *Alectoris graeca*, *Picoides tridactylus* and 4 habitats. In 2020 following tasks were performed: removal of artificially introduced fish species *Salvelinus alpinus* and *Phoxinus phoxinus* from Dvojno jezero, <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/Potek-izlova-rib-iz-Dvojnega-jezera/>, monitoring of *Tetrao urogallus* habits using telemetry transmitters <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/spremljanje-navad-divjege-petelina/>, working on establishing quiet zones on Pokljuka, Vitranc and Mangart.

LIFE Natura Viva <https://www.naturaviva.si/en/about-the-project/> is running. TNP experts participate in inventory of dry stone walls and other dry stone constructions. A symposium Dry stone wall construction in the Alpine space was held in TNP centre Bohinj <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/Suhozidna-gradnja-v-alpskem-prostoru/>

Interreg V-A Italija-Slovenija **Nar2Care** <https://www.ita-slo.eu/en/nat2care> The Triglav National Park and Julian Prealps Natural Park have launched a new short documentary Nature Without Borders <https://www.tnp.si/en/learn/julian-alps-ecoregion/>. Results of monitoring the species *Lagopus muta* are prepared to be published in this year's issue of Acta triglavensia <https://www.tnp.si/sl/spoznaite/publikacije/>.

Alien species: TNP web page was upgraded <https://www.tnp.si/sl/spoznaite/narava/tujerodne-vrste/> and a new educational video titled Invasive Alien Species was prepared <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCJqZntvFAI>

Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps: TNP web page was upgraded <https://www.tnp.si/en/learn/julian-alps-ecoregion/>

An online classroom Triglavska zakladnica which started last year was upgraded <https://www.triglavskazakladnica.si/>

Project Skupaj za Alpe on raising awareness and knowledge about climate change: a guide to good practice on climate change mitigation was published online <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/projekti/skupaj-za-alpe/>

TNP web page was adapted for the blind and visually impaired.

TNP Youtube channel: this year more than 20 new videos on different topics were uploaded.

New publications: Visitor Guide and Brochures <https://www.tnp.si/en/learn/publikacije/>

Compiled by Alenka Mencinger
