



European Diploma

Annual report 2021



The Zadnja Trenta Valley and Bavški Grintavec, Photos are part of the exhibition on the occasion of celebrating the 40th and 60th anniversary of The Triglav National Park. Photos by Jaka Čop (left) and Dan Briški (right).

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 2021

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 (11)
- Renewal 2019 (1)

Central authority concerned:

Name: TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK
 Address: Ljubljanska cesta 27
 Tel: + 386 4 5780 200
 Fax: + 386 4 5780 201
 e-mail: triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si
 www: www.tnp.si

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK
 Address: Ljubljanska cesta 27
 Tel: + 386 4 5780 200
 Fax: + 386 4 5780 201
 e-mail: triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si
 www: www.tnp.si

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 Triglav National Park Public Institution, 2.843.253 € was planned in 2021. Most of the funds (part of 81,3 %), 2.311.460 € was provided from the state budget. Other funds (531.793 €) are provided from international projects (242.793 €), so-called non-public sources (100.910 €) and marketing activities (188.090 €). The financing follows the dynamics set out in the Triglav National Park 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 2021) are sufficient to cover most of the planned tasks of the Triglav National Park 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 Triglav National Park annual program of work. For this reason, some measures which should be implemented in winter or early spring could not be financially supported. It should be mentioned that Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning in 2021 provided five million Euros to finance projects of park local communities (see recommendation 6).

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 Triglav National Park 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.

Triglav National Park 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 2021, a pre-emption right was exercised on 65,71 ha of land, mostly forest.

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 in size.

Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zone, 3rd is peripheral zone. There were no changes in zonation in 2021.

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 Triglav National Park 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, Gorje, part of Kranjska Gora and Kobarid are prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design, materials and construction techniques.

In 2021 a handbook of building typology of Zgornje Posočje (area of Bovec, Kobarid and Tolmin) was 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 use.

There are 36 mountain huts in the Triglav National Park and at the end of the year 2021, 16 of them had wastewater treatment plants. Four of six by Triglav National Park 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. 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 in June 2021 adopted a new 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/Ps.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED8265>. In 2021 financial resources of five million Euros were provided by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. On the basis of the Decree and the action plan made by Triglav National Park, projects of park local communities in the area of the national park were co-financed from the state budget. According to new Decree the Triglav National Park Public Institution have to prepare a new action plan every year by the end of March.

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 2021 was 62.685,15,00 €, aid recipients were nine <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/razpisi-za-obmocje-triglavskega-narodnega-parka/>

The Triglav National Park Public Institution received 19.000 € from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport for the implementation of the Unesco MAB program in the Julian Alps Biosphere reserve. In addition to the coordination of the biosphere reserve, most of the work was focused on empowering the identity of the Biosphere reserve among all targets groups via education system, signalization improvements and promoting the local quality brands via Triglav National Park Quality measures. For more information see:

<https://www.triglavskazakladnica.si/>
<https://www.tnp-kakovost.si/sl/https://julian-alps.com/en/>

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 Triglav National Park 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 Triglav National Park. 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 been therefore definitely identified as priority issue. In order to reduce the possibility for conflict situations to appear, the Triglav National Park Public Institution collaborate closely with competent institutions and other bodies. Discussions with farmers started within the context of the project LIFE WolfAlps (2013-2018). However, no significant progress in identifying necessary mitigation measures was made so far. A thematic workshop with farmers and experts that was planned in 2020 and also in 2021 was not organized due to Covid-19 situation in Slovenia and preventative measures applied. Nevertheless, three wolves occurring regularly within the Triglav National Park area or its vicinity were successfully equipped with GPS collars in 2021. Data collected are going to be of great contribution to the knowledge about species biology and ecology in the Alps. As already reported, Triglav National Park also collaborates closely with Slovenia Forest Service (SFS) as a Coordinating Beneficiary of the project LIFE Lynx. As a result, two animals were successfully released at Pokljuka in April this year (<https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/lz-pust-treh-risov-v-Triglavskem-narodnem-parku/>). Triglav National Park as a contracting partner to SFS regarding the wolf monitoring in Slovenia participated in collecting of spatial data in winter (snow tracking) and summer (howling). Furthermore, several educational and public awareness raising activities took place in 2021 to increase the acceptance of large carnivores' presence in the Triglav National Park area.

8. Strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificially regenerated spruce forests to climax mixed forests and increase the area of protected forests; apply appropriate mitigation measures specifically adapted to the national park status after natural disasters.

The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration but some forest stands in Triglav National Park (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 Triglav National Park.

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), 2020 and 2021 (Trenta) 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 was one of the Triglav National Park management priorities in 2021. We developed a methodology for early monitoring of degraded forest areas which was also used in practice and it will be subject of field activities in the following years as well. The Triglav National Park 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 (2018-2022; Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014-2020) was approved and some project actions are focusing in improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka and Mežakla plateaus. In 2021, altogether 8.000 trees belonging to several broadleaved species were planted.

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

Detailed management plan which highlights problems related to traffic and transportation is part of Triglav National Park Management Plan. Transport and environmentally friendly mobility are on-going tasks.

For different ways of environmentally friendly mobility in Triglav National Park see <https://www.tnp.si/sl/obiscite/trainostna-mobilnost/>, for public transport in Biosphere Reserve Julian Alps, <https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Discover/Javni-prevozi-v-Biosfernem-obmocju-Julijske-Alpe-2021.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 and Predel road. In Trenta valley were for the first time in Slovenia introduced special speed and noise alert traffic signs. In 2021, smaller parking lots were arranged at some entrances to the Alpine valleys (Zadnja Trenta, Zadnjica and Lepena) in connection with the strengthening of seasonal shuttle lines.

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.

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. Detailed maps showing where in the park cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, paragliding and mountain biking is allowed are part of The Triglav National Park Management Plan.

In 2020 Triglav National Park started to work with a non-profit organization Digitize the Planet with an aim to digitize national park regimes and restrictions for the outdoor sports use. Outdoor activities are proving to be very popular, with more and more people being drawn to nature. Various online portals are providing digital information on routes and opportunities for experience and people are then using these trails for a variety of different activities. Conflicts arise when suggested routes are not compatible with existing regulations. Together with Digitize the Planet, local tourism and outdoor sports, we want to develop a responsible relationship between our national park and the people, through standardized and internationally digitized rules. <https://www.digitizeplanet.org/en/digitize-the-planet-e-v-i-g-english/>

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 Triglav National Park Authority 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. In 2021 a handbook of typology of Zgornje Posočje was published

Public institute Triglav National Park participates in the preparation of guidelines for municipal spatial acts. We are also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park.

The brand Triglav National Park Quality was expanded to cover also services, goods and schools. <https://www.tnp-kakovost.si/sl/> Six new Quality mark holders were selected this year and eight schools.

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.

Park rangers did not attend any special formal training. There were seasonal rangers hired during high season.

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 November 2021, the number of staff was lower (for 5,25 employees) comparing to the December 2020. 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-izboljsanje-stanja-vrst-in-habitatnih-tipov-v-triglavskem-narodnem-parku/>

The main project objectives are improving the conservation status of eight Natura 2000 species *Eryngium alpinum*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Bombina variegata*, *Tetrao urogallus*, *Tetrastes bonasia*, *Lagopus muta*, *Alectoris graeca*, *Picoides tridactylus* and 4 habitat types.

In 2021 the following tasks were performed: monitoring of *Tetrao urogallus* with GPS telemetry transmitters <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/nova-novica-30/>, monitoring of *Lagopus muta* with GPS transmitters, <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/nova-novica-32/> establishing quiet zones at Pokljuka where road gates were installed on several forest roads to prevent traffic of personal vehicles and bicycles <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/nova-novica-50/>, in the area pod Petelinom and Mežakla different broadleaved tree species were planted to provide food for *Tetrao urogallus*, *Tetrastes bonasia* and to facilitate natural forest regeneration. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/nova-novica-31/>, regular eradication of fish in Double lake, purchase of privately owned forest stands important for the Three-toed woodpecker.

Management plan - The Triglav National Park Public Institution has prepared a comprehensive report assessing the implementation of the management plan for the first five-year period (2016-2020). The realization of the achievement of objectives and the fulfilment of management measures follows the implementation plan, with minor deviations. The indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of the management plan are also largely achieved.

An online classroom Triglavška zakladnica which started last year was upgraded so that the content is compatible with school's curriculum <https://www.triglavskazakladnica.si/>

Short **documentary Nature Without Borders** <https://www.tnp.si/en/learn/julian-alps-ecoregion/> was adapted for blind and visually impaired https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFWeuCO_g3w

Triglav National Park YouTube channel: this year 18 new videos on different topics were uploaded.

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

An article about The Julian Alps UNESCO Biosphere Reserve was published in Eco.mont online journal <https://verlag.oew.ac.at/eco-mont-13-special-issue>, <https://www.tnp.si/assets/Novice/Eco-Mont/Eco-mont-Journal-on-protected-mountain-areas-research-and-management-samo-TNP.pdf>

In the **OMV campaign** A green decision for our blue planet, a carbon offsetting project, 600 trees were planted near Bohinj lake in Ukanc which will also facilitate forest regeneration. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/nova-novica-57/>, <https://www.omv.si/sl-si/new-s/omv-je-skupaj-s-svojimi-lani-kluba-zvestobe-v-dveh-mesecih-izravna-4-980-ton-erisij-co2-in-posadil-600-dreves>

CELEBRATION OF THE PARK'S 40TH AND 60TH ANNIVERSARY (In 1961 The decree promulgating the Triglav Lakes Valley as the Triglav National Park (2000 ha) was adopted and in 1981 passed the Law on the Triglav National Park which defined the park's present borders). Under the patronage of the president of The Republic of Slovenia a rich program of events was offered to celebrate these two milestones. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/bogat-program-dogodkov-ob-40-in-60-obletnici-triglavskega-narodnega-parka-aktivnosti-znaka-kakovosti-in-pomen-sodelovanja-z-lokalnimi-delezniki/> <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/nova-novica-28/>

The most interesting event is certainly the photographic exhibition titled The Eternal Change Captured in Photographic Objective <https://www.tnp.si/sl/spoznajte/40-let/vecna-sprememba/> It has not only a great artistic value but also documentary as it shows the changes in the landscape that took place during this time.

Some of the planned events were postponed due to corona virus epidemics.

Compiled by Alenka Mencinger