

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2022**

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: **Romania**

Name of the area: **Piatra Craiului National Park**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:  
2020, 2 years

**Central authority concerned:**

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

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<sup>1</sup>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. complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.**

The revised management plan was approved in February 2020 through the Order no. 296 / 21.02.2020 of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests. The plan was developed based on the results of field studies undertaken as part of a project funded by structural funds (Sectoral Operational Programme Environment, Pillar 4).

In addition, in February 2022 the Piatra Craiului National Park Administration signed a contract for the implementation of a project funded by the Operational Programme "Large Infrastructure" to revise the current management plan. The revised management plan will be drafted in 2023/2024 and will then follow the approval procedure.

**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. secure the budget of the national park so that the national park administration is able to manage the park appropriately and has all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis;**

The national park budget is approved by a common order of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Finance. It is largely (90%) funded by the National Forest Administration (RNP ROMSILVA) with whom the Piatra Craiului National Park Administration has signed a contract. The remaining 10% is self-raised, through visitor fees, tourist guiding fees, selling of merchandise in the Visitor Center and approval fees charged for analyzing development documentation submitted by various entities.

The total budget (without projects) for 2022 was 2,108,000 RON of which salaries amounted to 1,786,000 RON.

**2. complete the construction of the headquarters and other infrastructure, especially the exhibition room and other tourist facilities, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;**

The Visitor Center was inaugurated in April 2016, and since then it has received more than 35500 visitors. Its building was funded through a structural funds project Sectoral Operational Programme) implemented between 2012 and 2015. Through the same project additional tourist infrastructure was also constructed - an information point at Curmatura, one of the most frequented areas in the park, and 4 information kiosks.

In 2017 the tourist facilities were improved with the addition of a cycling network (42 routes totaling more than 200 km) and new tourist trails.

Maintenance of tourist infrastructure (trails, information boards and mountain refuges) is an ongoing activity that is carried out every year through sustained efforts (human, material and financial). In 2022, the following activities were carried out:

- 10 km of tourist trails were cleared
- the tourist signs were re-painted on 35 km of trails
- safety cables were installed (on the ridge) and repaired (on the Turnu Peak trail)
- one mountain refuge was repaired and insulated
- tables and benches were built in one resting area and information-kiosks were repaired in three locations from the park

- 3 new information boards with the park map and visitation rules were installed in three different locations

- 34 information boards were replaced

- the benches were replaced and the slides were repaired in the playground by the Visitor Center
- 11 new computers were bought to replace the units required to run the exhibition in the Visitor Center

**3. elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local architecture and landscape; this exemplary programme**

**should be implemented with the help of relevant specialists and contribute to making this region a model for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;**

The preservation and promotion of local cultural heritage are among the priorities of the Piatra Craiului National Park Administration, as set out in the park management plan. The management plan establishes the following principles for the sustainable development of human settlements, in the spirit of preserving and capitalizing on local traditions and specificity: 1. preserving the existing land parceling in historical format; 2. encouraging the retention and reconversion of the existing built environment; 3. encouraging the use and adaptation to modern needs of housing typologies that were developed historically; 4. optimal fitting to local relief and climate conditions through a good orientation relative to the cardinal points and the predominant winds; 5. preserving existing vegetation (isolated trees, property borders); 6. harmonious setting in the landscape; 7. employing techniques and materials that are traditional in the region.

In order to help with the promotion, preservation and restoration of local architecture and landscape values, architect Raluca Munteanu with contribution from Nicolas Triboi (both members of the park's Scientific Council) elaborated in 2013 a "Guide to Building in the Sustainable Development Area of the Piatra Craiului National Park". The guide was published with support from the Romanian Order of Architects and it forms the basis on which all building projects submitted for approval to the park administration are judged in order to secure their harmonious integration in the landscape and the preservation of local tradition and specificity.

In 2022, fourteen building and development projects received approval as they conformed to the requirements of the guidebook.

**4. pursue the scientific work and monitoring of biodiversity in every sector of the park; those activities should assess the status and trends of species and habitats, considering the national park as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;**

The plan for monitoring biodiversity includes several protocols elaborated to monitor habitats and species from the park in order to enable assessments of their conservation status and early detection of any changes in the ecosystems. All the habitats and species of community importance are included in the monitoring programme, alongside other species of conservation interest.

Collaboration protocols were signed with various entities to assist with inventory and monitoring of bat species, caves and large carnivores. With respect to large carnivores the collaboration with the Foundation Conservation Carpathia helped us to benefit from the results of genetic studies – a pilot study in using such monitoring methods in Romania.

The park administration was also party to several projects of which, the project "Increasing the economical competitiveness of forest sector and the quality of life through knowledge, technology and competence transfer" (funded by the Competitiveness Operational Programme) was finalized in 2022 and the final report was submitted.

**5. regarding both central and local forest authorities, more attention should be paid to the enforcement of the forest law on the national park's fringe and in the surroundings of the park; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;**

In 2022, the park administration undertook 133 monitoring and control actions of which 60 together with mountain gendarmerie and police. Ninety five contravention fines were applied totaling 33650 RON.

In addition, forty eight requests for specific conditions for wood marking and harvesting were submitted to the park administration by forest districts operating in the area. In all cases written conditions were transmitted to the forest districts and the chief ranger/park rangers participated in the field to verify the tree marking and harvest operations.

**6. pursue the efforts made by the national park administration to address the litter and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities facilitated by this administration; a detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years.**

The park administration's efforts in this direction were three-pronged: to continue the garbage collection campaign programme, with the help of NGOs and volunteers; approaches made to local town halls; and promoting an appropriate attitude through education. In 2022, with the help of more than 200 volunteers, twelve actions to collect garbage were undertaken. Pupils from local schools were also engaged in these actions. Eighty four kilometers of tourist trails were cleaned and some 10 tons of garbage were collected and evacuated from the park. Hereby we include a few photographs taken during the actions:



**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 since the last annual report.

**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 intervened since the last annual report was submitted.

**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 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**

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