

**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: Romania

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 10 July 2013, valid until 2 July 2023

Central authority concerned:

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

Address: Bulev. Libertatii, nr. 12, sect. 5, Bucuresti

Tel: (+4)0214089642

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Administratia Parcului National Retezat (Retezat National Park Administration)

Address: 337423 Nucsoara, nr. 284, com. Salasu de Sus, Jud. Hunedoara

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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.

There haven't been conditions attached to the renewal of the Diploma.

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. The Romanian authorities should secure a sufficient budget for the national park and allocate the funds early enough in the year to ensure favorable working conditions for the staff, the completion and maintenance of the park's infrastructure, more information for visitors and the improvement of tourist facilities;

Even if the central public authority for environment didn't finance at all the park's activity, National Forest Administration ROMSILVA (in whose structure we are included) has ensured, at the beginning of the year, a reasonable financial support (2,125 mil. Lei, comparison to 1,709 mil. Lei in 2020) in order to support us to perform all activities entered in the Annual Activity Plan without financial constraints.

2. The competent Romanian authorities should work together to harmonize the different national and international designations in order to achieve efficient joint management and to implement joint scientific research and monitoring programmes;

Unfortunately, despite our efforts (and with relatively little involvement of the central decision-makers), we have not been able to find a solution accepted by UNESCO to align the situation of the Retezat Biosphere Reserve with the current standards required by the Man & Biosphere Program – MAB (the Seville Strategy and Madrid Action Plan). As a result, in 2021 UNESCO withdrew the status of Biosphere Reserve from Retezat National Park (see <https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/eu-na>). In view of this, we looked for ways to resolve this unpleasant situation and found the possibility of funding for a relatively small project to develop, on a new basis (by including areas adjacent to the Retezat National Park), the necessary documentation for re-obtaining Biosphere Reserve status.

3. The management plan should be approved as soon as possible, and at least an executive summary should be translated into either English or French;

The implementation of the project mentioned in the last year report went well this year as well: the park administration drafted the park management plan and the park regulations, obtaining the approval from the Technical-Economic Commission of NFA Romsilva (our employer) and from the Local Environmental Protection Agency – LEPA. The next steps will be to submit the documents to National Agency for Protected Natural Areas – NAPNA and to Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests – MEWF, for analysis and approval. Due to the long duration of some government procedures, the deadline for the completion of the project was extended by an additional act until 31 December 2022.

4. The park, in close collaboration with the mountain rescue services Salvamont, should maintain or renew, when necessary, the tourist infrastructure (Trail marking, information signs, etc.); a particular effort should be made to solve the problems of the toilets in the camping areas and near the huts;

There are 91 information and guiding panels placed on the park's territory, as well at the entrance points (since last year 3 panels have been damaged and have not yet been replaced). In mid-July, in collaboration with the same environmental and tourism NGO as last year, RNPA put in place the second new dry toilet near the campsite at Bucura Lake (at over 2000 m altitude). The RNPA's staff took care permanently to maintain in good condition the orientation-information infrastructure in the park.

5. The park should maintain pressure on local communities to prevent constructions of inappropriate buildings either in the park or in its immediate vicinity;

As we have explained earlier, the current legislation is very strict regarding the possibility of building new construction in the park, so we don't have such problems. According to the law, the competence of RNPA is limited to the park territory and the overlapping Natura 2000 sites, so it's enough difficult to influence the building process in the surrounding areas. In 2021 there weren't problems with illegal constructions.

6. The park rangers should monitor the pastures in order to identify early possible changes due to over grazing and/or under grazing; before the next evaluation, the park should carry out a new study on the pastures; the changes in terms of species composition, erosion, etc., should be analyzed in relation to the type and amount of grazing.

During the implementation of the project described at explanation no. 3, a numbers of biological-ecological studies were carried out, among them being one about the support capacity of the pastures.

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 have been 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, the boundaries being the same since the re-establishment of the park, in 2000.

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.

At the moment, we don't have any other special information to communicate to the Council.

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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