

**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 2023

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: Sweden

Name of the area: Sarek and Padjelanta/Bádjelannda National Park

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

Last renewal 2012, 10 years ago

Central authority concerned:

Name: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency(SEPA)

Address: S-106 48 Stockholm

Tel: +46 8 698 10 000

Fax:

e-mail: Jenny.Lindman.Komstedt@Naturvardsverket.se

www: <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/english>

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Laponiatjuottjudus

Address: Kvarnbogatan 11, S-962 32 Jokkmokk

Tel: +46 971 555 00

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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.

No conditions are listed neither in the Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma, nor in the Resolution Res(67)23 on the award of the European Diploma. Hence it follows that there are no conditions to be explained.

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. provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the “Laponiatjuottjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;

Today Laponiatjuottjudus has six full time and two part time employees. Laponiatjuottjudus as an organisation is well equipped to implement the management plan since we now consist of a wide-ranging of competence within the field staff. The future challenge is to continue the work of creating a steady platform to develop and maintain management work required to preserve and develop the Laponia World Heritage site. The board of Laponiatjuottjudus holds regular meetings over the year where all parts attend, and all their decisions are made in consensus. This gives a guarantee that the work performed by the management employees is established from the joint cooperative effort of the board. Laponiatjuottjudus has been granted a new extended trial period from the Swedish Government to manage the Laponia World Heritage site until December 2022. Before the end of the trial period a decision will be made by the Swedish Government if they will prolong the management of the World Heritage site in the care of Laponiatjuottjudus

The Management Plan was translated into English in 2014 and is available on http://laponia.nu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Laponia-forvaltningsplan-eng-web-150327_2.pdf

2. continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;

Norrbottn County Administrative Board (CAB) is the Government Agency responsible for the predators' inventories in Sweden. In the management task concerning the predators' inventories in Laponia we are continuously working with the Sami communities and CAB.

Laponiatjuottjudus also keep contact with the “Norrbottn County Ornithological association” (Norrbottns Ornitologiska Förening) regarding inventories of different birds of prey in the Laponian area.

3. establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;

Laponiatjuottjudus have developed a basic GIS system that is available for the management to use within the organisation. The development of our GIS system is a long-term work in progress that will continue during the following years. The management have not been granted access to existing systems used by the former county management (CAB).

SEPA is responsible for the national environmental survey program, data holder for the different topic areas which also includes the Laponia ;

SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Science)-Landscape, species (including endangered, invasive species), fish and aquatic biota.

Lund University -birds and butterflies

These data are both open access data and non-public data (endangered species).

This way open data sources are available for everyone who wants more knowledge, and data that for some reason must be protected is closed for unauthorized access.

4. closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing;

Controls and exercise of authority in Sarek/Badjelánnda is performed by the police and CAB. Laponiatjuottjudus is cooperating with the authorities, working to maintain that visitors and inhabitants in the parks are following existing laws and regulations. We provide accessible and update information on our website about the regulations for the National Parks. We also keep contact with the local inhabitants as well as local tourist organisations. We work continuously providing information structure at strategical locations within the WH.

Laponiatjuottjudus is monitoring the effects on the nature values connected to the use of ATV in reindeer herding, to analyze and if possible prevent damage in vulnerable areas. We have an increase in use of ATV(4WD and 6WD) in the recent years, earlier most of the reindeer gathering was made with 2 wheel offroad vehicles which leaves a completely different track pattern.

5. set up a system for estimating the number of visitors, their profile and distribution over the year and initiate a research programme on the long-term impact of the different human activities (e.g. reindeer herding, fishing and tourism) on the landscape, and design a programme to monitor the effects of the climatic change;

Laponiatjuottjudus is during hiking season monitoring number of visitors within the WH with different methods. In 2023 we had 4 visitor counters (Ecovision counters) in strategic places in Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Parks.

In complement to this we also collect statistics of the number of visitors from the tourist cabins in the park and from the boat and helicopter companies transporting visitors to the park.

Every five years we carry out a survey with a more detailed questionnaire which is distributed at the cabin sites and at naturum Laponia visitors center, we will probably shift from written to digital surveys in the future.

After the pandemic we could recognize a increase in number of visitors which since has been normalized, The tendency is still that the number of national visitors is increasing and international stays at the same level.

The impact of the different human activities on the landscape is an important question. Laponiatjuottjudus continuously monitor the status of the trails, campsites, cabin areas and bridges to prevent excessive wear and tear from visitors we work together with the reindeer herding communities in matters of concern. In addition we also work with CAB and towards tourist companies in matters of permissions and tourist activities. During 2023 we resumed the education in ethical guidelines and sustainable tourism.

The naturum Laponia Visitor Centre is part of the Swedish phenology network and report about the seasonal changes in nature throughout the years. This is one way to follow up changes in nature due to climatic change.

In Sweden CAB is coordinating the different surveys and follow-ups of the national environmental objectives and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives that the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is responsible for. These surveys and follow-ups of species- and habitats of interest indicate changes over time in both vegetation and animal species that possibly could be associated to climate change. Laponiatjuottjudus has an exchange with the Norrbotten CAB and we take part of the information and reports every year.

6. build and equip as soon as possible the visitor information centre in Stora Sjöfallet for the Laponia World Heritage site and provide specific information on the different National Parks; establish a network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks and communicate about the different categories of international designations;

The naturum Laponia Visitor Centre in Stora Sjöfallet/Stuor Muorkke National Park consists of a large building including an exhibition area, a café, and an auditorium. Outside there are traditional Sámi buildings. Laponiatjuottjudus obligation is to maintain the buildings and manage activities in the Visitor Centre. Naturum Laponia function as a Visitor Centre for the entire Laponia World Heritage site (WH) and possesses information for all the National Parks including Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda and gives the visitors information about the different designations within the area. Our experience is that the Visitor Centre gives the visitors crucial information about how to behave in the protected areas and in the entire WH site. The Visitor Centre plays an important role as a fixture before and after visiting the parks. The naturum Laponia have given us a great opportunity to reach out and educate more people about the WH site and its different values

During 2023 a new movie explaining the nature and cultural values of Lapponia was produced and can be seen at naturum Lapponia

Smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks (nodes) was installed in 2014 in Porjus, Gällivare and Jokkmokk. In 2015 a node adjacent to Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Parks was installed in Kvikkjokk. All these nodes contain information about the WH site, including the National Parks. We are working to link the nodes together with naturum Lapponia Visitor Centre to make the information about the WH site accessible for more people.

7 consider linking the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with the Muddus National Park and other conservation areas so that the Lapponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;

This is a question to consider and discuss for the board of Lapponiatjuottjudus together with the Swedish EPA.

8. reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.

Organizing workshop lifting these questions should be addressed to RAÄ and SEPA who are owners of the concepts World heritage sites (RAÄ) and protected nature (SEPA).

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.

The funding for 2023 was lower than 2022 due to limited governmental funding for Swedish EPA. This gives by hand that the priorities for 2023 was to maintain infrastructures, continue and finish ongoing projects. We also have limitations in what kind of actions we can undertake in nature conservation due to the legal settings in the regulations for Lapponia.

Today Lapponiatjuottjudus management crew consists of six full time and two part time employees.

The trails/cabins in Muddus and major part of the cabins in Padjelanta/Badjelánnda is not in the "national mountain trail network" which means that they do not have designated funding for maintenance. Funding for trails/cabins in Muddus and major part of Padjelanta/Badjelánnda cabins must be financed by the general funding for protected areas or we need to apply separately for extra funding.

The future funding is still very uncertain and varies from one year to another. This uncertain level of funding of course affects the management since it is very difficult to plan in the long-term as the funding varies every year, hence it is a question of prioritizing.

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 of boundaries to 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.

During 2023/24 we are executing a full-scale re-inventory of all the infrastructure and information status in the whole WH-area and synchronized the status system with CAB.

We also conducted major maintenance work on two visitor cabins in the area, replacing the façade from wood to steel, upgrading with new windows and doors. Maintenance work is an ongoing work, this will require field staff's attention annually.

We have made a wetland restoration pilote project in Padjelanta/Badjelánnda, trying to restore water drainage caused by ATV tracks in the wetland, this will be evaluated the following years.

In Sarek there are no tourist facilities such as visitor cabins or trails only cabins for the management organization/CAB.

Result of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological association in 2023 for Sarek and Padjelanta:

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*): two observed successful breeding, with 5 chicks in total.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): six successful breeding's confirmed

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*): one successful breeding confirmed

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*): one successful breeding confirmed

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 Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas

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