

RESOLUTION ResDip (2008) 1

ON THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

APPENDIX 5

MODEL PLAN FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

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. They should not, without justification, exceed six pages. The report of the year preceding the one in which the validity of the European Diploma of Protected Areas is to be renewed should be more detailed. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: Poland
Name of the area: Bieszczady National Park

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministerstwo Środowiska (Ministry of the Environment)
Address: Departament Leśnictwa i Ochrony Przyrody (Department of the Forestry and
Nature Conservation)
Wawelska Str. 52/54, PL 00-922 Warsaw
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www: www.mos.gov.pl

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Bieszczadzki Park Narodowy
Address: Ustrzyki Górne 19, PL 38-713 Lutowiska,
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www: www.bdpn.pl

I. General information

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

The impact of tourism on the natural surroundings of hiking trails was monitored. The risk to the environment was minimized by building technical safeguards (barriers, erosion protectors, drainage). Some of the safeguards and small, wooden infrastructure buildings were preserved. Two projects were carried out, partially financed by the National Fund (NFOŚiGW) and partially by the Swiss Funds totalling approximately 400 thousand PLN.

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes

Changes in the population of plants:

As a result of the rare and endangered species monitoring, performed for 18 species at 36 sites, it was found that populations of these plants showed a slight increase or maintained a constant level in their numbers.

Changes to plant communities:

- Degeneration of soil and vegetation, especially the alpine grasslands and Carpathian beech forest occurred along some sections of touristic trails, as a result of intensified tourism.
- Regeneration of soil cover and vegetation at the sites where technical safeguards were applied in previous years.
- Regeneration of bog-rush parts in the boggy areas as well as in the area of shrubs in the bog edge in Wołosate – e.g. *Caricetum lassiocarpae*, *C. paniculatae*, *Valeriano-Caricetum* (the result of ground water rising).
- Development of secondary succession on former agricultural land not included for mowing and left to the spontaneous overgrowth to create a forest-wide corridor (in Ustrzyki and Wołosate) and to model a wide ecotone zone.
- Restoration of high biodiversity on annually mown meadows (especially in the area of bent grass *Campanulo-Agrostietum* and *Cirsietum rivularis* meadows)

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

The activities related to fauna monitoring :

1. Inwentoring of predators in the buffer zone – Cisna Commune.
2. The technical report related to the distribution and quantity of wisent in Suche Rzeki forestry of the BNP.
3. The winter inwentoring of fauna in the Bieszczady NP and its closest vicinity (results in elaboration).
4. Inwentoring of ungulates in the BNP and the buffer zone (Cisna forestry) - results in elaboration.

5. The monitoring of the predators incoming to the BNP in the winter season 2012/2013 - results in elaboration
6. The yearlong monitoring of the BNP with the use of « hidden eye » cameras – presentation of the data at the home page of the BNP [ww.bdpn.pl](http://www.bdpn.pl).
7. The continuation of the waloryzation of ecological monitoring programmes within the the project "Protection of the forest wildlife refuges - migration corridors" KIK/53 (Swiss - Polish Cooperation Programme).

All year monitored the basic parameters of a population of large carnivores and ungulates. On the basis of the data obtained no significant (disturbing) changes in the monitored populations of predators and prey (red deer, roe deer, wild boar).

A critical exception has become the problem of epizootic among bison. As a result of finding cases of tuberculosis among individuals with one of the stocks occurring in the area of BNP (so-called herd "Upper San") by the Minister of the Environment all animals in the herd were killed.

Results of fauna monitoring were published (PL):

http://www.bdpn.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1250&Itemid=183
http://www.bdpn.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1379&Itemid=183
http://www.bdpn.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1216&Itemid=183
http://www.bdpn.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1399&Itemid=183
http://www.bdpn.pl/dokumenty/szwajcarskie/raport_korytarze2.pdf

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage

2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

Remains of the old culture like cemeteries and Orthodox Church remains were exposed by grass cutting combined with the removal of unnecessary shrubs. Later cemeteries and church sites were fenced and opened to visitors as an important element of historical and natural marked trails.

Information boards were installed near some objects of special cultural value. The boards contain information about the history of the region and particular object.

Renovation of tombstones (9 units) was supported by non-governmental organizations and allowed to restore the tombstones to their former glory.

2.2. Socio-economic context

2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

The financial rules within National Park changed as the result of changes in the legal status. From 2012, the Bieszczady National Park is under independent financial management and implemented protective measures are financed from own resources and revenue expenditure. The economic situation of the company remains good and stable.

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1. Visitors — Information policy

3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

Recently, portfolio connected with an exhibition of photographs and volume of Annals of Bieszczady No. 21 were released. Information about current educational events in the Park were published on the websites of www.bdpn.pl. Number of educational programs for young people from schools in Bieszczady region was continued. The films of the wild fauna were recorded thanks to trail cameras and published on the Park website. The material presented is of educational value, showing the natural behavior of animals - without interfering with their behavior in the environment.

3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)

Until November 15 (2013), BNP was visited by 332 thousand tourists. This number represents people entering hiking and nature trails. This number was approx. 12% higher than in the 2012. Natural history museum was visited by approximately 18.3 thousand people (25/11/2013), ca 15% less than in the 2012.

3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

In September 26-30, BNP held a XXII International Conference of East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve entitled XX years of the BNP protection against a background of the scientific research and the protection of biological diversity in the Eastern Carpathians. The conference was attended by scientists and guests from Ukraine and Slovakia. The fieldtrip was organized in the Poloniny National Park (Slovakia). In November (from 12 to 15th) there were organized a meeting in The Information Center of BNP in Lutowska. The main goal of that meeting was elaboration of common report according to existing of the International Biosphere Reserve for the last 10 years. All the parts of IBR were represented: San Valley Landscape Park, Cisna-Wetlina Landscape Park, Bieszczady National Park, Poloniny National Park, Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park, Uzhansky National Nature Park

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

In 2013, in the area of Bieszczady National Park, 54 long-term research was carried out, including 8 projects carried out by three researchers of Bieszczady National Park. Also in 2013 21 new research topics were launched. Number of studies were performed including: 18 zoological, 25 botanical, 6 in the field of inanimate nature, 5 in the field of tourism and one other.

3.2.2. Scientific publications

Annals of Bieszczady were published (Volume 21, page 395, contains 29 scientific papers and a chronicle of events in Bieszczady National Park for the year 2012).

4. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

There was no significant change

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

There was no significant change

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

There was no significant change

5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

Active protection of vegetation:

- Mechanical mowing of the traditionally shaped meadows with a collection of biomass - about 600 ha (including land leased by the National Park),
- Manual cutting of valuable non-forest plant associations - about 37 hectares
- controlled and extensive grazing of sheep and Hucul horses to maintain grassland vegetation - about 450 ha
- alpine grasslands protection and regeneration (technical safeguards applied against tourists hiking over valuable surroundings of marked trails)
- elimination of invasive, foreign species - cutting Sosnowski hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi*) – 1,1 ha
- extensive grassland fertilization with manure – about 73 ha
- cultivation of rare and endangered plant species in the garden (23 species).
- valuable patches of hygrophilous vegetation in the horse grazing areas were secured.

Active protection of fauna:

- Taking care of the fish fauna during spawning season and low river stage - supervision along mountain stream valleys in order of fish poaching prevention .
- Amphibians fauna protection in sections of busy roads during mating season (prevention against higher mortality).

5.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

- In order to protect the forest from fire, areas close to the tree line with a high percentage of dry biomass were mowed - especially next to the spruce stands.

5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

The National Park maintained a network of more than 140 km of hiking trails and nature trails. Among other things, 2 new wooden rain shelters were built, construction of 12 sanitation units were completed. In order to better communicate with visitors some new information boards were installed in the field. One parking system was installed in the car parks in Brzegi Gorne. Automatic monitoring points for tourist traffic were operated (Bieszczady National Park currently has 13 such points). On the surface of the Tarnawa peatbog area the wooden path has been constructed.

5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

In 2013, as a part of the project "Protection of the forest wildlife refuges - migration corridors" KIK/53 (Swiss - Polish Cooperation Programme) Park continued purchase and installation of the field equipments.

5.1.5. Waste management

There was no frequent penetration of garbage containers by animals. There were well preserved. Some new containers were installed thanks to WWF support.

5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

There were no other sources of renewable energy used, in addition to firewood, widely used in home furnaces. Wood was acquired from places where reconstruction of tree stands is planned.

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

There was no significant change

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

There was no significant change

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

The legislative process is still on-going.

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

There was no significant change

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

The European Diploma of Protected Areas significantly helped the Park in gaining financial resources from the national authorities as well as European Union. The award was the strong argument against the continuing plans to create the border crossing with Ukraine in the village of Wolosate.

III. Conditions and/or recommendations for award or renewal

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

Condition 1

In 2013 the completed project of Protection Plan of the Bieszczady National Park for years 2011-2030 was filed in the Ministry of Environment. The Bieszczady National Park Administration is expected of final agreement of the document in 2013.

Recommendations:

1. The Park continuously uses legal opportunities, allowing us to control the wild game in the area managed by State Forests Office. The Park Manager expresses an opinion on the hunting plans for the hunting districts in National Park buffer zones and the area between the main Park complex and its enclave in the upper San river. In 2013 The State Forests organised the Forest Promotional Complex on the areas next to BNP which enhances the environment protection in buffer zone of the Park. The area of the complex is 24 234 ha. In the future, the importance of ecological education in the area will increase compare to deacrising wood gain.
 2. Bieszczady National Park coordinates the scientific research concerning the population of the large predators on the area of the Park. The Park cooperates with the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Park staffs perform tasks concerning the large mammals and predatory birds monitoring. BNP realizes project funded mostly from Swiss Financial Mechanism in the area of protection of the large mammals, focussing mainly on the conservation of migration corridors.
 3. Local governments have their respective representatives in the Science Council of the Bieszczady National Park. The work progress within the Protection Plan has been presented to them at the Scientific Council meetings.
- 4 and 5. Bieszczady National Park altogether with the partners from Slovakia and Ukraine is carrying out the tasks of trilateral Transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Eastern Carpathians”. There are common protective zoning in the Reserve area in all the countries involved.
- The Park participates in the broad cooperation of the natural heritage protection of the Reserve countries, and scientific institutions dealing with nature protection of the countries stated above.
- This includes: organizing and hosting various conferences, seminars, research expeditions and the issue of the scientific journal “Roczniki Bieszczadzkie” (Bieszczady Annals) containing the articles of the Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian authors.