



**European Diploma**

**Annual report 2013**



**Triglavski narodni park  
(Triglav National Park)**

**Slovenija**



**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 1018<sup>th</sup> 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: SLOVENIJA

Name of the area: TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK (TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK)

**Central authority concerned:**

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

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## 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

No significant changes or deterioration in the environment were recorded in the part of the Julian Alps where Triglav National Park is located.

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

No significant changes in the plant population and the vegetation cover in comparison with previous years were detected.

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

There were no significant changes in 2013 in comparison with previous years.

### 2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

#### 2.1. Cultural heritage

##### 2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

Also in 2013 we detected some unsightly inappropriate building works and adaptations of existing buildings that does not observe the traditional architecture; besides, some owners fail to cultivate their land, which in turn causes some small scale changes in the cultural landscape.

#### 2.2. Socio-economic context

##### 2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

Important part of the new law on TNP is development of guidelines for sustainable development and emphasising of cooperation with local communities to enable the local communities to reach an adequate standard of living. Unfortunately because of the budget cuts there were no funds to support activities which were foreseen to help and improve the socio-economic situation of the inhabitants. Measures and action plans were prepared, the negotiation with other sectors just started and we will seek for the funds further on.

### 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.)

TNP journal Svet pod Triglavom was issued also in 2013 only once.. A summer newspaper Odkrivaj / Discover in Slovenian and English language was also published. Web pages were updated daily; we recorded 73.085 visits in 2013. We regularly upgraded the web page on management plan where all information on MP is available. TNP newsletter system works properly. E-news are sent twice a month, at the end of 2012 we had 892 subscribers. In 2011 we started to follow systematically all published articles on TNP by participating in a clipping system.

##### 3.1.2. Frequentionation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

In the year 2013 we observed a slight decrease in number of visitors coming to our information centers. We had in both information centers in Bled and in Trenta investments and reconstructions. With the new facilities we want to raise quality of the offer in our visitor's centers.

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

In 2013 the following distinguished persons came to TNP: Government of Slovenia: Minister of Justice and Public Administration Senko Pličanič, State secretary for environment Andreja Jerina; Others: General Secretary of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention Markus Reiterer and the delegation of the Serbian Ministry for natural resources .

## 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.)

As mentioned in previous reports, the Triglav National Park does not conduct basic research. Nevertheless, we have a database of all scientific researches conducted in the territory of the park. In 2011 a system of spatial monitoring of scientific researches (done by research institution) was established and is upgraded regularly. In 2013 5 new research projects were added. This is a part of the systematic follow-up of the researches, conducted in the TNP, as there is obligatory to get a permission of TNP authority for research in the area of the TNP.

In 2013 we continued with systematic data collection on plant alien species in the Triglav National Park (65 new localities, 1439 localities all together). We also continued with habitat type mapping. In 2013 we finished mapping of 3.500 ha of area which means that 51.572 ha of the park area is mapped. TNP also participated in the project Slowolf carried out by Biotechnical Faculty on monitoring of wolf populations in Slovenia and GLORIA (GLOBAL OBSERVATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE IN ALPINE ENVIRONMENTS) programme. Also the research about influence of ski areas salting to the environment was established. We did regular monitoring of some Natura 2000 species: *Lagopus muta* in the area between Velo polje and Planika area, *Eryngium alpinum* in the area of Črna prst, *Cypripedium calceolus* in the area of Martuljek and *Aquilegia bertolonii* in the area of Spodnje bohinjske gore. Regular monitoring of chamois and capercaillie population was done, as well.

### 3.2.2. Scientific publications

No scientific publications were published in 2013.

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

### 4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

There were no specific changes in legislation or regulations. As management plan is not finished yet, we prepared temporary guidelines of management which were approved by the Minister for Environment and Spatial Planning at the beginning of the year. They are in use until the MP will not be adopted.

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

According to the new law on TNP, the Triglav National Park Authority executes the state of Slovenia's pre-emption right on agricultural, forests and high-altitude areas. The new law also gives pre-emption right on building land as well. In 2013 no purchases were carried out.

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

There were no specific changes.

## 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

The most important activity aimed at conservation of flora and biotopes is prevention of overgrowing. In cooperation with farmers, local inhabitants and clubs, several actions are organised every year to clean the overgrowing meadows under expert supervision. We also organized removing of alien species *Fallopia japonica*. Hunting is carried out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> zone of the park but mainly as a form of biological regulation of herbivores. Regulation is performed on the following species: deer, red deer, mouflons and chamois.

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

Protection from forest fires and from flood and erosion activity of the watercourses is not under park jurisdiction. Nevertheless, TNP participates in preparation of specialized measures. TNP advised firemen and foresters how to tackle minor fires.

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

Planning and construction of visitor infrastructure is one of the fundamental activities of the park. All the required regular maintenance of paths, rest areas and signposts were carried out. Especially two park trails (Soča trail and park trail in Vrata valley) which were damaged in floods in 2012 were in 2013 reconstructed.

#### 5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

There were no special actions, measures or installations.

#### 5.1.5. Waste management

As mentioned in previous reports the Triglav National Park is not responsible for waste management on the park territory. According to the Slovenian legislation, municipalities are responsible for waste management below 1500 m.a.s.l., above this altitude those who manage the mountain huts and refugees take the responsibility. According to the legislation, until 2015 the problem of wastewater management above 1500 m has to be solved by construction of small wastewater treatment plants and removing of sewage sludge every four years.

#### 5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No specific changes were made, only renovation and some upgrades on established systems.

### 5.2. Management

#### 5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

In 2013 budget decreased and came to the level from the year 2010 (before the new law). As a consequence, in 2013 the implementation of the Law on TNP had to be adapted to the circumstances, e. g. making priorities, reducing or postponing some activities. Part of the work was done through projects.

End of September the mandate of the actual director ended and an acting director was appointed.

#### 5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No specific changes.

#### 5.2.3. Internal policing measures

The new law on the Triglav National Park gives additional authorization to rangers in terms of supervising and penalization in case of breaking the law.

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#### 5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No special cases.

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

The European Diploma is of great international importance. The advantages of the ED are still not used in its full possibility in Slovenia. The efforts are aimed in greater profile and recognition of the ED for tourist operators. We would like to stress that conditions and recommendations of the Council of Ministers are very helpful tool to enhance management measures as well practical implementation on the ground.

### 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.

#### Conditions

##### 1. A new law should provide the adequate legal basis for the conservation of the Triglav National Park as early as possible.

According to the new law the government has to provide additional funds for development of local communities inside the park respecting sustainable development.. For these reason we prepared special programme to implement this measure. Unfortunately the crisis caused that the budget for 2013 was even lower and as a consequence additional funds for development of local communities inside the park were cancelled. However, the law gives legal possibility to involve other sectors to contribute to the local development in the TNP within the legal frame and foreseen with the management plan draft. This interesting approach was not understood and used in full capacity. We used this as a special criteria for some agri-environmental measures within the park, there are ongoing negotiations with Educational Ministry regarding lower criteria for financing schools in remote and scarcely populated areas of the TNP.

##### 2. The management plan must be finalised and formalised as soon as the new law on the Triglav National Park is passed

According to the new law the MP must be finished in two years after the acceptance of the law. As described in previous years report we had started with the preparation of MP and followed the plan. We had (once again) very successful and efficient work in 2012 (see bellow): when the following activities were finished:

- MP draft was prepared.
- First draft was reviewed by the members of the municipalities in the TNP, TNP Council and TNP Expert Council.
- TNP Expert Council approved the first draft.
- The suggestions of Municipalities members were added to the first draft.
- Second MP draft was publically presented on:
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> forum,
  - o 6 workshops in municipalities Kranjska Gora, Kobarid, Gorje, Tolmin, Bovec in Bohinj,
  - o MP draft was available to the public for comments in all municipalities in the Triglav national park from 30<sup>th</sup> of October until 29<sup>th</sup> of December
- Public was invited to send us suggestions and comments, which were collected until 29<sup>th</sup> of December.

In 2013 more than 500 comments from all public hearings were incorporated to the draft MP and a response to the particular stakeholder was prepared. The final draft was submitted to the Ministry in June 2013 for further process regarding Governmental decision.

## Recommendations

### 1. Ensure that, when the new zoning is in place, any further change of zones is in favour of increased protection.

The new law of TNP defines three areas, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are central area, 3<sup>rd</sup> is peripheral area. The surface of central area is now 63900 ha which 8568 is ha more than before. Peripheral area is smaller than before, when the total park area is bigger because the park was enlarged in its south part. When certain criteria are achieved the new law allows transformation for example of 2<sup>nd</sup> area to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> area with the respect that the central part does not decrease.

### 2. Apply strictly the land-use planning regulations related to new constructions and renovation work

Spatial planning at local level is under the jurisdiction of municipalities and according to the new Spatial Planning Act all the municipalities have to adopt their spatial planning development plan by the end of the year 2010. It is a certain delay in this process in the state and in the park municipalities as well. Three of the municipalities in Soča river valley have already adopted the land use plan; the others are not far to the end. In the process of drawing up a municipal spatial development plan and a municipal spatial order, the Public Institute Triglav National Park takes an active part, in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act and the new law on TNP, in preparation of nature conservation guidelines.

### 3. Continue to work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and huts with intensive human occupation.

Communes are planning and implementing sewage systems for dispersed settlements following European legislation. Beside this there were no major special activities in this field. For more information see 5.1.5.

### 4. Continue to develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep farming and the presence of large carnivores such as the bear, wolf and lynx, with the aim of increasing the carnivore population in the park

Scientific advisory board of the TNP in 2013 adopted the strategy of managing large carnivores where policy and measures are foreseen. There were increased crop and forest damages, mainly by red deer and muflon, as a result of a very hard winter. For some farmers some preventing measures were placed in order to test the effectiveness.

### 5. Ensure the best integration possible of the various activities conducted in the Park, for example the integration of organic farming and nature protection.

Agricultural policy and agriculture in the national park have improved greatly in recent years thanks to the efforts of TNP experts. Special mention needs to be given of the Slovenian Agro-Environmental Programme and the programme of organic farming. The programmes include a high number of farmers from the national park. Following Slovenia's accession to the EU, the traceability of subsidies in agriculture and channelling financial aid towards environment-friendly farming practices were also implemented in Slovenia.

### 6. Pursue all measures aimed at converting artificial spruce forest to climax mixed forests and at increasing the area of protection forests

Forests in TNP are mostly in very good state of preservation. In managed forests, artificial forest regeneration with spruce has been very popular in the last 200 years. As a result, the present share of spruce in the forests is much higher than expected with regard to natural growth sites. Regeneration in the forests of the Triglav

National Park is natural, with the exception of small-sized plots in commercial forests which are artificially regenerated (planting of saplings). Forests Management plans include the provision that artificial regeneration can only be carried out with pioneer vegetation species (in particular, broadleaves, partly larch) and other broadleaved tree species. The aim is to enhance the mixture of tree species and improve the stability and resistance of forests.

7. Develop and implement a detailed management plan and practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation.

For MP an inventory of parking areas in TNP was prepared. Detailed MP to deal with problems related to traffic and transportation is part of TNP MP. Its preparation is in process as described above. There is big problem of visitors management in most popular areas during the season (one-day-visitors). Some projects are drafted for solving those problems in the future, for short term, acute problems, solutions are made pragmatically: co-ordination of police, commune officers, rangers and volunteers to manage peak visits.

8. Prevent the extension of existing installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping. Renovation and upgrading should be accepted only if that nature and landscape protection's interest are duly taken into account. Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national Park and ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives.

According to the new law on TNP it is forbidden constructing new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing in the whole territory of the park.

9. Encourage the best integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings in respecting the traditional local style

The TNP Authority is running expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. The project is interdisciplinary (in association with the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Faculty of Architecture and expert services of relevant municipalities) and subject to available funds.

10. Improve co-ordination and control research activities in the park consider the setting-up of a scientific advisory council

According to the new Law on The Triglav National Park every research institution or individual researcher need approval of TNP to conduct a researches in the TNP. This gives park a possibility to control research activities, get results and have a spatial overview on research activities. See also 3.2.1.

11. Follow closely the transition of ownership in the park, encourage quick decisions on pending questions and ensure that the interests of the park are fully taken into account.

TNP monitors the status of denationalization processes and is in touch with the claimants requiring restitution of land rights. Some claimants, in particular the agrarian communities and the Archbishopric of Ljubljana, are involved in negotiations on the future management or co-management of these areas.

Compiled by: Martin Šolar, BSc.

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Acting Director

Bled, 19. 3. 2014

