

Annual report for the year 2018 European Diploma

State: Deutschland (Germany)

Name of the area: Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald (Bavarian Forest National Park)

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas:
2011/3

Central authority concerned:

Name: Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz
(Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection)

Address: Rosenkavalierplatz 2, 81925 München

Tel: 089 - 9214 - 00

Fax: 089 – 9214 - 2266

e-mail: poststelle@stmuv.bayern.de

www: www.stmuv.bayern.de

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald

Address: Freyunger Str. 2, 94481 Grafenau

Tel: 08552 - 9600 – 0

Fax: 08552 – 9600 - 100

e-mail: poststelle@npv-bw.bayern.de

www: www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.bayern.de

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 attached

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 on a long-term basis the current policy of non-intervention in large areas of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring;

The policy of large-scale non-intervention in the processes of nature with the goal "Leave nature to nature" and the ongoing monitoring of biodiversity and various environmental parameters have been secured on a long-term basis by the statutory regulations covering the Bayerischer Wald National Park and are being consistently implemented by the National Park Administration. No changes!
Current findings and new research results on dead wood associated species and the role they play as a source of biodiversity in forest ecosystems were presented at the 10th European Conference on the conservation of saproxylic beetles and discussed with an expert audience.

2. pursue consequently a non-intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the older part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the newer part, thus working toward the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the national park by 2027;

After extending the non-intervention nature zone in 2017 the nature zone now covers 16,477 hectares (68 %) of the overall national park, 6,986 hectares (66 %) of which are within the extended zone (see annual report 2017). Subject to the consent of the Communal National Park Committee the plan is to extend the non-intervention nature zone by a further 170 to 200 hectares still within the year 2018. With this step, the National Park Administration is consistently pursuing the mandate to continuously extend the area of the nature zone in a uniform manner by 2027 with the aim of developing 75 % of the National Park as a non-intervention zone.

3. continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone);

Targeted measures to control and combat bark beetle development on the periphery of the National Park, as well as collaboration conducted in a spirit of trust with the authorities entrusted with management of the state forest and care of private woodlands in the vicinity, have reliably prevented infestations from spreading to neighbouring private woodlands. No changes! Since 2016 standardised bark beetle monitoring has been carried out in the woodlands along the borders of the National Park. The results provide the basis for a coordinated approach in forest protection measures along the borders inside and outside of the National Park.

4. pursue and develop the dialogue with local communities; develop synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the re-establishment of the Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the Sevilla Strategy;

Dialogue with the National Park local communities and associations could be further intensified and cooperation in the field of tourism development was further enhanced.
There is currently a lack of political will to reactivate the biosphere reserve protection category.

5. pursue the collaboration with the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, both national parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border;

The collaboration with the Šumava National Park that was resumed in a spirit of trust early in 2014 has been consistently implemented and further enhanced. This is demonstrated by the following examples:

- The employment of a permanent member of staff responsible for German-Czech cooperation, on the basis of 50 % for the Bayerischer Wald National Park and 50 % for the Šumava National Park
- Reciprocal participation of the National Park managers at the meetings of the National Park Scientific Advisory Boards
- Joint participation and cooperation in various activities and events:
 - Participation at the TransParcNet Meeting organised by the Federation EUROPARC, from 5 – 8 June 2018 in the National Parks Thayatal(A)/ Podyji(CZ),
 - 14.07.2018: Day of the Protected Landscape Area and the Virgin Forests along the Goldsteig trail with joint presentation of a wall calendar for 2019
- Regular meetings of the management teams of both National Parks including the discussion of joint plans and projects
- Joint implementation of Interreg projects on both sides of the border
 - Silva Gabreta – cross-border monitoring of biodiversity and water resources, (01.04.2016 – 31.03.2019)
 - FUNGA – Pilze ohne Grenzen (Fungi without frontiers) (01.01. 2017 – 31.12.2019)
 - Socio-economic monitoring in the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks (01.01.2017 – 31.12.2019)
 - Construction of an adventure area for the joint natural and cultural heritage – "Forest Workshop" in the Hans Eisenmann-Haus visitors' centre (07.2017 – 06.2020)
 - Cross-border mapping of the forest ecosystems – path leading up to joint management in the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks (01.01.2017 – 31.12.2019)
 - New paths for a trans-border red deer management system in times of climate change (01.10.2017 – 30.09.2020)
 - LIFE for mires (01.08.2018 – 31.12.2024)
 - German-Czech Encounter Weeks for school classes in the Wildniscamp (wildernis camp) (03.2017 – 08.2018)

6. maintain the public transportation "Igelbus" network, secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in co-operation with Šumava National Park.

The continued operation of the "Igelbus" local public transport service is secured by a mixed financing system with participation of the holiday guests via a share of the visitor's tax, the national park communities, the county district and the State of Bavaria. Timetables are coordinated with the local public transport system on the Czech side (green Šumava busses). Enhanced coordination and a further extension of the scope of the local public transport service timetable on the Bavarian side are currently being worked on. No changes!

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.

To counteract the increase in the amount of waste accumulating in the National Park over recent years, the National Park Administration launched the initiative "Garbage out – Nature in" that is aimed to increase the visitors' awareness of this important nature conservation topic.

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

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.

Following a decision by the Council of Europe, a special appraisal of the plans to set up a wind farm in the vicinity of the National Park was carried out by an independent expert in February 2015. The result was then presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and forwarded to the Office of the Berne Convention with one condition and five recommendations. In the meantime, two of the local communities that are affected by the wind turbine plans have instigated resolutions by the municipal parliaments, to the effect that the wind power plans were not to be further pursued. The Bavarian State Forests, as owners of part of the potential sites for wind turbines, and "Münchner Stadtwerke", as potential principal investor, have publicly stated that they will no longer provide the areas for wind farms or will discontinue such plans until further notice. Irrespective of this, the town of Zwiesel is still taking court action against regional plans to establish the priority area 42 for wind power. No change!

In 2018 the National Park Administration purchased one of the three mountain lodges in the summit areas of the National Park - the Waldschmidthaus - that is very popular with hikers, and reopened the lodge with a new landlord, following rehabilitation measures on the water supply system and in the restaurant area.

The Bayerischer Waldverein, as owner and operator of the Falkenstein-Schutzhaus in the Falkenstein-Rachel region, carried out the partial demolition of the partly dilapidated building in 2018 and replaced it with new lodging facilities including a restaurant area.

The online presence of the Bavarian Forest National Park <https://www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.bayern.de/index.htm> has been completely redesigned. Following the conversion in August the online contents are now optimised for rendering on mobile devices. Furthermore, the National Park is expanding social media usage – in addition to the established Facebook presence there is increased use of Instagram and YouTube.
