

**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 2018

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: Germany

Name of the area: Berchtesgaden National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
8

Central authority concerned:

Name: Bavarian Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer protection

Address: Rosenkavalierplatz 2, D-81925 Munich, Germany

Tel: +4989 9214 2266

Fax:

e-mail: Poststelle@stmuv.bayern.de

www: www.stmuv.bayern.de

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Nationalparkverwaltung Berchtesgaden

Address: Doktorberg 6, 83471 Berchtesgaden

Tel: +49 8652 9686-0

Fax: +49 8652 9686-40

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

www: www.nationalpark-berchtesgaden.de

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.

Despite of an intense bark beetle infestation in lower situated regions outside the National Park inside the park infestation is still on a low level due to the intensive bark beetle control in the bark beetle management zone. In total 3.000 m³ of timber were cut in the National Park in 2017. It was mainly spruce from windthrow and bark beetle infestation, classified as potential breeding material for the bark beetle whereof approx. 900 m³ were debarked and left on forest site. The high proportion of debarked wood, left on the poor sites, is necessary due to sustainable site fertility and for deadwood restricted organisms.

The forest gaps were used to re-establish mixed forests with planted Silver fir (19.000) and European beech (5.000) on 10 ha, and a fir seed on 5 ha. Additionally, the forest conversion was continued by establishing small scale patchy gaps in young pure spruce stands. Meanwhile we have additionally in parts a good success with natural rejuvenation of also fir and beech.

Regulation of game within the management zone of the National Park is of outstanding importance to enable the rejuvenation of close to nature forest types and conversion of unnatural spruce forests. Therefore, game control will be still enforced in 2019 and the following years. The internal workflow ensures a continuously improvement of management including the know-how of the whole team.

The forest development plan shows, that more than 45 % of the forest area in the management zone is rejuvenated. The information of the regeneration area as well as the position of the area gives a good overview in which parts of the management zone forest conversion is successful - no further activities are needed - and which parts need further management measures. Planted and natural Silver Fir and European Beech regeneration have a proportion from 2,1 % resp. 4,6 % of the forest area in the management zone.

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. Prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the following period and, to this effect, provide the necessary financial and human resources; The work for the management plan is ongoing. Three workshops with the leader group and one workshop with a representative group of all staff members is planned for December 2018 or January 2019, organized by an extern moderator. Furthermore, there has been some workgroup meetings on individual specialized topics. Through these workshops and workgroups, it was possible to bring together different disciplines and opinions and define our vision and the next steps for the way forward.

2. Include in the plan a provision for continuing a comprehensive long-term research programme, in close collaboration with other alpine protected areas and other relevant networks;

In a continuous process short and long-term research in Berchtesgaden National Park is checked for its contributions to current relevant topics, the needs of National Park management and the environmental reporting obligations. Research issues are presented and further developed within scientific, technical and administrative networks. Main focus fields are biodiversity and climate change. In addition, new research activities focus more intensely on natural processes that take place in the National Park in an unregulated way. The objectives are to elaborate more clearly the value of our long-term protection status since 1978 and to communicate the importance of long-term research and consistent time slices of monitoring data.

The three major projects cited in the past reporting period are still ongoing (spring monitoring standard, time series analysis of landscape inventories, succession of abandoned alpine grasslands). In addition, new projects started concerning the repeated survey of insect fauna on alpine pastures, the epigenetic adaptation of insects to changing climate and the attractiveness of bark beetle dominated succession sites for visitors. In 2018 a research symposium in Berchtesgaden National Park allowed for networking with other research units focusing on the value of natural processes.

3. Prepare sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives, as integrated parts of the new management plan and taking into account the background of climate change; Special attention should be given to:

a. Military activities;

The German army exercises in parts of the National Park its military activity. We have an agreement which determine the rules and the rights of the army. Another agreement is about the use of the airspace by the German army. We strive to reduce military helicopter use.

b. Recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in co-operation with the mountain guide organisation; providing specific training courses for the guides;

Cooperation and visitor management

The strong cooperation with partners in the region (protected areas as well as relevant stakeholders of different sectors - especially the German Alpine Association) which was build up during the last years, is seen as having great potential to contribute to the conservation of alpine biodiversity. For nature friendly winter sport activities we work together with the German Alpine Association in the project "Natürlich auf Tour" which is a campaign for visitor management and sensitization. Recently the Berchtesgaden National Park took part in the Project "We Wild" which brought together the different alp wide initiatives to foster the protection of wildlife. The National Park is partner also in the Interreg Alpine-Space Project Albionet2030, where human-nature coexistence and approaches for solving conflicts, e.g. with outdoor sports, are subject. The cooperation with stakeholders such as paragliders, climbers and helicopter-associations were continued successfully.

The increase of visitors to 1.6 Million per year is challenging the established visitor guidance systems in the National Park. Social media an uncontrolled advice for tours turned out as a new threat to the protection of sensible areas. The National Park discussed this subject with the stakeholders during the regular yearly summit and the We Wild group meeting. In cooperation with these partners, efforts shall be undertaken to influence Social Media.

Training session for hiking guides (Wanderführer-Fortbildung)

Every year we offer a special training for intern and extern hiking guides.

Golden Eagle monitoring program

In 2018 fourteen territorial couples of Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, L.) have been monitored in the observation area of Biosphere Reserve Berchtesgadener Land and surrounding mountain regions. Six fledged youngs have been documented. This means a breeding success of 0.43 youngs per pair and year respectively. Successful couples have been Ettenberg, Hoher Göll, Hochkranz (A), Bluntau (A), Sonntagshorn and Glunkerer. The overall breeding success during 25 years of monitoring (1993 – 2018) is still 0.30 youngs / pair / year.

There was a significant period of breeding interruptions after fledging in May when 3 couples (Klausbach, Wimbach, Wachterl) stopped breeding without any objective reason. Both, weather conditions as well as human linked disturbances were good and in low numbers respectively. Disturbances caused by human activities as a reason for interruption are not known and couldn't be observed. In two territories there were no clear results concerning breeding activities (Blühnbach and Röthelmoos). Number of non-breeders in 2018 was two (Untersberg and Reith).

In 2018 still two territories (Gotzen and Hoher Staufen) were not occupied by a territorial pair. Documentation of youngs after leaving the nest took place in territory Bluntau and Ettenberg. Two dead eagles could be found / documented in the territories Bluntau and Blühnbach – but obviously none of them territorial. Mortality reasons are still unknown, one of these birds will be analyzed soon. Number of visitors attending guided tours (environmental education items) seems to be almost stable – results are not yet analyzed. The probability of Golden Eagle sightings during the guided tours might still be up to 90 %.

c. Visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts;

In 2018, 400.000 Euro and about 6900 hours had been invested in road and path maintenance.

d. Mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply;

Action has been taken to adapt the grazing management to recent scientific findings. Collaboration with external grazing management experts.

e. Water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities;

4. Consequently pursue the transformation of spruce forests into mixed forests until the integration of the intervention zone into the core area is finalised;

The conversion of the temporary management zone into core zone is complete. All silvicultural measures as well as interventions for the regulation of game could be discontinued on this area.

The core zone now covers 75% of the National Park area.

Situation in the management zone: see 1. Conditions

5. Continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle proliferation, but without enlarging the bark beetle management zone, and maintain wildlife pressure at an acceptable level;
see 1. Conditions

6. Anticipate and foster the natural return of large carnivores in the park area and communicate with the public about the benefits this may bring; Develop a strategy and action plan to deal with this issue, including cattle protection measures and the training of shepherds;

Berchtesgaden National Park is aware of its responsibility for the management of large carnivores and for the preparation of the public for their return. We are therefore in close cooperation with local livestock farmers as well as with the authority (Landesamt für Umwelt) responsible for wildlife management in Bavaria to ensure that all activities are embedded into the Bavarian strategy and in the management plans applying to the respective species. Especially because of the extraordinary mobility and the large territories of lynx, wolf and bear a singular action plan for Berchtesgaden National Park seems not be constructive.

The focus is definitely not on pointing out advantages or disadvantages originating from the return of large carnivores. In fact, the encouragement of a common responsibility of all stakeholders involved, based on the legal foundations is the primer aim. This strategy shall enable people, who are directly affected to endure the impact of lynx, wolf and bear and offer them approaches and thereby a perspective.

7. Pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration (Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung) and the Nature Park and develop synergies with the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas;

Since the beginning of the year 2017 the Alpine Space-Interreg-Project Alpbionet2030 is ongoing. This project emphasizes the establishment of ecological connectivity around the whole alpine arc and the EUSALP region. This network comprises international partners of the alpine arc and fosters the cooperation between them. The Berchtesgaden National Park represents the transboundary area Berchtesgaden-Salzburg. The representatives of the National Park took part in a number of meetings of partners in Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia. Within this project we ran a meeting "MidTermConference" in Berchtesgaden. During this meeting about fifty experts from the whole alpine arc gathered and exchanged experience and best practice concerning ecological connectivity.

8. Build and equip the park center "Haus der Berge"; secure the personnel resources to fully realise its potential as a source of information, as an education center and for the promotion of the park's goods and services;

The central information center "Haus der Berge" in Berchtesgaden has about 920,000 visitors since opening in May 2013 (status: November 2018). In 2018 we counted about 153,000 visitors until end of October 2018. This almost stable number of visitors is still not a single result of the attractiveness of the exhibition "Vertical Wilderness" but also of the utilization of the building as a meeting place for the public. Otherwise there are still some topics and items which have to be improved in order to optimize environmental education and information. Therefore we started another big evaluation in year 2018. Evaluation is completed, analyzing data not.

Until November 2018 we implemented some smaller new attractions into the exhibitions. We also substituted some of the older compounds in the main exhibition. The main exhibition "Vertical Wilderness" has been visited by almost 53,000 persons in 2018 (status: October 2018). In 2017 overall 7,849 visitors participated during 316 events (guided tours as well as introductions to the exhibition). We offered 201 introductions to the main exhibition (5,445 visitors – 2,806 pupils and 2,639 adults) as well as 115 guided tours into the exhibition (2,404 visitors – 790 pupils and 1,614 adults respectively).

The five peripheral information centers of the National Park are even in a permanent process of improvement. Next milestones are the renewal of the exhibition "Information St. Bartholomä" (peninsula in lake Königssee) - which main topic supposed to be "water" - as well as developing a concept for a new information point in the peak-station on mountain Jenner (topic: "rocks and peaks"). The first of two different information units within that station will be opened in summer 2019, the second one probably in summer 2020.

This strategy concerning contents makes sure, that all four main habitats (water, forest, alpine pastures, rocks) of the National Park are topic of the "Haus der Berge" in common as well as in the peripheral centers for a regional context.

9. Further promote the development of the public transportation system within the park and adjacent protected territories; develop a strategy to reduce the private vehicle traffic to and within the park.

All of the meeting points of our guided tours can be reached with public transportation und we refer to public transportation at the hiking tips on our website.

So we solicit the public transportation in Berchtesgaden, but it's in the hand of "Deutsche Bahn" to develop the existing offer.

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.

No Changes

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.

