

**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: ROMANIA

Name of the area: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

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

2010 – 8 years since last renewal

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment

Address: 12, Libertatii Blvd, Sector 5, Bucharest, 040129

Tel: 004021 408 9642

Fax: 004021 408 9615

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www: www.mmediu.ro

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority

Address: 34A, Portului Street, Tulcea, Tulcea County, 820243

Tel: 0040240 518945

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e-mail: arbdd@ddbra.ro

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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.

N/A

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. the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned (Moldova, Romania and Ukraine) should be continued and strengthened and the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area should be considered in the framework of the trilateral agreement signed by the three countries concerned, under the auspices of the Council of Europe;

In 2018 the International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme has added 24 new sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, among them the first biosphere reserve in the Republic of Moldova, the Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve. Having in view the existing transboundary biosphere reserve between Romania and Ukraine, the Danube Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve consisting of the Romanian Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the Ukrainian Danube Biosphere Reserve, the Romanian Parliament initiated the discussions for the establishment of a trilateral biosphere reserve between the three countries, Danube Delta – Lower Prut. The decision factors from Romania will analyse the possibilities to modify the Agreement for the creation and management of a cross-border protected area between Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in the Danube Delta and the lower River Prut nature protected area, signed in Bucharest on 5th June 2000 by the Minister of Environment and Territorial Planning of the Republic of Moldova, the Minister of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection of Romania and the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine in view to start the cooperation of the three countries to declare the trilateral protected area and to define new common policies in the field of environment protection, culture, education, research and a common management to apply these in the three biosphere reserves. In 2019 will start a new international project between the three Countries, led by Rewilding Europe, a Cambridge Conservation Initiative, under the Endangered Landscape Programme. The Project Restoring the Danube Delta, Europe's largest wetland Ukraine, Romania & Moldova will be implemented during the period 2019-2024.

2. the possibility of reactivating the co-operation between other European Diploma sites which are deltas (Camargue National Reserve (France) and Doñana National Park (Spain)) should be explored;

The cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority and the Joint Union for the Management of the Natural Regional Park of Camargue, signed in 2016, continued in 2018 with the visit of the Romanian team to Camargue for the 10th Camargue Festival celebrating 40 years of Natural Regional Park of Camargue, in May. In June 2018, a team from Camargue visited the Danube Delta in view to identify new fields of cooperation and to promote common projects.

3. the monitoring of the ecological services and of the socio-economic activities carried out on the reserve (fishing, hunting, shipping, agriculture, forestry, logging, tourism) should be strengthened in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystems and the value of the reserve; special attention should be paid to the shipping activities (movement of boats and speeding) as well as to illegal fishing and hunting.

In 2018 the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority purchased a radar to detect the boats that exceed the legal speed on channels inside the reserve, according to the Governmental decision no. 538/2015.

4. potential external threats should be continually monitored, especially the likely adverse transboundary impact on the ecosystem of the whole delta of the works related to the Bystroe canal in the Ukrainian sector;

The integrated monitoring programme of the reserve includes as well the monitoring of the aspects on the impact of the transport activities from the Chilia channel.

5. the usefulness of banning hunting, or of managing hunting on a demonstrably sustainable basis, on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, especially in the most sensitive areas, should be studied;

The hunting activity on the protected area's territory was banned as from 2013. During the year 2018 the hunting activity was allowed for concerned authorities in view to monitor the spread of the disease like African swine fever.

6. a system for better management of natural fisheries resources should be explored for the benefit of the local people, in order to reduce the categories and number of intermediary actors/stakeholders; the fish resources should be managed by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority;

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority managed the fish resources on the reserve's territory, based on the Management Plan and Regulations approved by the Governmental Decision no. 763/2015.

7. information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be made readily available to the public;

All the necessary information related to the economic activities allowed on the protected area's territory are posted on the web page: www.ddbra.ro

8. the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private operators in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment) and assist with information on organising and developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve, such as ecotourism, bird watching and handicrafts;

For the financial period 2014-2020 there are several financial programmes supporting different kind of activities and stakeholders and beneficiaries from inside the reserve. The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority supports local communities in accessing the funds.

9. the restoration programme of the existing buildings should be continued, using traditional materials and natural local products; the cultural value of the reserve, especially the different ethnic roots of the populations, should be enhanced with the engineering and technical input of specialised institutes;

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority ensures that the objectives presented by the implementation on the Building Regulation in Reserve are followed.

10. an external review and assessment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's Conservation Strategy (for example, priorities, management objectives, operational objectives and financial requirement) should be organised in 2010, ten years after its declaration, with the support of international expertise;

In September 2015 the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve organised an international meeting for an external review and assessment of the Conservation Strategy. Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority has in view in the next years to improve its legal framework and the strategies for the conservation of the Danube Delta's biodiversity and ecosystems.

11. the necessary funding should be provided in order to improve the capacities/performance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority; a feasibility study on the creation of a financial mechanism should be undertaken so that all commercial activities and uses (not only tourist activities) contribute to the financing of the reserve;

The legal framework foresees measures for economic-social development of the Danube Delta area. The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority improves its budget with funds from taxes, fees, permits and authorisations issuing.

12. the adoption of the legal framework (master plan, Law on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Law on the Protected Areas) should be accelerated;

Based on the Management Plan, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority proposed every year new legal documents to be adopted by the Government, in view to support its activity for nature conservation and protection and sustainable development in the area.

13. noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is in operation, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to analyse carefully the requests for new wind farms in the neighbourhood of the reserve.

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority surveys carefully the development of wind farms in the reserve's neighborhood area.

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.

In January 2018, the Law 82/1993 regarding the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve was changed and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority is again subordinated to the Ministry of Environment.

In 2018 some specialists have left the institution and others were employed in different positions. The staff number in November 2018 is of 132 persons.

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.

There are no changes to the boundaries of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve since the last 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.

Danube Delta and its adjacent areas: Maritime Danube to Cotul Pisicii, Isaccea- Tulcea sector of the Danube flood plain, Sărăturile Murighiol - Plopu brackish lake, Razim- Sinoie lagoon complex, the coastal Black Sea from Chilia Branch to Midia Cape, the coastal marine waters up to 20 m depth were declared in 1990 as a biosphere reserve, with a total area of 580,000 ha. (<http://www.ddbra.ro/en/danube-delta-biosphere-reserve/danube-delta/location>)

In 1991, 312,440 ha from the Danube Delta were included on the List of the Natural World Heritage under UNESCO, the site no. 588. (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/588/multiple=1&unique_number=695)

In 1991 Danube Delta and some adjacent areas were also included on the List of the Ramsar sites, with a total area of 647,000 ha, site no. 521. (https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/51415864/pictures/RO521_map1602.pdf)

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve has been awarded the European Diploma for Protected Areas for the first time in 2000.

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority is managing all these Danube Delta sites, designated under the international Conventions (the biosphere reserve, the World Heritage site, the Ramsar site and the EDPA site).
