

# 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)<sup>1</sup>

## 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: Sweden

Name of the area: Muddus/Muttos National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: Last renewal 2012, 6 years ago.

### Central authority concerned:

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#### **Authority responsible for its management:**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 <u>all</u> conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain <u>either</u> how the conditions have been totally complied with <u>or</u> detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions are listed neither in the Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma, nor in the Resolution Res(67)23 on the award of the European Diploma. Hence it follows that there are no conditions to be reported on.

- **2. Recommendations:** List here <u>all</u> recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain <u>either</u> how the recommendations have been totally complied with <u>or</u> detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.
- 1. provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new "Laponiatjouttjudus" (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;

Today Laponiatjuottjudus has nine employees. Laponiatjuottjudus as an organisation is now better equipped to implement the management plan since we now consist of a wide-ranging of competence within the field staff. The future challenge is to continue the work of creating a reliable and steady platform in order to develop and maintain management work required to preserve and develop the Laponia World Heritage site. The board of Laponiatjuottjudus holds regular meetings over the year where all parties attend, and all of their decisions are made in consensus. This gives a guarantee that the work performed by the management employees is established from the joint cooperative effort of the board. Laponiatjuottjudus has been granted a new extended trial period from the Swedish Government to manage the Laponia World Heritage site until December 2022. Before the end of the trial period a decision will be made by the Swedish Government if they will prolong the management of the World Heritage site in the care of Laponiatjuottjudus.

Management Plan was translated into English in 2014 and is available on <a href="http://laponia.nu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Laponia-forvaltningsplan-eng-web-150327\_2.pdf">http://laponia.nu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Laponia-forvaltningsplan-eng-web-150327\_2.pdf</a>.

2. continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities:

Laponiatjuottjudus is not a Government agency. In the management task concerning the predators' inventories in Laponia we are continuously working with the Sami communities and Norrbotten County Administrative Board (CAB). CAB is responsible for the predators' inventories in Sweden since they are a Government agency.

Laponiatjuottjudus also keep contact with the "Norrbotten County Ornithological association" (Norrbottens ornitologiska förening) regarding inventories of different birds of prey in the county.

3. establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;

Laponiatjuottjudus have developed a basic GIS system that is available for the management to use within the organisation. The development of our GIS system is a long-term work in progress that will continue during the coming years. The development of Laponia GIS is a very important and time-consuming work although it is a crucial management system to gather and store necessary information and execute spatial analyses. The managing authorities have not been granted access to existing systems used by the former county management (CAB).

In November 2017 Laponiatjuottjudus got access into the system "Skötsel-DOS" used by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the county administrations (CAB). The system is used to manage data in protected areas, including all the facilities such as cabins, trails, bridges, and the efforts planned and performed by the management during the year. The data for the facilities in the National Parks in the system will eventually be made public by the EPA.

4. continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change;

In 2013 the Norrbotten County Administrative Board (CAB) summarised the studies, which have been conducted in the forest fire area, into a report. Muddus/Muttos ecology and fire history is well documented and it is an important task for the future to continue and encourage the research in the area. It is important to encourage people to visit the park and give the visitors a broad range of information about the whole Muddus/Muttos area, including the value of forest fires for the biodiversity.

Laponiatjuottjudus will in 2019-2020 plan and complete the elimination of the invasive species lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) that is established in a two hectare area in the northwest side of the National Park. We will also continue to develop a long term environmental field survey to detect any possible establishment of lodgepole pine. Here the fire areas will be important to monitor the natural regeneration in the area since lodgepole pine is a fast colonizer in disturbed forest areas.

In Sweden the County Administration Board (CAB) is coordinating the different surveys and follows-up on the national environmental objectives and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives that the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is responsible for. These surveys and follows-up on species and habitats of interest indicate changes over time in both vegetation and animal species that possibly could be associated to climate change. Laponiatjuottjudus has an exchange with CAB and we take part of the information and reports every year.

5. assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact):

During 2018 Laponiatjuottjudus have estimated the visitor flow in Muddus/Muttos since we have not been able to use the visitor counter due to the works at the new entrance. In 2019 we will continue to estimate the visitor flows by using data from visitor counters. With this information the managing authorities will get a good estimation of where and how people hike in the area.

Laponiatjuottjudus have performed maintenance on the boardwalk trails and bridges. This work will continue in 2019. Keeping the trails accessible is important to canalize visitors and support them to visit the park in a safe way.

The visitor cabins in the National park are equipped with books containing suitable information about the area that among others mentions the European Diploma for Protected Areas. In 2018 Laponiatjuottjudus have produced and mounted new signs for directions in Muddus/Muttos National Park. In 2019 signs for European Diploma for Protected Area will be produced and mounted in the cabins.

During the year Laponiatjuottjudus have produced a map over Muddus/Muttos area focusing on the trails and distances of the hikes in the national park. In the following year another map which highlights strategic visitor places will also be produced. These maps will help to canalise visitors and inform them about the area.

In 2018 Laponiatjuottjudus have developed ethical guidelines for tourist companies operating in Laponia. In June educational days about the guidelines were held for the companies resulting in a certification. In 2019 Laponiatjuottjudus have been granted founds to start a project to increase the knowledge about the nature and cultural values in the World Heritage site. The project will also establish a network between the reindeer herding and the tourism companies in the area, with the goal to create a common ground about land use and sustainability.

6. consider linking the Muddus National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;

This issue should be considered by the board.

7. reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.

Laponiatjuottjudus is positive to discuss and exchange information with people who possess relevant expertise in the different matters. We are also positive to organise an international workshop. Although to organise a workshop of that magnitude is a financial issue and hence we have an important task to prioritise this.

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.

Today Laponiatjuottjudus management team consists in eight full-time employees and one part-time employee.

In 2018 the economic funding was comparable to 2017's economic funding. But still the future funding is very uncertain and varies from one year to another. This uncertain level of funding of course affects the management since it is very difficult to plan in the long-term as the funding varies every year and hence it is a question of prioritising.

**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 of boundaries to 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.

Laponiatjuottjudus will in 2019-2020 plan and complete the elimination of the invasive species lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) that is established in a two hectare area in the northwest side of the National Park. We will also continue to develop a long term environmental field survey to detect any possible establishment of lodgepole pine.

During 2018 Laponiatjuottjudus has continued to build the new visitor entrance in Muddus/Muttos. With the new visitor entrance in the National Park we hope to canalise visitors and also monitor the effect visitors have on the area. The entrance will be accessible to wheelchairs and contain an entrance portal, fireplaces, information signs, toilet, recycling station and a parking space. The new entrance is financed by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). The plan is that the new visitor entrance in Muddus/Muttos also will contain the European Diploma logo with additional information about this acknowledgement. The new entrance will be inaugurated in May 2019, although the information signs in the entrance will be produced during the following year and added later.

Result of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological association in 2018:

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): one successful breeding with three chicks was confirmed. Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): no observed successful breeding was confirmed.

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*): one successful breeding confirmed.

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Jokkmokk, November 2018

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