

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: Hungary

Name of the area: Szénás Hills Protected Area

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

2010-2020

Central authority concerned:

Name: Duna-Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate)

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Szénások Európa Diplomás Terület (Szénás Hills Protected Area)

Address: H-1525 Pilisszentiván, Bányász u. 17.

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¹As 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.

- no conditions

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 management of the area should be carried out in close co-operation by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company; the activities of the finished LIFE Programme, such as the conversion of Black pine forests, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring, should be continued jointly; the area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site's national and European importance;

Results of the annual agreement (2018) of cooperation between the Danube -Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company:

- **Conservation of habitats:** Black pine stand conversion
In February, we did the reconstruction works on the whole Borbás-ridge (1.3 ha) – the biggest and the most important micro habitat of the *Linum dolomiticum*.
- **Monitoring of fenced sample areas – areas keeping big game out**
We have 24 plots on the Szénások Hills, which help to define the possible impacts of the big game population. We have to research the differences between the fenced and the non-fenced areas.
Monitoring of the whole population of *Linum dolomiticum* (new research method too)
We started the new comprehensive in-situ species conservation experiment of *Linum dolomiticum*.
- We have to research climatic aptitudes of the area, because the population development of *Linum dolomiticum* and the habitat's microclimate is influenced by the global climate changing, indirectly.
- This year, the Forest Reserve of Szénások was mapped by researchers investigating the natural condition of the area.
- **Monitoring of the Black pine succession** and planning the possible habitat reconstructions works too (whole area 1200 ha)
- **Employing environmental educator**(+ 1 pers.)
- **Environmental education** is supported by the Local Government of Pilisszentiván too (according to the extended partnership between Pilis Forest Company, the Local Government and the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate, since 2016)
- **Servicing of fence** (see below)

2. inside and near the area, permission should be given only for such game population management operations as are strictly consonant with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the area, particularly as regards eradication of the mouflon and reduction of the population of large herbivores to a level compatible with the preservation of the dolomitic grasslands and natural woodlands; these population control operations should be planned on the basis of accurate population monitoring;

- The game population management (like the annual driven game shooting – in 2018 once) is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company. The game shooting was held in 7th of February. Changes in numbers of big game population, resulting from fence building and the operation of game traps, are monitored also in the frame of the agreement.
- Our ranger colleague got a gaming permission to the area. He helped in the reduction of game population, too.

3. the fence enclosing the protected area must be maintained in good condition to prevent technical sport activities from encroaching upon it and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation;

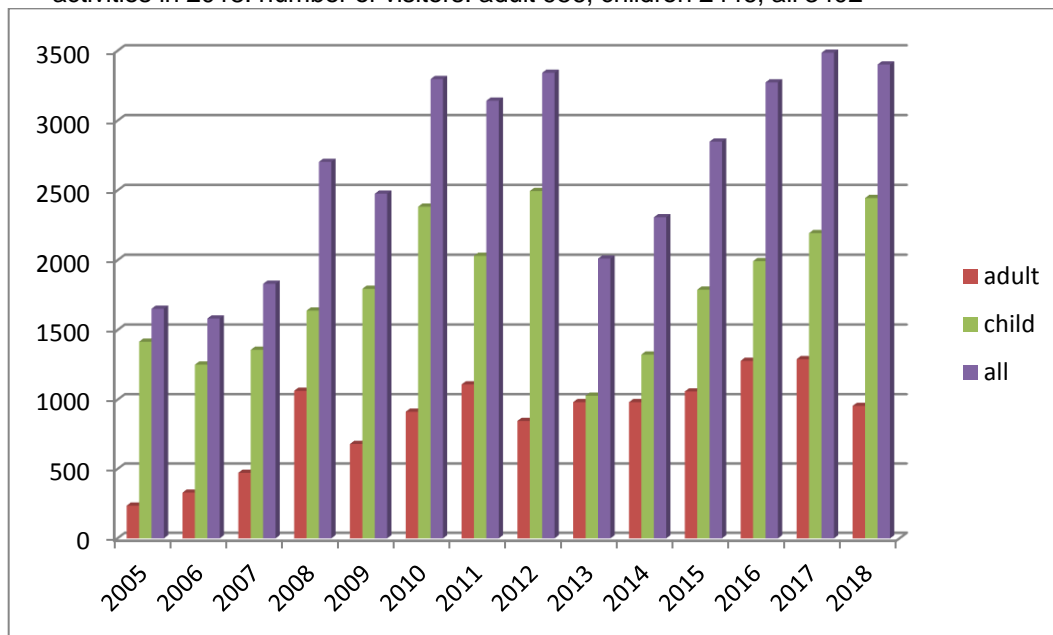
- Maintenance of the fence is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company. 200 000 HUF were allocated for this purpose this year. We rebuilt three gates on the nature trails too.

4. visitor reception capacity should be increased by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, to make the public more aware of the importance of preserving the habitats in the area; measures should be taken to prevent motor vehicles from crossing the area;

- The environmental educators (new colleague since 2018) held weekly nature conservation courses for local school children and organised guided nature trail tours for children regularly.
- This year the co-operation with the Pilis Forest Company and the Local Government of Pilisszentiván has expanded with several points, which helped the efficient work. The settlement's

leadership supports our work too, for example the environmental education work. We helped the Council to build a new nature trail, which presents the special species of the dolomite vegetation.

- We helped the Local Government in other nature trail plans on a mutual basis.
- We organized many outdoor programmes and series of lectures for the local children (primary school, nursery school) continuously. We have a new partnership, with a new alternative school in Pilisszentiván.
- Our rangers and the environmental educator regularly guided groups in the field to interpret the natural assets. The most popular guided tours are the *Linum dolomiticum* hikes in May. In the last two years more innovative programmes and thematic guided tours were proposed. We joined the International Arbor and Bird Day (05/05/2018) too. We organised bird banding programmes, 'Firebugs and Bats' night tours in June, Star-gazing night tours in August (based on Perseids), 'Bug tours' (based on the biggest insect in Europe the bush-cricket (*Saga pedo*)).
- Large-scale events were held on World Water Day (23/03/2018) and International Bird Watching Day (06/10/2018). We organized a new event, too, called 'Treasures of the autumn forest' (19/10/2018)
- The following programmes were held at these events: hydrobiological tests for children, free guided tours on the nature trail, open-air market of nature publications, bird banding. Field exercises were held for university students (several weeks).
- We joined a big event, called Street Science in June. It was organized by the Hungarian Academy of Science.
- From the year 2016 new opportunities opened by a starter European project (VEKOP-4.2.1-15) in which we plan the renewal and expansion our visitor centre. The construction works of the visitor centre has started last September. Next year we are going to renew the nature-trails (Jági), too. We have many tasks ahead of us. The Council of Pilisszentiván made an office available to us until the reconstruction works are completed.
- Next year, we would like to combine the new local archaeological excavations (celtic settlements of Pilisszentiván) into our nature trail (Jági).
- Number of participants of professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2018: number of visitors: adult 956, children 2446, all 3402



5. regulations must be worked out for horse riding paths in the area; also a mountain bike trail should be designated so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area;

- no changes

6. the protected landscape status of the two areas adjoining the special protection area, which were also the subject of the diploma application, should be maintained to keep them functioning properly as buffer zones; construction in these areas should not be allowed;

- no changes this year

7. urbanisation pressure must be handled properly; any new development plans of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba should be examined carefully;

- no changes this year

8. co-operation with volunteers (schools, non-governmental organisations, local governments, scouts) must be continued, as well as with local residents, police and civil guards.

- Managing some team building days with different groups (mainly company groups) in the zone C. In these occasions cutting of Black pine, planting of deciduous tree plants or maintenance of wooden equipments of the nature trails were accomplished.
- Leading field exercises for university students (several groups from two universities). The students did some conservation jobs (cutting of Black pine and invasive tree species, planting of deciduous tree plants) and guided tours were held for them to introduce the area and its natural assets.
- The local civil guards contributed to our works (regular patrolling, habitat reconstruction works). Two guards were very busy this year, particularly the New Acropolis Association (NAA) and the Forest Guards Foundation (FGF) were the most active partner.
- The NNA members helped in the habitat reconstruction work regularly.
- The FGF placed nest-boxes and bird feeders into the forest (next to our nature trail).
- We have some volunteers helping us regularly in the environmental education works.
- Every year, we have “trainees” from universities. It’s a good opportunity for them to learn, but at the same time, they help us in our work, too.

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.

- We started the new comprehensive in-situ species conservation experiment of *Linum dolomiticum*. We have to research climatic aptitudes of the area, because the population development of *Linum dolomiticum* and the habitat’s microclimate is influenced by the global climate changing, indirectly. We have to research these effects.
- This year, the Forest Reserve of Szénások was mapped by researchers investigating the natural condition of the area.

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.