

European Diploma for Protected Areas

Annual report for 2018

State: Russia

Name of the area: The State Teberda Nature Biosphere Reserve

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Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: The European Diploma was renewed in 2009. Since the extension of the diploma passed 9 years.

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation

Address: 123995, Russia, Moscow, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya str, 4/6

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Government of the Russian Federation

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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.

1. The tourist facilities in the protected area near Dombai will be neither extended nor developed. The co-operation between the reserve manager and the company running the tourist facilities on joint technical projects should be supported;
2. It will continue to be prohibited to drop off skiers by helicopter;
3. Any regionalization or privatization measures must in no way adversely affect the reserve's current protected status;

All the conditions are strictly met. Dombai tourist sites are not expanding. The management of the Teberdinsky Reserve closely cooperates with the management of the company managing the tourist infrastructure of Dombai, and also ensures that this infrastructure does not expand.

It is still forbidden to throw skiers from a helicopter and it is forbidden to fly a helicopter over the territory of the Teberdinsky reserve below 2000 meters. Privatization of land plots on the territory of the reserve is prohibited. Privatization of land near the reserve territory negatively affects the reserve and the preservation of its ecosystems. There are no difficulties in observing these conditions at the Teberda Reserve.

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 plan should be finalized and implemented;
2. Every effort should be made to provide the reserve with the funding required to maintain and, if possible, improve its functioning;
3. Information and education activities should continue to be further developed as far as possible. The new museum in Teberda should serve as a showcase of the reserve's exceptional heritage value;
4. Scientific research activities should be pursued and any results that have environmental management purposes should be published. The reserve's management should be given the necessary means to facilitate the access of scientists and foreign visitors to the work of the diploma site in the appropriate languages;
5. Cooperation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia should be pursued and stepped up with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area;
6. The authorities should ensure that the Caucasus Polygon, which was officially established in February 2010, becomes effective.

Most recommendations are also being implemented.

A lot of work has been done to improve the facilities of the Teberda Reserve. Over the past 5 years, the financial security of the reserve has doubled. Information and educational activities are developing. Each year more than 40 articles and monographs are published. Every year on the territory of the reserve scientists from other countries also carry out scientific research, for example, the Netherlands, France, China, etc. The biosphere polygon of the Teberda Reserve, formed in 2010, is fully functioning. This polygon connected the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve with the territory of the Caucasian Reserve and became a migration corridor, which favorably affects the preservation of ungulate and predatory animals.

Cooperation with the environmental authorities of Georgia continues. But so far, a transboundary protected territory with Georgia has not been created, due to political realities. In addition, there are no difficulties in implementing the recommendation of the reserve.

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.

During the reporting year, there were some positive changes in the management of the territory of the reserve. A zone of cooperation between the Teberda Reserve and the municipalities bordering the reserve was created. In addition, funding for the reserve has been increased. This has a positive effect on the conservation, scientific and environmental education of the reserve. The reserve employs 205 people. So the staff of the reserve is not reduced but on the contrary increases. We have no unresolved problems and difficulties in managing the territory.

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.

Since the submission of the last annual report, there has been no change in the boundaries. There are no difficulties and unresolved problems along the border of the reserve. The boundary of the Teberda Reserve is clearly defined and it is cadaster.

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.

No information available.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

During the reporting period, no change or deterioration of the environment was observed. Environmental degradation is not expected.

6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover; presumed causes

There were no changes in the plant population and vegetation cover.

6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

No changes in the populations of sedentary and migratory animal species were observed.

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

7.1. Cultural heritage

7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

The cultural heritage of the Teberdinsky Reserve is represented by objects of the Alan era. In particular, the remains of the masonry of the settlement, burial, etc. Changes related to cultural heritage during the reporting period did not occur.

7.2. Socio-economic context

7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

The development of eco-tourism in the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve has a positive effect on raising the standard of living of the local population. Thus, during the reporting period, there are positive changes in the socio-economic context.

8. Education and scientific interest

8.1. Visitors – Information policy

8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

On the territory of the Teberdinsky Nature Reserve there are 14 ecological routes, the Information Visit Center, the Museum of Nature and the Aviary complex. At the beginning of each route there is an information point, where tourists receive information about the route and a booklet with a description of the route. Excursions about the nature of the Teberdinsky reserve are held in the visitor center and the captive complex of the reserve. A map the reserve is offered to the visitors.

8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

In 2018, the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve was visited by 120,000 people. The majority of tourists visit the reserve in the summer. During the rest of the year, there is almost the same number of tourists. The majority visit the Visit Center, the Aviary complex, the Museum of Nature and three tourist routes of the Dombay district.

8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

The Teberdinsky Reserve is often visited by the leadership of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russia, and heads of other specially protected areas.

8.2. Scientific research

8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

In the Teberdinsky Reserve, research is conducted on five scientific topics. To date, the inventory of vascular plants, mosses, lichens and vertebrates living on the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve has been fully completed. Also in the Teberdinsky Reserve is carried out environmental monitoring of animate and inanimate nature (For example, observations on the retreat of glaciers)

8.2.2. Scientific publications

The results of scientific studies of the Teberdinsky Reserve are constantly published in scientific journals, both in Russian and international journals. Currently, in 2018, 40 articles have been published. The final list of scientific publications published this year will be ready by the end of the year, as some articles are now in publication.

9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

There was no change in environmental legislation.

9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

No changes in ownership. The entire territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve is state property.

9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

There were no changes during the reporting year.

10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

10.1. Improvements made

10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

On the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve there is a constant monitoring of natural processes and monitoring of flora and fauna. There is no negative environmental impact on the flora and fauna of the reserve and on the biotopes where they live.

10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

Annually, on the territory of the reserve, fire prevention measures are carried out (reinforcement of protection during the fire-dangerous period, enlightenment work with the local population and visitors of the reserve, updating fire equipment, conducting fire-fighting exercises). In 2018 there were neither fires nor water erosion in the reserve.

10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

In 2018, 25 new notice boards and signs were installed on the territory of the reserve. A special parking lot was created for people with disabilities near the visit center of the reserve.

10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

In 2018, security personnel purchased field equipment (tents, sleeping bags, binoculars). For science laboratories purchased drying cabinets and analytical electronic scales. A classroom for environmental education with children is available at the visitors' center.

10.1.5. Waste management

At the reserve there are no emissions into the air. All household garbage generated by visitors to the reserve is collected in garbage containers, sorted and disposed of in a waste treatment facility.

10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

In the Teberdinsky Reserve there are cordons to protect the territory. Solar panels are installed in the cordons, and inspectors of the reserve living in cordons use electric energy produced by solar panels.

10.2. Management

10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

There were no changes in the administrative department during the reporting year.

10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

There was no change in the security department.

10.2.3. Internal policing measures

During the reporting year, the fire protection of the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve was strengthened as well as the protection of the Dautsk Federal Reserve.

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

In 2018, 18 cases of violation of the protection regime of the reserve were identified. All violations consisted in illegal stay on the territory of the Teberdinsky Reserve without permission of the administration. All violators paid a fine.

11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

The European Diploma positively influences the image of the Teberdinsky Reserve as an environmental protected area. This helps to preserve and study the natural ecosystems of the reserve. Therefore, the availability of this Diploma is important for the reserve.

Director of the Teberda Reserve _____ T.M. Dzhukkaev