

**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: Russian Federation

Name of the area: Tsentralno–Chernozemny Region, Kurskaya Oblast

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
the award – 1998, the 1-st renewal – 2003, the 2-nd renewal – 2008, the 3-d renewal – 2018 (for 10 years)

Central authority concerned:

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

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

Tel: +7(495) 254-76-33

Fax:

e-mail: pr@mnr.gov.ru

www: <http://mnr.gov.ru>

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Tsentralno–Chernozemny State Biosphere Nature Reserve named in honour of
professor V.V. Alekhin (TsChZ)

Address: 305528 Kurskaya Oblast, Kurskiy rayon, p/o Zapovednoye

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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.

1. clarify by 2020 the status of the three units withdrawn from the management of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve (Janskoy, Lysyye Gory and Stinky Izgoria) in 1990 and entrusted since then to the Belogorye Strict Nature Reserve; maintain, if possible, these three units within the diploma-holding area given their contribution to its European significance;

At the present time three sites (Yamskoy, Lysyye Gory, St'enki Izgoria) belong to the State Nature Reserve «Belogorye» and the status of these three units has not changed in 2018. The Administration of Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve plans to offer to the Administration of the Reserve «Belogorye» in 2019 to conclude an agreement about maintaining the status of these sites as part of the area holding the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

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. ensure that the necessary funding for the diploma-holding area is provided for in the federal budget and obtain greater financial support from the Kursk regional authorities;
2. draft and implement a programme to update and renovate the museum;
3. ensure that the current project for the extension of the biosphere reserve is completed as soon as possible and link it by 2022 to a management plan for the buffer and transitional zones in particular, thereby ensuring the European significance of the diploma-holding area and maintaining its integrity;
4. continue and strengthen the international co-operation efforts of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve by means of projects that meet the major interests of steppe environments in this part of Europe and which contribute to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity targets.

In accordance with these items the Administration of the reserve emphasizes the following:

1. In addition to the present funding from federal budget in 2018 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation 3.5 million rubles were allocated to purchase a lorry. Also funding from Kursk nuclear power plant (Kursk NPP) was obtained. An agreement was concluded with Kursk NPP in 2017 in the amount of 1.38 million rubles for biological monitoring of the environment in the buffer zone of Kursk NPP. Funding from the Kursk regional authorities was not allocated.
2. Administration of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve sent in 2018 a request for funding for the update and renovation of the Museum of Nature of reserve, however, funding was not allocated. Next year, a request will be sent again.
3. A whole set of documents for establishing a biosphere range "Stepnoy" was sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation in 2016. However, in connection with the organizational circumstances (personnel movements and formation of new department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology) the creation of a biosphere range was suspended. At the present time in light of different reasons the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology is inclined to the option of establishing a new site of the Reserve, rather than the biosphere range.
4. Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve continues working towards the international co-operation in the interest of saving steppe environments.
 - Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve received in its territory in May 2018 participants of the International conference SSC (Smart and Sustainable Cities) within the field tour «Soils and Landscapes of the Forest-Steppe zone». The group was comprised of delegates from China, USA, Germany, Italy and Russia.
 - Director of the reserve A.A. Vlasov visited in May 2018 European Protected Areas, preserving meadow and steppe ecosystems (Slovakia, Poland, Hungary) with a view to exchange experience in this 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.

No changes of the territory of the reserve took place in 2018, also the number of employees and total funding remained practically at the previous level.

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.

The problem of cooperation between the Administration of the reserve and the Administration of Kurskaya oblast in the buffer zone of the reserve escalated in 2018. The whole existing at the present time buffer zone of the reserve (3 km around 4 sites of the reserve) in the end of 2017 – beginning of 2018 was put on cadaster and expressed on public cadastral map. Administration of Kurskaya oblast tried to challenge in court the cadastral registration of the buffer zone of the reserve, however the court left the decision unchanged. Besides, Investigating Committee of Kurskaya oblast opened a criminal case in relation to unidentified persons of Administration of Kurskaya oblast upon illegal issuance of building permits for individual dwellings in the buffer zone of the reserve. Also, because of the cadastral registration of the buffer zone of the reserve the decision about building pig-breeding complex of “Miratorg” holding in the buffer zone of the Kazatskiy site of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve was suspended.

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.

In light of the situation in the buffer zone of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve, Administration of the reserve emphasises a high value of the European Diploma, the existence of which among other things provided opportunity to draw the attention of local media and law-enforcement authorities to the problems of the reserve.

The Director of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve

A.A. Vlasov

10 December 2018