COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

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 2019

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: Germany

Name of the area: Berchtesgaden National Park

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
9

Central authority concerned:

Name:	Bavarian Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer protection
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Authority responsible for its management:

Name:	Nationalparkverwaltung Berchtesgaden
Address:	Doktorberg 6, 83471 Berchtesgaden
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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:

none

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. Prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the following period and, to this effect, provide the necessary financial and human resources;
The new management plan has progressed and will be finished in 2020. Organized by an extern moderator we implemented 14 workshops in different configurations, to bring together different disciplines and opinions. One workshop was implemented with all staff members, to catch the atmosphere and ideas of the whole team and develop our common vision.
Furthermore we had some workgroup meetings on specialized topics, in each case we developed new goals for the national park.

2. Include in the plan a provision for continuing a comprehensive long-term research program, in close collaboration with other alpine protected areas and other relevant networks;
In a continuous process short and long-term research in Berchtesgaden National Park is checked for its contributions to current relevant topics, the needs of National Park management and the environmental reporting obligations. Research issues are presented and further developed within scientific, technical and administrative networks. Main focus fields are biodiversity and climate change. In addition, new research activities focus more intensely on natural processes that take place in the National Park in an unregulated way. The objectives are to elaborate more clearly the value of our long-term protection status since 1978 and to communicate the importance of long-term research and consistent time slices of monitoring data. The current revision of the national park management plan offers the administrative frame to integrate these objectives on different implementation levels.
The cooperation of national parks in Bavaria has been intensified over the past two years. The process is ongoing and new topics and initiatives are developed in close exchange of shared methods and networks. In addition a new professorship for "Ecosystem Dynamics in Mountain Regions" has been established in cooperation with the Technical University of Munich. Since November 2019 Professor Rupert Seidl of the TUM has taken over research management in Berchtesgaden National Park (so-called bridge-professorship). The professorship is funded by the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment with an amount of 150,000 euros per year. The research cooperation will bundle local strengths and raise National Park research to an international level. As a consequence the number of research projects and scientific publications will continuously increase in the near future. As one perspective Berchtesgaden National Park envisages an international conference focusing on the topic “Natural disturbances and forest ecosystem dynamics in a changing world”.

3. Prepare sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives, as integrated parts of the new management plan and taking into account the background of climate change; Special attention should be given to:

a. Military activities;
The German army exercises in parts of the National Park its military activity. We have an agreement which determine the rules and the rights of the army. Another agreement is about the use of the airspace by the German army. We strive for reduction of the military helicopter use.

b. Recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in co-operation with the mountain guide organization; providing specific training courses for the guides;
In 2019 we organized a meeting with the mountain guides from Berchtesgaden. Subjects of discussion have been trail conditions and demands. Every year we also give a lecture to some alpinists of the German alpine club, who take part in a trainer course in the national park.

Cooperation and visitor management
The strong cooperation with partners in the region (protected areas as well as relevant stakeholders of different sectors - especially the German Alpine Association) which was build up during the last years is seen as having great potential to contribute to the conservation of alpine biodiversity. For nature friendly winter sport activities we work together with the German Alpine Association in the project “Natürlich auf Tour” which is a campaign for visitor management and sensitization. The National Park is partner in the Interreg Alpine-Space Project Alpbionet2030, where human-nature coexistence and approaches for solving conflicts, e.g. with outdoor sports, are subject on an alpine scale.

The cooperation with stakeholders such as paragliders, climbers and helicopter-associations were continued successfully.
The increase of visitors to 1.6 Million per year is challenging the established visitor guidance. Social media and the uncontrolled advice for tours turned out as a new threat to the protection of sensible areas. New visitor focal points have emerged outside the official route network. Counts at such a hot spot have shown that in high season at least 9000 visitors have visited this previously unknown remote and dangerous place to take Instagram pictures. In order to develop strategies for dealing with this phenomenon, the national park administration had an environmental-psychological visitor survey carried out by specialized experts. The results were discussed in a public workshop and a set of methods has been produced to help limit such developments in the future. Furthermore, the BNP has hired a new employee for social media.

Training session for hiking guides (Wanderführer-Fortbildung)
Every year we offer a special training for intern and extern hiking guides. This year this training was held in march to the topic of “sensibility of nature in winter season”

Golden Eagle monitoring program
In 2019 fifteen territorial couples of Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos, L.) have been monitored in the observation area of “Biosphere Reserve Berchtesgadener Land and surrounding mountain regions”. Five fledglings have been documented. This means a breeding success of 0.33 young birds per pair and year respectively. Successful couples have been Untersberg (2 fledgelings), Wimbach, Röthelmoos and Reith (A). The overall breeding success during 25 years of monitoring (1993 – 2019) has lightly increased up to 0.31 young birds per pair per year.
Two pairs stopped breeding before fledging of young birds (Geigelstein and Ettenberg). There was again – quite similar to year 2018 – a significant period of breeding interruptions after fledging in May when 5 couples (Klausbach, Sonntagshorn, Wachterl, Hoher Göll, Hochkranz) stopped breeding without any objective reason. Most probable reasons might be bad weather conditions - especially a cold and rainy period of about ten days around the midth of may. Disturbances caused by human activities as a reason for interruption are not known and couldn’t be observed. In one territory there were no clear results concerning breeding activities (Blühnbach). Number of non-breeders in 2019 was three (Glunkerer, Bluntau and Saalach). In 2019 again two territories (Gotzen and Hoher Staufen) were not occupied by a territorial pair. Documentation of young birds after leaving the nest took place in territories Röthelmoos and Blühnbach. No dead eagles could be found or documented respectively.
Number of visitors attending guided tours (environmental education items) seems to be a little bit increasing up to 2.000 persons – but results are not yet fully analyzed. The probability of Golden Eagle sightings during the guided tours might still be up to 90 %.

c. Visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts;
In 2019, about 400.000 Euro and 6900 hours had been invested in road and path maintenance.

d. Mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply;
Action has been taken to adapt the grazing management to recent scientific findings with respect to changes due to climate warming. Collaboration with external grazing management experts.

e. Water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities;
The rehabilitation of the flood dam in the Klausbach valley was continued. Thereby ensuring the drinking water supply of Ramsau as well as the flood protection.

4. Consequently pursue the transformation of spruce forests into mixed forests until the integration of the intervention zone into the core area is finalised;
The integration of the temporary management zone into the core area is completed. All silvicultural and game management has been discontinued on this area. The core area now covers 75% of the National Park area. That concludes this recommendation.

Nevertheless, the transformation of spruce forests into near-natural mixed mountain forests will continue in the management zone: forest gaps in this area were used to reestablish mixed forests with planted Silver fir (16.000) and European beech (6.500) on 10 ha and a fir seed on 3 ha. While in recent years clearings have artificial been created in the forest to carry out planting with mixed tree species, the new forestry strategy only makes use of naturally occurring gaps. In the meantime, however, a good success with natural forest rejuvenation including fir and beech has already been achieved on partial areas.
Regulation of game within the management zone of the National Park is of outstanding importance to enable the rejuvenation of close to nature forest types and conversion of unnatural spruce forests.
Therefore, game control will be still enforced in 2020 and the following years. The internal workflow ensures a continuously improvement of management including the know-how of the whole team.

The forest development plan shows, that more than 45 % of the forest area in the management zone is rejuvenated. The information of the regeneration area as well as the position of the area gives a good overview in which parts of the management zone forest conversion is successful - no further activities are needed - and which parts need further management measures. Planted and natural Silver Fir and European Beech regeneration have a proportion from 2,1 % resp. 4,6 % of the forest area in the management zone.

5. Continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle proliferation, but without enlarging the bark beetle management zone, and maintain wildlife pressure at an acceptable level;
Despite of an intense bark beetle infestation in lower situated regions outside the National Park inside the park infestation is still on a low level due to the intensive bark beetle control in the bark beetle management zone. Within a research project the national standard of a 500m bark beetle management zone (1.240 ha) was implemented also in Berchtesgaden (before it was 700 m wide). In total 4.700 m³ of timber were cut in the National Park in 2019. It was mainly spruce from bark beetle infestation and windthrow, classified as potential breeding material for the bark beetle whereof approx 4.000 m³ were debarked and left on forest site. The high proportion of debarked wood, left on the poor sites, is necessary due to sustainable site fertility and for deadwood restricted organisms.

6. Anticipate and foster the natural return of large carnivores in the park area and communicate with the public about the benefits this may bring; Develop a strategy and action plan to deal with this issue, including cattle protection measures and the training of shepherds;
Berchtesgaden National Park is aware of its responsibility for the management of large carnivores and for the preparation of the public for their return. We are therefore in close cooperation with local livestock farmers as well as with the authority (Landesamt für Umwelt) responsible for wildlife management in Bavaria to ensure that all activities are embedded into the Bavarian strategy and in the management plans applying to the respective species. Especially because of the extraordinary mobility and the large territories of lynx, wolf and bear a singular action plan for Berchtesgaden National Park seems not be constructive.
The focus is definitely not on pointing out advantages or disadvantages originating from the return of large carnivores. In fact, the encouragement of a common responsibility of all stakeholders involved, based on the legal foundations is the primer aim. This strategy shall enable people, who are directly affected to endure the impact of lynx, wolf and bear and offer them approaches and thereby a perspective.

7. Pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration (Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung) and the Nature Park and develop synergies with the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas;
On the initiative of the national park administration, a cross-border networking group was founded with representatives of the nature conservation administration of the district of Berchtesgadener Land, the landcare association and the administration of the MAB biosphere region Berchtesgadener Land on the German side as well as representatives of the environmental administration of the province of Salzburg.

8. Build and equip the park centre "Haus der Berge"; secure the personnel resources to fully realise its potential as a source of information, as an education centre and for the promotion of the park's goods and services;
The central information centre "Haus der Berge" in Berchtesgaden has about 1,100,000 visitors since opening in May 2013 (status: November 2019). In 2019 we counted about 160,000 visitors until end of October 2019. In comparison to last year number of visitors in the main exhibition (53,000) increased a little bit (~ 60,000). Number of public events and activities in the centre increased slightly. We are still working on an improvement of the attractiveness of the exhibitions as well of the centre itself. For example we assigned a company to produce a new film as a main attraction for the exhibition "Vertical Wilderness". This project will last about three years. Until November 2019 we implemented one smaller new attraction into the exhibition (bones of a cave bear found in the park area). We substituted some of the older compounds in the main exhibition. The main exhibition "Vertical Wilderness" has been visited by almost 60,000 persons in 2018 (status: October 2019). In 2018 overall 8,486 visitors participated during 305 events (guided tours as well as introductions to the exhibition). We offered 236 introductions to the main exhibition (6,745 visitors – 4,006 pupils and 2,739 adults) as well as 91 guided tours into the exhibition (717 visitors – 622 pupils and 95 adults respectively).
Number of persons working within the centre increased slightly, number of HR departments did not. Reason for that is a increasing number of colleagues reducing their working hours in the centre. Thus uncommitted working hours could be given to two new colleagues.

The five peripheral information centers of the National Park are even in a permanent process of improvement. The settlement of the "Jägerhaus" on St. Bartholomä peninsula to the Berchtesgaden National Park administration has been successful. This was the necessary to start the planning process for establishing a second information building on this place within the park. "Water" will be the main subject for

both centres. The call for proposals started in November 2019. Estimated opening date will be May 2022. In June 2019 the National Park opened a small exhibiton (part I) in the new peak station of the Jenner Mountain Railway. Human disturbances in the peak areas as well as “rocky habitats” are the main subjects of the new exhibition. Part II of this exhibition is expected to be opened in May 2021. In all, these two new exhibitions form the sixth (peripheral) information centre of the National Park at a very sensitive place at the border between very intensive touristic used and highly protected areas. To be personally more present the National Park administration created one HR department for the centres at Jenner and Klausbachhaus respectively.

9. further promote the development of the public transportation system within the park and adjacent protected territories; develop a strategy to reduce the private vehicle traffic to and within the park.
All of the meeting points of our guided tours can be reached with public transportation und we refer to public transportation at the hiking tips on our website.
So we solicit the public transportation in Berchtesgaden, but it´s in the hand of “Deutsche Bahn” to develop the existing offer.

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

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.

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**
no significant changes other than climate change

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

7.1. Cultural heritage

7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
Because of climate change there are changes in the traditional mountain pasture management. The cattle drive up is getting earlier from one year to the next and some farmers started to fence in the cattle for a better grazing management. Thereby the new scenery changes from the traditional picture.

7.2. Socio-economic context

7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context
No significant changes

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.)
BNP provides several information media for its visitors and guests, i.e. leaflets, picture calendar, signs and booklets. Additionally BNP provides two different websites (www.nationalpark-berchtesgaden.bayern.de and www.haus-der-berge.bayern.de) as well as an Facebook-Account for the National Park Center “Haus der Berge”. In November 2019 BNP opened an own Instagram-Platform for the National Park. A relaunch of the BNP-App (containing general information and hiking routes) is to be published until March 2020. Furthermore BNP plans to increase its efforts in social media in order to improve visitor guidance and information from 2020.

8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
BNP is visited by app. 1,6 mio. guests annually. Most visitors come to see the tree main valleys of BNP: Lake Koenigssee, Wimbachtal and Klausbachtal and stay in the valley floor. Unfortunately the

behavior of the guests changing: People use drones, leave their rubbish, stay in tents overnight and make campfires. BNP has to develop a new concept for visitor guidance and the commitment of NP-Rangers to solve or contain this problem in the coming years.

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

31.01. Visit of Maria Hutter, minister for education, nature conservation and national parks of Salzburg
03.03. Visit of Hubert Aiwanger, deputy prime minister of Bavaria
11.03. Visit of Thorsten Glauber, minister for environment of Bavaria
29.05. Visit of Dr Lutz Spandau, chairman of the Allianz environmental foundation
18.07. Visit of Prof. Vasyl Lavnyy and students, University of Lemberg, Ukraine
12.09. Visit of Baron Gemmingen-Hornberg, Committee for hunting of the bavarian hunting association
13.09. Visit of Ludwig Hartmann, group chairman of the party „Die Grünen“
18.10. Press conference with Dr Norbert Schäffer, chairman of the regional association for bird protection
09.10. Visit of Prof. Wolfgang Weiser, chair for terrestrial ecology, TUM
21.-23.10. Visit of Robert Brunner, evaluation due to the renewal of the Diploma to Berchtesgaden national park

8.2. Scientific research

Due to the protection status, research in national parks can focus on the effects of natural dynamics in time. The new professorship BNP will increase its competence in ecological modelling and interactions of species and processes. This research will foster monitoring and planning and supports transfer of knowledge to stakeholders.Based on priority users groups research results can be aggregated adequately and allow for efficient data and knowledge dissemination.

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.)

Three major projects cited in the past reporting period are going to be finished soon and are shortly referred to in the following.

- Based on the long term data series in BNP a monitoring standard for natural springs has been developed. The standard has been tested for applicability also in Bavarian Forest National Park and can be dissemminated on an alpine scale.
- The resurvey of successional states in abandoned alpine grasslands has currently covered most of the study sites. Field work will be finished next year, data evaluation is in process.
- Time series analysis of landscape inventories showed how far aerial image interpretations can serve to derive consistent datasets of change. A follow-up is planned (2020-2023). This will focus more intensely on biomass changes in the forest areas.

Further projects cover: repeated survey of insect fauna on alpine pastures, the epigenetic adaptation of insects, the attractiveness of bark beetle dominated succession sites for visitors; climate impacts use of alpine pastures, studies on the carrion availability, modern methods of ungulate monitoring, molecular insect monitoring, modelling of disturbances.

8.2.2. Scientific publications

Most scientific publications on the study site of BNP can be found on the web platform research gate.

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

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

Since 2017 there is a nationwide drone regulation which defines conservation areas as no-fly zones. In contrast, European harmonization of aviation law has lowered the safety overflight height from 600 m to 150 m above ground. This means that today anyone can fly over the national park at an altitude of just 150 metres. This law change is a severe setback for sensitive mountain landscapes – especially in a tourist region where many private airlines can now offer particularly attractive sightseeing flights.

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

The re-establishing of mixed forests as well as the game regulation have effects on flora and fauna. The success of these measures is controlled by a regularly forest inventories and the control of rejuvenation. With a new research concept, the ecological connections are being studied.

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

The protection of the national park's surroundings from flood hazards is the task of the Traunstein Water Management Office (Wasserwirtschaftsamt). The national park is in close cooperation with this institution. A concept for dealing with fire is going to be developed within the national park management plan.

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

Currently, there are no new approaches and thoroughfares planned. Paths and forest roads were maintained und repaired if necessary. Human constructions on natural paths were reduced when

possible. Old fences were continuous removed. Illegal sign postings and path markings were also removed.

10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

14 automatic weather loggers in the park and 3more in the surroundings. Temperature data logger in spring monitoring; cams for phenological and ungulate monitoring; insect monitoring traps; bat an dormouse monitoring boxes; soil observation sites maintained by Bavarian State Authority; permanent monitoring plotsvegetation monitoring sites marked with magnetic plates; forest inventory sites marked with magnetic plates

10.1.5. Waste management

The waste management in the national park is quite simple. Basicly there are no waste bins in the park. Just around the visitor hot spots there are some bins. The significant information should be - take your waste with you.

10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

- District heating supply through a wood pellet power plant for the three buildings of our main information center “Haus der Berge”.
- In the next two months the Environmental Education Center will be extended, on this occasion a new photovoltaic system will be installed.
- wood pellet heating in the workshop Königssee and the flat for our trainees in Ramsau
- hot water solar power supply for the information center “Engert” and the flat and office building “Hintersee”
- Photovoltaic power supply of the historic inn “Wimbachschloss” and the mountain hut “Wasseralm” (50 overnight accommodations)
- Photovoltaic system support for the mountain hut “Gotzenalm” (100 overnight accommodations)

10.2. Management

10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

Introduction of new time recording devices for the employees. Development of an overview to support an effective personnel planning.

10.2.2. Wardens’ department: changes made

To continuously improve the environmental performance in our administrative buildings, EMAS, short for Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, was introduced.

10.2.3. Internal policing measures

Currently, we develop a concept to improve the control activity by the Rangers out in the field. In addition, EMAS includes an internal control system.

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

The most frequent offences in recent years have been:

- letting dogs run free
- cycling on illegal paths and
- contamination.

The biggest problems are the increasing number of illegal tents and bivouacs.
Driving without a driving permit was reported in 18 cases.
Also a jump of mount Watzmann with a Wingsuit was indicated.

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

The Berchtesgaden national park has been awarded in 1990 for the European Diploma in the field of "Protecting the European Heritage of flora and fauna, its environment and its ecosystems ". The very strict provisions are supplemented by the requirement to "guarantee that the hitherto practiced human activities and the existing facilities in the landscape may not affect the physical and biological integrity of the place". Therefore, the European Diploma enhances the protection status of the area. The recommendations offer important arguments in the case of third-party measures and in the case of claims, to change the management in favor of the interests of third parties.