

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1
on the revised regulations for the Euroean 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

State: Czech Republic

Name of the area: Karlštejn National Nature Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
9 years since renewal (2010)

Central authority concerned:

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Authority responsible for its management:

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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.

No conditions were attached to the renewal of the European Diploma.

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. Continue the restoration of non-forested areas of forest steppes and xerophilous calcareous grasslands through appropriate management; make funding available to conclude contractual agreements with the goatherds and/or shepherds in order to guarantee grazing, and thereby maintenance, in the long term;

Goat and sheep grazing management, shrub and tree removal on dry calcareous grasslands and forest steppe localities continued on similar area compared to previous years (conservation grazing on 45 hectares, shrub removal on 4 hectares, 0.5 hectare of mowing). In addition, grazing of 8 hectares is funded from agri-environmental schemes. The obstacle for long term contracts is that financial funding is always announced only for the current year.

2. Continue the restoration of the broad-leaved forests by gradually eliminating conifer plantations; in the interests of allowing natural regeneration, avoid reintroducing non-native game species such as mouflon or fallow deer;

Removal of non-native conifer tree species (dominantly Norway spruce due to bark beetle outbreak) on 20 hectares) and their exchange for broad-leaved species (beech, oak, and lime) has continued. Due to vast bark beetle outbreak the extent of Norway spruce removal is expected to grow in the future. No non-native game species has been introduced.

3. Make it compulsory to draw up land-use plans (spatial development) and explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation; also stimulate the establishment of regular consultation procedures with relevant local and regional authorities, scientists and NGOs;

All local communities have drawn up land-use plans. The cooperation with big stakeholders and scientific institutions has continued, mainly on enlarging and monitoring of conservation management, such as experimental coppicing. The main partner institutions are Lesy ČR („Forests of the Czech Republic“), Charles University in Prague, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and University of Hradec Králové in East Bohemia.

4. Improve signposting, notably by translating the texts into English, and possibly into German, and by displaying the European Diploma logo on the signs;

New starting panel for educational trails in Karlštejn National Nature Reserve, bearing European Diploma logo, has been mounted at 8 locations in 2019. Developing of new educational panels concerning wetlands and bats bearing European Diploma logo started in 2019.

5. Stimulate the development of high quality visitors' centres and organise environmental education for the wider public; encourage local authorities to disseminate information on the merits of the nature reserve and its position in Europe in appropriate places (such as railway stations, camping sites, municipal halls, museums, etc.);

The project of a visitor centre of about € 3,000,000 was completed and financing provided. The construction should start in 2020. During the year, several environmental education events for the public were organized by the Administration staff for more than 2000 people (see 8.1.3).

6. Ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the reserve's staff, including administration, research, surveillance, education and training, as well as habitat management.

In 2019, the budget of the Administration, including the budget for active management of target species and habitats, was provided in a regular extent in accordance to needs and capabilities of the office.

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.

Site management has not changed.

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 took place.

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.

Evaluation visit of Mrs. Ana Rainho took place in order to assess the conditions for renewal of the Diploma in 2020.

The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

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 changes of great extent took place in 2010 on the territory of Karlštejn National Nature Reserve (hereafter “Karlštejn Reserve”).

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

According to regular long-term monitoring (see 8.2.1.) population of *Dracocephalum austriacum* seemed to be stable till 2015. Since then, a series of severely dry vegetation seasons cause serious decline in population size to 20%. Population of *Adenophora lilifolia* decreased slightly, probably also due to dry vegetation seasons.

As mentioned in 2.2 during the last 10 years the percentage of non-native tree species decreased by one third of the total coverage (i.e. by ca 50 hectares) in favor of planted or naturally disseminated broad-leaved species due to active forest management.

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

Population size of most bat species remain stable or is even slowly growing (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), except for *Myotis myotis*. Its population has declined for about a half, probably due to decreasing availability of larger insects in the environment.

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

7.1. Cultural heritage

7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

No changes.

7.2. Socio-economic context

7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

No 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.)

As mentioned in 2.5 the project of a visitor centre of about € 3,000,000 was completed and financing provided in 2019. The construction should start in 2020. During the year, several educational excursions for the public were organized by the Administration staff.

As mentioned in 2.4 new starting panel for educational trails in Karlštejn National Nature Reserve, bearing European Diploma logo, has been mounted at 8 locations in 2019. Developing of new educational panels concerning wetlands and bats bearing European Diploma logo started in 2019.

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

It is estimated that about 300 thousand of visitors per year come to visit the Castle of Karstejn which is surrounded by the Karlstejn Reserve. Every visitor meets bilingual panel displaying basic facts about Karlstejn Reserve. However, only small part of visitors proceeds further into the Reserve because visitors are beforehand focused on the Castle. Estimated number of visitors coming to Svatý Jan pod Skalou reaches 120 thousand per year. Most of them visit also the Reserve. Few additional hundred thousand of visitors arrive

yearly directly attracted by the phenomena of the Reserve itself. Most of visitors come in spring, summer and autumn.

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

Mrs. Ana Rainho appointed by the Council of Europe visited Karlštejn National Nature Reserve for the re-evaluation and assessment of the fulfillment of recommendations.

Altogether we took care of more than 2000 visitors of Karlštejn Reserve during geological, mycological, botanical, entomological, arachnological, batrachological, herpetological, ornithological, chiropterological, forestry excursions, lectures, management teambuilding actions with volunteers from office companies and special occasions like World Wetlands Day, European Day of Protected Areas, and European Bat Night, European Moth Night. The participants ranged from general public to local kindergartens to students of elementary to secondary schools to university students (Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague).

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.)

The most important plant species *Dracocephalum austriacum* has been monitored since 2005. Continuous data on population ecology is being collected. As mentioned in 6.2 the population size has decreased during dry years since 2015 to 20% of its previous value.

Regularly monitoring of *Adenophora lilifolia* has continued. Population size decreased slightly, probably also due to dry vegetation seasons.

Regular inventory of all wintering colonies of bats has continued. Population size of most bat species remain stable or is even slowly growing (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), except for *Myotis myotis*. Its population has declined for about a half, probably due to decreasing availability of larger insects in the environment. Regular inventory of amphibians has also continued.

Monitoring of conservation management, such as experimental coppicing and dry grassland grazing has also continued.

8.2.2. Scientific publications

Castro, S., Dostálek, T., van der Meer, S. et al. (2015): Does pollen limitation affect population growth of the endangered *Dracocephalum austriacum* L.? *Population Ecology* 57: 105.

Dostálek, T. & Münzbergová, Z. *Folia Geobot* (2013). Comparative Population Biology of Critically Endangered *Dracocephalum austriacum* (Lamiaceae) in Two Distant Regions. *Folia Geobotanica* 48: 75.

Dostálek, T., Münzbergová, Z., & Plačková, I. (2010): Genetic diversity and its effect on fitness in an endangered plant species, *Dracocephalum austriacum* L. *Conservation genetics*, 11(3), 773-783.

Monitoring of lepidoptera:

Segl Jiří (2017): Závěrečná zpráva z monitoringu nočních Lepidopter v lomu Na Chlumu za rok 2017

Segl Jiří (2019): Závěrečná zpráva z monitoringu nočních Lepidopter v obci Srbsko, lokalita Údolí Bubovického potoka – Kubrychtova bouda 2019

Liška Jan (2019): Průzkum řádu Lepidoptera na území CHKO Český kras - průběžná zpráva za rok 2018

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

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes.

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

No changes.

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

No changes.

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 budget and total target area of management actions has grown slightly.

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

A series of abandoned former ponds on Bubovický Stream was renaturalized as wetland in order to create suitable biotope for amphibians and birds and also to accumulate water for the dry season.

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

As mentioned in 2.4 new starting panel for educational trails in Karlštejn National Nature Reserve, bearing European Diploma logo, has been mounted at 8 locations in 2019. Developing of new educational panels concerning wetlands and bats bearing European Diploma logo started in 2019.

10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

No changes.

10.1.5. Waste management

No changes.

10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No changes.

10.2. Management

10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No changes.

10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No changes.

10.2.3. Internal policing measures

No changes.

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No changes.

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

The award raises credit of nature conservation in communication with stakeholders, municipalities and general public.