



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: TURKIYE

Name of the area: Kuşçenneti National Park (Bird paradise National Park)

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2011-2021

Central authority concerned:

Name: General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks

General Director: İsmail ÜZMEZ

Zerrin KARAARSLAN Landscape Architect (MSc)

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry (Mrs. Ferrah ÇAKIR)

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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>

Field Code Changed

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. finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;

Since the area has both wetland and national park status, it is deemed appropriate to make a single plan under the name of Kuşçenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan. This plan was approved by the Ministry Authority in May 2019. The activities defined in the plan were started to be implemented after the approval of the plan.

2. submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;

The targets for precision protection in the park have been defined in the already approved plan and have been started to be implemented carefully from 2019 onwards.

In addition, Susurluk River Basin Management Plan prepared by General Directorate of Water Management within the project called "Technical Assistance for the Conversion of River Basin Action Plans into River Basin Management Plans (EuropeAid/134561/D/SER/TR). This Management Plan also involves Kocaçay-Manyas sub basin.

"Manyas Lake Sub Basin Water Quality Action Plan (2016-2021)" has been studied by Meriç Albay.

3. regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Siğirci Delta and Kocacay Delta;

Bird population dynamics have been observed and recorded at 12 different points, especially in Siğirci Delta and Kocaçay Delta. Bird counting data is attached (Annex-1)

Meanwhile a research on waterfowl of Manyas Lake remains with the coordination of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeynel ARSLANGÜNDOĞDU who is a lecturer in Istanbul University in the scope of the research project titled "Establishment of Integrated Ecosystem Modeling Decision Support System for Management of Manyas Lake Basin".

Beside regular monitoring on breeding bird population in national park, provincial level biodiversity research was conducted in Balıkesir in 2019. A part of research is also involves Kuşçenneti. Outputs of the research related to the Kuşçenneti involving 3 terms in 2019 is attached (Annex-2).

Also an Action Plan for the conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) was prepared (Annex-3).

4. continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it.

The water quality examination and control of Siğirci River is monitored by DSI (General Directorate of State Water Affairs)

There are no facilities within the boundaries of the National Park. All facilities in the buffer zone are permitted according to "Annex-2 of the Regulation on the Protection of Wetlands" and related clauses in Kuşçenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan. Within this scope new applications for high capacity stock farming are not allowed.

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. increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement;

Number of staff working for national park increases. Currently a forestry engineer (NP Manager), an environmental engineer, a biologist, a chemist, a veterinarian, 5 workers have been assigned to management unit of National Park and work in the national park permanently. In addition, within the scope of the state project, İŞKUR (Turkish Employment Agency), 5 people were assigned to the National Park for 6 months (with a high visitor density period).

2. ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;

Daily water level monitoring is done according to annual operating programme prepared by General Directorate of State Water Affairs and natural fluctuation is observed.

3. set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Kocacay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area.

In the Kocacay Delta section, the wardening unit has been defined in the already approved plan and will be implemented according to budget allocation.

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 for the national park is the routine activity of national park authorities. Effectiveness of management activities is also monitored by using The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) in every three years. Also increase in visitor numbers is monitored regularly. Visitor numbers data is attached (Annex-4). Result of outputs of these monitoring efforts directly integrates to the management of national park.

In this context activities implemented in national park listed below;

- 2 vehicles have been allocated for use in the park.
- Bird observation tower was renovated and 1 telescope was installed for bird watching.
- Maintenance and reed coating of (58 pieces) Pelican nests were completed.
- Social facilities included 6 WC, 1 Disabled WC, 1 Lactation Room and 2 Prayer Room completed in 2019.
- The project included major renovation of the Administration and Visitor Promotion Center has been prepared and approved. Budget allocation for construction has been made and renovation will start in 2020 according to the design at Annex-5.

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.

There is no change in the boundary of the park.

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.

- Opening event of International Bird Paradise and Tourism Festival was conducted in Kuşçenneti National Park in 2019.
- A competition on concept of “Bandırma Kuşgölü” organized and selected and awarded photographs were presented in the exhibition at the outside of the visitor center in national park.
- Within the scope of the Bird Paradise and Tourism Festival a panel titled “Curt Kosswig in the way of Introduction of Bird Lake to the Scientific World.” was conducted with the coordination of Prof. Dr. Ali DEMİRİSOY from Hacettepe University Faculty of Biology and expert zootechnics Özgün SÖZÜER.
- Nature educations for the children who are from neighboring schools has been continued with the aim of increasing awareness on national park and nature conservation.

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
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning 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.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 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.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

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

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

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
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
 - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
 - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

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

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