

**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: **Romania**

Name of the area: **Piatra Craiului National Park**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
2011, 8 years

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
Address: Bvd. Libertății nr. 12, Sector 5, București
Tel: 004 021 408 9500
Fax: 004 021 408 9615
e-mail: srp@mmediu.ro
www: www.mmediu.ro

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Piatra Craiului National Park Administration
Address: Toplitei 150, Zarnesti 505800, Brasov County
Tel: +40(0)268 223165
Fax: +40(0)268 223008
e-mail: office@pcrai.ro
www: www.pcrai.ro

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. complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.

The management plan was approved in December 2013 through the Governmental Decision No. 1057/2013.

The Park Administration implemented a Sector Operational Program Pillar 4 project, «The revision of Piatra Craiului National Park's Management Plan». Based on the results of field studies there were included in the park's management plan some activities in order to maintain or bring the species and habitats of European interest in a favorable conservation status.

The revised management plan was approved by the Scientific Council of Piatra Craiului National Park and it was sent in October 2015 to be approved by the National Environmental Protection Agency. By the end of 2015 the revised plan was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest and is still waiting for the final approval.

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. secure the budget of the national park so that the national park administration is able to manage the park appropriately and has all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis;

There is an administration contract with National Forest Administration (RNP Romsilva) that secures 90% of the national park budget. The rest of 10% comes from the national park administration efforts (visitor fee, selling products at the Visitor Center, guiding fees, approval documentation taxes etc). The total budget is 1.5 mil. lei and the staff salaries 1.1mil. lei.

2. complete the construction of the headquarters and other infrastructure, especially the exhibition room and other tourist facilities, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;

The Visitor Center was opened in April 2016 and has received until now over 24000 visitors. The budget for construction works came from a SOP project implemented between 2012-2015. During this project there were also built an information point at Curmatura and 4 information kiosks.

The tourist facilities were improved with a cycling network (42 routes with over 200 kms) and new marked trails.

3. elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local architecture and landscape; this exemplary programme should be implemented with the help of relevant specialists and contribute to making this region a model for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;

The management plan of Piatra Craiului National Park establishes several principles for the sustainable development of human settlements to preserve the local architecture and traditions: 1.Keep the existing parcels in the historical format; 2.Encourage the preservation and reconversion of the existing constructed parcels; 3.Encourage the use of historical architecture, adapted to the modern needs; 4.Fit the new buildings into the local landscape and climate; 5.Keep the existing vegetation; 6.Use of local materials and traditional crafts.

In 2013 there was printed a Building Guide in the Sustainable Development Area of Piatra Craiului, created by the architect Raluca Munteanu, one of the member of the Scientific Council of Piatra Craiului National Park. The principles of this guide are inspired from the Architectural Policy in Romania for 2010-

2015 – the culture of the constructed environment and the quality of life, promoted by the Architects Order in Romania.

4. pursue the scientific work and monitoring of biodiversity in every sector of the park; those activities should assess the status and trends of species and habitats, considering the national park as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;

There are several monitoring protocols, approved by the Forest and Environment Ministry in 2010, targeting especially the species and habitats of European importance. 11 monitoring protocols, including *Ligularia sibirica*, bats species from caves and bats species of European interest, capercaillie, chamois, birds of prey of European interest, forest habitats, bushes with *Pinus mugo* and *Rhododendron myrtifolium*, alluvial forest with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*, were established during one of the last projects implemented whose goal was the improvement of the conservation status for the biodiversity in Piatra Craiului National Park.

The scientific work was also important during another implemented project, aiming for the revision of the management plan of the National Park and ROSCI0194 site. On this occasion there were identified new species in the southern part of the protected area.

In 2016 there was established another Natura 2000 site (ROSPA0165 Piatra Craiului) that covers the National Park territory whose main objective is the protection of bird species.

For the large carnivores species there is also a collaboration protocol with Conservation Carpathia Foundation to collect samples for genetic analyses that will help to assess the population and the status of these species inside Piatra Craiului National Park.

Since 2018, the Park Administration is one of the partners in the Connect Green project, whose main objective is to maintain, respectively improve the ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially between Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion.

Since April 2019 the Park Administration is one of the partners in the Building Management Capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas for the Integration and Harmonization of Biodiversity Protection and Local Social Economic Development (CentralParks) project, financed by Interreg – Central Europe Program, whose main goal is to improve management capacity of protected areas.

5. regarding both central and local forest authorities, more attention should be paid to the enforcement of the forest law on the national park's fringe and in the surroundings of the park; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;

In 2019 the Park Administration together with the Romanian Gendarmerie organized 124 control actions to enforce the forest law, 40 of them with the help of authorities. The result was 55 fines with a total of 13300 lei.

The Carpathia Foundation purchased 16000 ha of forest land for conservation in the national park surroundings. 2500 ha of this surface are situated inside the national park. The foundation purchased also 2 game management areas in the national park surroundings and the main goal is the conservation of game species.

The "Forest Radar" regulation was established in 2014. As a result the illegal logging and transport has decreased since then at national level.

6. pursue the efforts made by the national park administration to address the litter and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities facilitated by this administration; a detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years.

In 2019 the Park Administration organized 8 garbage collection campaigns, with the help of volunteers, along the touristic trails, with a total length of 35 kms.

The local authorities in Dambovicioara are regularly collecting the garbage, and they also set up some resting areas along the road, containing garbage bins for the tourists.

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.

There were no significant changes since last annual report.

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 change.

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.

The European Diploma logo was broader used on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons for awarding the European Diploma.

All the 3 logos (National Park, European Diploma and National Forest Administration) can be seen on the park official papers and inside the visitor center, on the indoor glass wall.

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