

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**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: Czech Republic

Name of the area: Podyji National Park

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

2010, 9

**Central authority concerned:**

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

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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.

|     |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

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, in collaboration with the operator of the hydroelectric power station at Vranov, that the negative amplitudes in the flow regime from the dam sluices are reduced and that a minimum residual flow rate is guaranteed;**

Environmentally friendly regime ensured by the permit for water management and by approved handling regulations. Permanent impact monitoring is necessary.

National Park Podyji Administration agreed to "extraordinary manipulation" at Vranov dam in season 2018/2019 due to long-term drought (inflow to Vranov dam was less than 1 m<sup>3</sup>): reduction of minimum residual flow from 3.3 to 2.8–2.0 m<sup>3</sup> (according the month) from November 2018 to April 2019 and, at the same time, a ban on the use of more than 1 turbine (except for emergencies). This measure corresponds to the overall state of the landscape (The natural state of the water in the river would have been even lower). Some waterusers did not respect the rules of the "extraordinary manipulation" (They did not limit their water consumption), but fortunately only under the river section in the Podyji National Park. This violation of regulation did not affect the flows in the NP. In September, the specified maximum flow rate was exceeded once for 1.5 hours (by using 3 turbines at a time). The reason for this was a crisis energy drop in the grid (failure of one energy producer). This emergency flow increase was in line with the agreement between the plant operator and Podyji National Park Administration.

**2. secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019;**

The management plan was approved in 2012 and is being gradually implemented. Its fulfillment will be evaluated by the new management plan in 2020. The preparing of the next management plan was started; the 1<sup>st</sup> version was submitted to MOE for approval in November.

**3. control the development of leisure activities, and in particular avoid the use of the River Dyje for water sports;**

The strategical documents and administrative decisions of the national park administration are made in accordance with this recommendation.

**4. intensify co-operation with the Thayatal National Park to harmonise the fishing regulations within the two parks and reduce the negative effects of fishing in the core zones;**

Since 2014, a joint project with NP Thayatal has been underway, which includes research into the state of fish stocks and the extent to which they are affected by sporting fishing, and research into the potential sport fishing risks for terrestrial biota. The project is due to be completed in 2020, recommendations for the fisheries regime are expected.

**5. develop relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park, in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan;**

Several small joint projects were carried out with local associations aimed to improve the landscape structure and the environment in municipalities (tree planting, maintenance of public areas). The Podyjí National Park administration helps municipalities and associations to obtain national subsidies to improve the environment in municipalities. School environmental education is targeted mainly at local schoolchildren according to the formula "to educate parents by children". Some special lectures and excursion offers are targeted to the local population. The recommendation is continuous.

**6. pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones;**

Over the last 15 years, over 30,000 trees and bushes have been planted to improve the migration permeability of the landscape, to improve its microclimate and water balance and diversify of its structure. For this purpose, additional land is gradually purchased. Administrative proceedings are currently under way to limit the use of chemicals in the buffer zone. The aim is to improve soil structure and water quality and protect biodiversity.

**7. grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter;**

All municipalities in the buffer zone have sewerage system and water supply. The expansion of water supply and sewerage systems in connection with the development of municipalities and the replenishment of the water supply network are ongoing, particularly with regard to the provision of alternative sources for supplying the population in the event of a failure of the basic source (as a part of the infrastructure to the droughts).

**8. undertake research on the influence of the artificial barriers on the ecosystem of the Dyje River. Mitigation measures on the riparian ecosystems should be adopted.**

Since 2014 the joint project with NP Thayatal has been underway, which includes research into river permeability. The project is to be completed in 2020.

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.

The increase of the share of the area left to spontaneous development from about 45% to about 50% Podyjí National Park Area.

The introduction of the coppice forests system to the areas important for biodiversity linked to light forests.

The introduction of the Exmoor pony grazing as the best care for the steppic grasslands and heathlands.

The creation of a set of micro-localities, where the sod cutting is performed in favor of the species addicted to disturbed soil.

The creation and restoration of small water bodies to create refuges of water and wetland species as well as to increase the retention capacity of the landscape.

The increase of the work intensity to reduce invasive species.

The intensification of the work to diversify the landscape habitats of the Podyji National Park buffer zone as a climate change adaptation measure.

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.

In the framework of the amendment to the Nature Protection Act, doubts about the course of national park's and buffer zone's borders were removed. The boundary is stated accurately and without doubt in maps and verbal description of the Act. The changes are not visible in normal scale maps.

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 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

A very long dry period led to the drying of the wetlands, the springs and small streams. As a result, the threat to water-related species and habitats is increasing. The glaze frost caused extensive natural disturbances in the forest. In total 60 to 80 ha of forests, mainly in the core zone, on tens discrete areas (ranging from 500 m<sup>2</sup> to 13 ha). All these areas are left to the spontaneous natural succession.

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

The state of the flora is stable. With new species or new localities of rare species emerging (*Galeropsis desertorum*, *Clematis recta*, *Limosella aquatica*, *Lythrum hyssopifolium*, *Gentiana cruciata*). Changes of vegetational cover: extensive area of fields around the Cizov village (approx. 180 ha) was grassed, the bark beetle attack caused a significant loss of coniferous trees, which led to significant change to more light forests especially among non-native forests outside the core zone.

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

Populations of monitored species are stable or slightly growing. Populations Clouded Apollo (*Parnassius mnemosyne*) and other butterflies are growing slightly. Newly discovered (for example): *Diachrysia zosimi*, *Pagodulina pagodula*, *Dolomedes plantarius*. The nesting of the Peregrine Falcon, twice successful (2 + 2 chicks), was recorded again after decades. Italian Crested Newt (*Triturus carnifex*) newly occupied 3 restored and 2 newly created sites. The beaver population grew until the capacity of the area was full. The population of Moor Frog (*Rana arvalis*) is still surviving (the threat of economic usage of the pond is not successfully solved yet). The population of European Fire-bellied Toad (*Bombina bombina*) has shrunk dramatically. We are looking for the reasons with the help of zoological researches.

## **7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context**

7.1. Cultural heritage

7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

The responsible body repaired the national cultural monument Vranov Chateau. The nature protection rules were set by the Podyji National Park Administration. At the Nový Hrádek national cultural monument, routine conservation is carried out within the framework of nature protection rules laid down by the Podyji National Park Administration.

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.)

Three editions of tourist maps and annually 2 to 5 information leaflets (about 40 themes, some bilingual) have been published since 2010. The 20-minute film documentary and 8 short films about the nature of the Dyje River were produced. Two large books on the territory were published. The printed newsletter has been replaced by an electronic newsletter, which is published approximately once a month.

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

The touristic season has traditionally two peaks: the beginning of May (holidays in the Czech Republic) and the summer season (June - September). The third peak at Easter has recently appeared. The number of visitors has a slightly increasing tendency. In some places at the peaks of the season it already reaches the maximum sustainable capacity of the sites (daily maximum over 2000 persons, average daily visit of over 300 people, annually over 80.000). Overall visitor's rate in Podyji National Park is around 300.000 people per year. Most visitors respect the rules of the protected area. The most frequent offenses are the entry on motor vehicles or riding bicycles off the official trails.

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

About 3–10 visits per year. E.g. in 2018 and 2019 a visit by representatives of nature conservation from China, a similar visit from Georgia, a meeting of foreign ministers of the Czech Republic and Austria, a visit of members of the Czech Senate, a visit of an expert on invasive plant species from Israel and

a team member preparing a new national park in France. We organized the meeting of transboundary parks within TransParcNet of Europarc Federation in cooperation with our Austrian partner (Thayatal NP) in 2018. Special expert of European Council Mr. Peter Skoberne visited NP Podyjí and NP Thayatal in August 2019 because of re-evaluation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

## 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 several researches are ongoing on individual values of the area (natural sciences - species, habitats, geological and geomorphological phenomena, social sciences - archeology, composed culturelandscape of the 19th century, etc.). Significant finished projects: completed mapping of birds (publications) and butterflies (publications). Significant ongoing projects: mapping of vascular plants, macroscopic fungi, landuse changes and dynamics of naturally disturbed forests (within the Interreg project Connecting Nature). Ongoing monitoring confirms the stability of Lady's slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*) population in NP (and we have 2 new localities).

### 8.2.2. Scientific publications

Škorpíková, V. et al. (2012): Ptáci Národního parku Podyjí/Thayatal (Die Vögel des Nationalparks Podyjí / Thayatal). – Správa NP Podyjí, Znojmo, 396 pp.

([https://www.nppodyji.cz/uploads/Ptaci\\_Narodniho\\_parku\\_Podyji\\_Vlasta\\_Skorpikova\\_Antonin\\_Reiter\\_Marti.pdf](https://www.nppodyji.cz/uploads/Ptaci_Narodniho_parku_Podyji_Vlasta_Skorpikova_Antonin_Reiter_Marti.pdf))

Šumpich, J. (2011): Motýli Národních parků Podyjí a Thayatal (Die Schmetterlinge der Nationalparke Podyjí und Thayatal), Správa NP Podyjí, Znojmo, 428 pp.

([https://www.nppodyji.cz/uploads/soubory/publikace/Sumpich\\_2011\\_Motyli\\_Podyji\\_small.pdf](https://www.nppodyji.cz/uploads/soubory/publikace/Sumpich_2011_Motyli_Podyji_small.pdf))

Thayensia (ISSN: 1212-3560) 8–15, 2011–2018 každoročně 1 číslo (<https://www.nppodyji.cz/thayensia-sbornik-vedeckych-praci>).

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

### 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

The part of the Nature Protection Act concerning national parks has been fundamentally amended. The law is now better suited to the desired regime and the needs of national parks management.

### 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

The habitat management variability is increasing (new methods – sod cutting, coppice forests, Exmoor pony, grazing, etc.). The methodology of management is refined according to the results of research and monitoring (more appropriate timing of interventions, more environmentally friendly methods). Permanent problem is the impossibility to employ people in blue-collar professions (field work must be outsource from external workers). We are saturating our limited habitat management budget with subsidies (national and European), so far.

#### 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

We provide annual care for about 500 ha of non-forest and 1800 ha of forest habitats (of which 1500 ha are forests with the goal of spontaneous natural development in near future, the area with care is gradually decreasing). Another 900 ha are used by the owners. The remaining 3100 ha of the territory is already left to spontaneous natural development.

The area of national park is too small for the presence of large predators. Therefore, the regulation of game is regularly carried out.

To protect birds from electric shocks on outdoor wiring, the project of cabling of the wiring in the length of 1500 m started in national park.

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

In the national park, there is a natural water regime (with the exception of the Dyje river, where the water regime is as close to the natural state as technically possible). Intentional influencing is not necessary. Preventive measures to protect against fire are not carried out. However, the law requires all fires to be extinguished. Negotiations are underway on the possible delimitation of parts of the protected areas without extinguishing rule, or, at best, the introduction of deliberate fire management in habitats dependent on fire. Unfortunately, the fire management is completely banned so far.

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

We are taking care of marked trails (surface maintenance and marking). All together it is 80 km of walking, 68 km of cycling, 15 km of horse riding trails. We maintain 9 parking areas (of which 3 for handicapped people inside the national park, others outside of the national park – vehicle entrance to the national park is prohibited), The national park is not fenced (partly because of animal migration and also because the right of free access to the country in the Czech Republic). Limitation valid in the core zone is marked only in the terrain and on the maps of the area.

#### 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

There is 7 open shelters and about 40 open roofed seating. There are 29 information boards in the field, which we regularly renew and maintain.

#### 10.1.5. Waste management

It is prohibited to dispose waste in the territory of the national park. Small isolated illegal dumps are disposed immediately. The area is small. We apply the “carry in, carry out” strategy towards the visitors.

#### 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No.

### 10.2. Management

#### 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

The team is stable, but it has been weakened as part of the ordered changes (2010: 45 people, 2019: 41 people). The period of generational exchange is starting. The founding team members have reached or will soon reach retirement age and are gradually replaced by young forces.

#### 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No changes, still 4 rangers.

#### 10.2.3. Internal policing measures

Five inspections of the national park administration were performed during last two years, 2 focused on site management, 2 on the economy and 1 on the state administration. All without significant findings, minor deficiencies were solved by changing standard methodologies. The ministry of environment have finished the evaluation of all Czech national parks last year. We gradually started to fulfill some recommendations. We are still waiting for the final evaluation conclusions of the ministry of environment.

#### 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

Only small offences (without the significant impact to the state of nature) handled in accordance with national legislation.

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

The stronger position in the negotiations on the water regime management in the Dyje river.  
Increasing the prestige of the territory and our organization, especially at the international level.