

## European Diploma for Protected Areas

### Annual report for 2019

State: Russia

Name of the area: The State Teberda Nature Biosphere Reserve

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Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: The European Diploma was renewed in 2009. Since the extension of the diploma passed 10 years.

#### Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation

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#### Authority responsible for its management:

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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.

1. The tourist facilities in the protected area near Dombai will be neither extended nor developed. The co-operation between the reserve manager and the company running the tourist facilities on joint technical projects should be supported;
2. It will continue to be prohibited to drop off skiers by helicopter;
3. Any regionalization or privatization measures must in no way adversely affect the reserve's current protected status;

In the reporting year, all the conditions set by the Teberdinsky Reserve were strictly observed. The tourist facilities of the Dombai tourist region did not expand in 2019. The management of the reserve closely cooperates with the administration of the Dombay tourist region and strictly ensures that tourist facilities do not expand there.

On the territory of the reserve and the Dombay tourist region, it is still forbidden to drop skiers from helicopters. In addition, it is forbidden to fly helicopters over the reserve below 2000 meters.

The privatization of land on the territory of the Teberdinsky reserve is prohibited by federal law. The management of the reserve understands that the privatization of land in the reserve will negatively affect the conservation of natural complexes and ecosystems. Thus, the management of the reserve strictly ensures that land in the reserve is not privatized. The reserve fulfills all the conditions set. There is no difficulty in fulfilling them.

**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. The management plan should be finalized and implemented;
2. Every effort should be made to provide the reserve with the funding required to maintain and, if possible, improve its functioning;
3. Information and education activities should continue to be further developed as far as possible. The new museum in Teberda should serve as a showcase of the reserve's exceptional heritage value;
4. Scientific research activities should be pursued and any results that have environmental management purposes should be published. The reserve's management should be given the necessary means to facilitate the access of scientists and foreign visitors to the work of the diploma site in the appropriate languages;
5. Cooperation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia should be pursued and stepped up with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area;
6. The authorities should ensure that the Caucasus Polygon, which was officially established in February 2010, becomes effective.

Most of the recommendations of the reserve are implemented.

The Russian government decided in 2020 to transform the Teberdinsky Reserve into the Teberdinsky National Park. The regime of strict protection of natural complexes and ecosystems will remain as before. In this regard, the management plan will be developed and implemented in 2020.

In the reporting year, a lot of work was done to improve the infrastructure facilities of the Teberdinsky Reserve. In recent years, the financial support of the reserve has doubled. Information and educational activities are developing. Over 40 articles and several monographs are published



annually. Every year, scientists from other countries also conduct research on the territory of the reserve, for example, in the Netherlands, France, China, etc. The Teberdinsky Reserve in 2019 became a member of the International Alliance of Protected Areas. The biosphere testing ground of the Teberdinsky reserve, established in 2010, is fully operational. This landfill connects the territory of the Teberdinsky reserve with the territory of the Caucasian reserve and became a migration corridor, which favorably affects the preservation of ungulates and predatory animals.

Cooperation with the Georgian environmental authorities in 2019 is also ongoing. But so far, the cross-border protected area with Georgia has not been created due to political realities. The Teberdinsky Reserve has no difficulties in implementing the recommendations of the reserve.

**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.

During the reporting year, there have been some positive changes in the management of the reserve. A zone of cooperation was created between the Teberdinsky Reserve and the municipalities bordering the reserve. In addition, increased funding for the Reserve. This has a positive effect on the environmental, scientific activities and environmental education of the reserve. The reserve currently employs 204 people. The state of the reserve is not reduced. There are no unsolved problems and difficulties in managing the territory in the Teberda Reserve.

**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.

Since the submission of the last annual report, there has been no change in the boundaries. There are no difficulties and unresolved problems along the border of the reserve. The boundary of the Teberda Reserve is clearly defined and it is cadaster.

**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.

In 2019, the Teberdinsky Reserve joined the International Association of Protected Areas. Thus, the Teberda Nature Reserve has a triple international status - it has a diploma of the Council of Europe, is a biospheric reserve of UNESCO and a member of the International Association of Protected Areas.

In the Teberda Reserve, work is underway on the reintroduction of the *Bison bonasus caucasicus*. Since 2012, over seven years, the number of bison in the Teberda Nature Reserve has increased from 5 to 40 individuals.

Director of the Teberda Reserve



T.M. Dzhukkaev