

**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: Austria

Name of the area: Thayatal National Park

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

Year: 2018 Number of years since renewal: 2

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: Land Niederösterreich (Federal Government of Lower Austria) Department of Nature  
Conservation

Address: A-3109 St. Pölten, Landhausplatz 1

Tel: 0043 2742 9005 14243

Fax: 0043 2742 9005 15220

e-mail: post.ru5@noel.gv.at

www: www.noe.gv.at

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Nationalpark Thayatal GmbH (Ltd.)

Address: Nationalparkhaus, Merkersdorf 90, 2082 Hardegg, AUSTRIA

Tel: 0043 2949 7005 0

Fax: 0043 2949 7005-50

e-mail: office@np-thayatal.at

www: www.np-thayatal.at

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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.  
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.

N/A
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**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. set the minimum flow in the river Thaya/Dyje at as large a level as possible; the present minimum levels of 2.8 m<sup>3</sup>/sec (summer) and 3.3 m<sup>3</sup>/sec (winter) should be maintained or increased and become legally enforceable; the flow rate should never be permitted to drop below these minimum rates, except at times of absolute necessity (i.e. during a prolonged drought) which should be on the basis of agreement between the Podyjí National Park (Czech Republic), the E.ON Company and the relevant agencies of national, regional and local government;

Ad. 1 The long-term agreement of minimum flows of 2.8 m<sup>3</sup>/sec (summer) and 3.3 m<sup>3</sup>/s (winter) from the year 2016 with the operator of the Vranov Dam is still valid. Due to the very dry summers in 2018 and 2019, the minimum level of flow was reduced by the responsible river agency (Povodí Moravy s.p.) temporarily in the dry summer months after consultation of the National Parks. Both National Park authorities discussed this matter with the border river commissions and national, regional and local governments. The National Park ThayaTal wrote a negative statement regarding the request of Povodí Moravy s.p. to lower the minimum flows, in which the requested exceptional operation mode was not agreed with. The negative statement was simply ignored. There was no answer and the new exceptional reduced flow took place nevertheless. Since the inflow into the water dam in summer is often lower than 1.0 m<sup>3</sup>/sec and the outflow from the water dam into the National Parks is min. 2.0m<sup>3</sup>/sec during a long drought, the National Parks actually slightly profit in terms of water flows in the hot and dry summers in the last years from this operation mode. But since it was possible to fill up the water dam completely over the winter time, the lowering of the minimum rate could not be agreed with.

2. pursue efforts to bring the river into "good ecological potential" according to the EU's Water Framework Directive; in achieving this aim the fish population needs to be improved and the presence of dead wood (coarse woody debris) in the river should continue to be encouraged and monitored;

Ad. 2 Research and monitoring of the dead wood in the Thaya river is being studied in the current INTERREG-Project "Dyje 2020/Thaya 2020", which should be completed in 2020. But since all the project partners agreed to prolong the project, in order to achieve more and better data, the monitoring of dead wood will continue further. The fish population and their behavior is being studied by Czech researchers (Výzkumný ústav vodohospodářský) in close cooperation with both National Park authorities. Some fish were equipped with a transmitter by the scientific researches, in order to proof the usage of dead wood in the water by fish. An artificial spawning ground was created in 2018 in order to furthermore support and investigate the natural reproduction of the brown trout. The monitoring of the spawning ground is still ongoing within the same project.

3. avoid strong surges of water as far as possible, consistent with the safe operation of the Vranov Hydroelectric Plant; every effort should be made by the operators of the Vranov Dam to flatten out the peaks by more gradual build-up to higher flow rates, instead of sharp peaks in the flow rate;

Ad. 3 Due to the dry summers in the last years and the resulting low water levels, the operators of the Vranov Dam did not create less strong surges in the Thaya river. Any exceptional operation of the Vranov Dam because of the lack of water, is accepted by the National Park Podyjí under the condition, that the high peaks will not overcome more than 15m<sup>3</sup>/s, only on very rare occasions 30m<sup>3</sup>/s.

4. monitor periodically the fish stocks in the river by the national park authorities, in co-operation with appropriate stakeholders; management of the fish stocks can then be agreed on the basis of evidence gathered during monitoring; the results of all monitoring and research, irrespective of who funded it, should be made publically available so that the data are used for the benefit of all stakeholders;

Ad 4. Also part of the INTERREG-Project “Dyje2020/Thaya2020” is the monitoring of fish stocks and first results should be published in 2020, depending on the prolongation of the project. Since some fish are being equipped with a transmitter, the monitoring will provide results about the behavior of the fish in the National Park section of the river Thaya. Based on this data transboundary measures and further research will be implemented. Regarding the fish stocking, data and statistics are being taken about every single In- and Output of fish by the National Park Thayatal. Since there is also stocking in the National park Podyjí, coordination efforts will take place in 2020, since there was a change in the Czech Nationalpark Law which now provides the Nationalpark authority with more influence on the stocking. Therefore new arrangements and discussions will be held in 2020 about the fishery and stocking within the Nationalpark Thayatal-Podyjí.

5. set up, in liaison with the Podyjí National Park, a programme for minimising fishing in the Thaya/Dyje River, with the ultimate goal of ending fishing activities there;

Ad 5. In the mentioned INTERREG-Projekt “Dyje2020/Thaya2020” a study on the influence of fishing and activities related to fishing on the protection goals of National Parks with the specific focus on the disturbance on protected species from the activities related to fishing is included. This study is ongoing at the moment and will provide the authorities with scientific data to argue new fishery regulations in the new management-plan in 2021. The study is being carried out by a team of experts from Austria and the Czech Republic together, which will provide one single report about the influence and consequence of fishery regarding both National Parks as one unit together. The study on fishery is expected to be completed in February 2020.

6. evaluate the existing agreement on co-operation between the Podyjí and Thayatal National Parks in view of a possible twinning agreement.

Ad 6. Both National Parks are working together on new management-plans, which will be valid from 2021. Since legislative requirements limit the National Park authorities, to create one single management-plan for both National Parks, one common binding document will arise additionally from those management-plans, stating the common goals and measures which both National Parks will pursue together. This document will also be published on the websites and demonstrates the transboundary cooperation and the will to cooperate to the public. Therefore another document, besides the existing agreements such as the “Statement concerning cooperation between the Nationalpark Thayatal (Republic of Austria) and Národní park Podyjí (Czech Republic)” from the “Agreement on Common Objectives, Sources and Basic Principles of the Management in the NP Podyjí-Thayatal” and the “Agreement on mutual exchange of information from information systems” will strengthen the cooperation of National Park administration Thayatal and the National Park administration Podyjí.

**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.

No changes. The management of the Nationalpark Thayatal continues in accordance with the annual plans that are derived from the longer-range management plans.

**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 since the European Diploma was renewed in July 2018.

**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 National Park Thayatal celebrated “30 years open borders” together with the National Park Podyjí this year. The transboundary cooperation was yet once more increased by organizing and hosting multiple transboundary events, such as Concerts, Exhibitions, Themenights and a City Festival. A reward for those efforts occurred on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2019, as the National Parks Thayatal and Podyjí were chosen to host the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs, federal governors and the ambassadors of both countries. It was a

privilege to be the hosting location of the only ministers meeting between Austria and the Czech Republic in celebration of 30 years fall of the iron curtain.

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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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