



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres



European Diploma

Annual report 2019



Tetrao urogallus is one of the eight species the project VrH Julijcev deals with. Photo by TNP

Triglavski narodni park (Triglav National Park)

Slovenija



**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: **SLOVENIA**

Name of the area: **TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK**

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

- Award 2004 (14)
- Renewal 2009 (9)
- Renewal 2019

Central authority concerned:

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Address: Ljubljanska cesta 27
Tel: + 386 4 5780 200
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Authority responsible for its management:

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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>

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. National authorities should guarantee the necessary budget in order to fully implement the Triglav National Park Management Plan adopted in 2016 including a comprehensive monitoring scheme, and to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural and cultural values of the Park.

For the implementation of the annual program of the TNP Public Institution, 2.700.612 € was planned in 2019. Most of the funds (part of 73,5 %), 1.984.866 € was provided from the state budget. Other funds (715.746 €) are provided from international projects (365.076 €), so-called non-public sources (102.220 €) and marketing activities (248.450 €). The financing follows the dynamics set out in the TNP Management Plan from 2016 and the items of adopted state budget.

Other holders of management tasks and activities provide funding sources through their own annual programs of work and financial plans.

Funds (partly raised by the rebalancing in May 2019) are sufficient to cover most of the planned tasks of the TNP Management Plan.

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. Strengthen the inter-ministerial coordination regarding the management of the National Park.

Different ministries (with their agencies, directorates, institutes) and local communities have an important role in the implementation of management tasks and activities. As leading partners or cooperating partners they are involved in the management of the protected area, therefore, some work and financial obligations should be included in their annual programs, staffing and financial plans.

Most of the expert work has been done in the field of implementing measures for sustainable traffic mobility, the preparation of the building typology and tenders by the agricultural sector to co-finance individual environmental measures.

In general the realization of sectors is lagging behind the planned indicators. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia or the competent ministry (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning), should strengthen the coordination of the activities of other sectors in the management plan implementation and co-financing of tasks, especially in the field of sustainable development and protection of cultural heritage.

2. Continue to follow up closely on the transition of land ownership in the Park (denationalisation); pursue the active policy of acquisition of land important for nature protection and other park's activities.

TNP does not have an active role in the denationalization process but it collaborates closely with the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the State Attorneys Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Administrative Unit Radovljica to follow the process as an interested party and to contribute in a decision making process. According to the Denationalization Act when the state property is part of the denationalization process state attorney represents the state. First-instance authorities who consider the requests for denationalization are administrative units, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

According to the Triglav National Park Act, Triglav National Park Public institution is authorized to exercise a pre-emption right on agricultural land, forest land, water areas and urban or built-up land in the name of the state of Slovenia. In this year, a pre-emption right was exercised on 9,97 ha of land.

3. Pursue the efforts for transforming the zonation towards 1st zone (wilderness) and keep the 3rd zone for sustainable use, provided that the central of part of the National Park does not decrease.

Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zone, 3rd is peripheral zone. There were no changes in zonation in 2019.

4. Continue the good collaboration with municipal authorities responsible for land-use planning when preparing land use plans and implementing them. Strictly apply the regulations related to new constructions and renovation works.

The TNP Authority is running expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in

construction works. So far the typology for municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora are prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design.

Public institute TNP is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park. In 2019, a digital investment guide was prepared with guidance for maintenance and restoration of pasture objects in Bohinj. In 2019, the preparation of building typology for Primorska part of the park began.

5. Continue to work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human occupation.

There are 36 mountain huts in the Triglav National Park and at the end of the year 2019, 16 of them had wastewater treatment plants. For a few years Slovenian Alpine Association has a consultancy office that helps to solve environmental issues on the mountain huts. Together with the park staff regular consultancy and monitoring of the treated waste water is in place. Alpine clubs and managers accepted these activities in a very positive way and they are stimulated for improvements. A new Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater (Official Gazette RS, 98/15) was passed. According to the new Decree the proper treatment and discharge of the wastewater should be settled by the end of 2021. As a proper treatment of wastewater on the mountain huts are considered: wastewater treatment plants, 3-compartment septic tanks with drain field and dry toilets. In 2018 Triglav National Park Public Institution co-financed some measures to improve the functioning of wastewater treatment plants and also a seminar for mountain hut managers on managing drinking and waste water, wastes and energy supply.

Four of six by TNP owned mountain huts have wastewater treatment plants.

In 2019 TNP experts, mountain hut owners and experts from different fields were discussing about the most suitable solution how to treat waste water to minimise the impact on the environment.

6. Develop a funding mechanism to support local development projects of the National Park and municipalities within the Biosphere Reserve.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is preparing a decree for the supporting and co-financing of local development projects, primarily in the field of climate change, environmental protection, nature conservation, protection of cultural heritage, development of social activities (especially education, health and social protection) – with the aim of achieving the objectives of environmental protection and encouraging sustainable development. Important sources of co-financing are also European development projects.

The TNP Public Institution received 8.000 € from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport for the implementation of the UNESCO MaB program in the Julian Alps Biosphere reserve. This amount is not sufficient to cover the costs of the planned activities. In addition to the coordination of the biosphere reserve, most of the work was focused on the network of elementary schools in the Julian Alps area (awareness raising and education), development of the sustainable tourism, cooperation with the local population and joint activities in all four of the Slovenia's biosphere areas.

7. Together with local communities, prepare favourable conditions for social acceptance of increased populations of large carnivores such as brown bear, wolf and lynx. Further develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming with carnivores in the Park.

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and lynx (*Lynx lynx*) are regularly observed in the TNP area. In the past years, most conflicts with human (property damages) were due to the brown bear presence but during the wintertime 2018/2019, the genetic analyses of collected field samples confirmed the presence of 5 wolves. Furthermore, a wolf pack of 7 animals was confirmed in autumn and wolves are regularly observed in TNP. If the number of conflicts with brown bear is in decrease, the wolf conflicts are increasing significantly. The questions of proper and effective management of large carnivores will definitely become a priority issue in forthcoming years. In order to reduce the possibility for conflict situations to appear, the TNP Public Institution collaborate closely with competent institutions and other bodies, preventative tools (electric fences) were purchased and distributed to the farmers and the grazing herds have been equipped with GPS collars. Discussions with farmers started within the context of the project LIFE WolfAlps (2013-2018) will continue in order to identify necessary mitigation measures. Furthermore, several educational and awareness raising activities (e.g. guided school visits, exhibitions, media etc) took place in 2019 to increase the acceptance for large carnivores by the general public and different users of the Triglav National Park area. A strategy for the managing large carnivores within the protected area which was accepted by the TNP Scientific advisory board (2013) defines criteria and measures for interventions in conflict situations. The latter, together with the Act Regulating the Intervention Culling of Specimens of Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Common Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the Wild (OJ RS, No 43/19) applied in TNP in 2019 by taking from the wild of one conflict brown bear.

8. Strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificial spruce forest to climax mixed forests and at increasing the area of protection of forests. Apply appropriate mitigation measures after natural disaster specifically adapted to the National Park status.

As mentioned in previous reports, forestry management plans require for the artificial regeneration to be carried out with pioneer vegetation only or with other broadleaved tree species occurring naturally in affected area. The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration. However, even artificial, some conifer forests in TNP (e.g. high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are important from nature conservation point of view (e.g. glacial relics such as Western Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) which presents an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in TNP.

As also mentioned in previous reports, there was an ice storm in 2014. Its direct impacts in Triglav National Park were not so severe since the damages were limited to the lowland forest stands, but they caused increased attacks of bark beetles to which also contributed severe damages caused by wind in 2017 (Pokljuka, Mežakla) and 2018 (Soča, Trenta). Due to bark beetles infestation intensive interventions are required in order to limit further spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands. The TNP Public Institution is in regular contacts with Slovenia Forest Service, Slovenian Institute for Nature Conservation and land owners to agree on interventions to be applied by respecting the protected area management objectives. In 2019, the project VrH Julijcev (2018-2020; Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014-2020) was approved and some project actions are focusing in improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka plateau by planting different broadleaved trees.

9. In liaison with relevant partners implement the tourism strategy and continue developing the practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation, the development of new technologies and new forms of tourism especially on seasonal hot-spot areas.

Detailed management plan which highlights problems related to traffic and transportation is part of TNP MP where transport and environmentally friendly mobility are on-going tasks.

For further and strengthened promotion of sustainable mobility several Sustainable Mobility Promotion Days were organised in the area of Bohinj, Mangrt High-mountain Road and in the Vrata Valley (August weekends – 8 days of free P+R system) was organized by TNP Public Institution together with the local municipalities.

<https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/-Trajnostna-mobilnost-v-poletni-sezoni-organizirani-javni-prevozi-za-obiskovalce-in-doma-ine-ter-promocijska-dneva-umirjanja-prometa-v-Ukancu-v-Bohinju-in-na-Mangartski-cesti/>

<https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Vrata-Pericnik-2019-brezplacno-parkiraj-in-uporabi-avtobus.pdf>

Hop on hop off bus continued to operate this summer in the municipalities of Tolmin, Kobarid, Bohinj, Bled and Radovljica (Biosphere Reserve Julian Alps) https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Vozni-redi/Z-avtobusom-po-Julijjskih-Alpah-125-x-190-mm-SLO.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2clyFBS_be4sfWsw4jZJ1s8AcuQkHcFkoh8lwSUfDc7vmsyg5qOX9LTS8

<https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Discover/Casopis-TNP-2019.pdf>

Together with the representatives of Ministry of Infrastructure and municipalities of Kranjska Gora and Bovec we continue to work together to find the best solutions to cope with traffic on the Vršič road (the road through the pass Vršič the highest mountain pass across Julian Alps) which is one of the busiest roads in the park due to picturesque landscape.

We promote sustainable mobility in publication for visitors Triglav National Park – Biosphere Reserve Julian Alps Visitor Guide 2019 <https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Discover/Casopis-TNP-2019.pdf>

Working group on Traffic Management on Pokljuka high plateau continues to work on finding solutions on how to cope with increased stationary traffic during winter and winter sports events on Pokljuka, based on reducing speed limit and traffic monitoring. At the same time more frequent bus-schedules were introduced throughout high-summer and –winter season.

The new long-distance trail Juliana Trail has been introduced – offering connection among existing hiking-trails predominantly in the valleys and outside the Triglav National Park area (270 km). <https://julian-alps.com/en/tour/long-distance-hiking-trail/juliana-trail-overall-tour/34541732/>

10. Prevent the extension of installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping. Renovation and upgrading of existing installations should be accepted only if nature and landscape protection's interests are duly considered.

Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the National Park, with special attention to new sport development (e.g. e-biking, etc.); ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives.

According to Triglav National Park act it is forbidden to construct new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing ones in the whole territory of the park. Where in the TNP cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, paragliding and mountain biking is allowed is shown on detailed maps which are part of TNP MP.

In 2019 the preparation of an Action plan for recreational activities and visitation has started.

11. Encourage the best integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings in respecting the traditional local style; ensure support to maintaining traditional agriculture practices and their related infrastructure (hay racks, shepherds, cattle mountain buildings, etc.); further develop the Park or regional branding system for goods and services.

The TNP Authority continue to run expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. So far the typology for municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora are prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design.

Public institute TNP is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park.

In 2019 we continue to work on the brand for local products – ‘Quality Mark’. A web page was established where the brand holders are presented <https://www.tnp.si/sl/obiscite/znak-kakovosti-tnp/> and a web page with information for those who would like to get the certificate <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/znak-kakovosti-triglavskega-narodnega-parka/>

A clip, promoting the brand is also available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuhWTOakBS0>

12. Promote capacity building and specialisation among permanent park rangers and hire more seasonal rangers during the peak season. Use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, and in general promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas more actively.

Permanent park rangers attend different training programmes every year: conducting of minor offences procedure, mountain guides training program, complementary training for park rangers. In 2019 they also participated in a seminar on protecting personal data and attended various trainings on monitoring large herbivores and carnivores. During the high season one seasonal ranger was hired.

Diploma logo is used on all important park publications. Diploma was mentioned on all important events.

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 in terrestrial and aquatic environments. At the end of 2019 the number of staff was slightly higher than at the end of 2018, mainly because of projects which started in 2019. There were no significant changes in the budget.

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.

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.

Project Vrh Julijcev - Improving the condition of species and habitat types in the Triglav National Park has officially started in 2019: <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/projekti/vrh-julijcev-izboljsanje-stanja-vrst-in-habitatnih-tipov-v-triglavskem-narodnem-parku/>

The main goals of the project are improving the conservation status of eight species *Eryngium alpinum*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Bombina variegata*, *Tetrao urogallus*, *Tetrastes bonasia*, *Lagopus muta*, *Alectoris graeca*, *Picoides tridactylus* and 4 habitats.

Removal of alien species: a successful elimination of Japanese knotweed on a territory of 350 square meters was achieved using black mulch. Himalayan balsam was manually removed on a territory of 850 square meters. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/uspesna-odstranitev-japonskega-dresnika-na-testni-ploskvi-v-dolini-radovne-z-metodo-prekrivanja-javni-zavod-triglavski-narodni-park-na-obmocju-parka-izvaja-razlicne-aktivnosti-za-preprecevanje-sirjenja-invazivnih-tujerodnih-rastlinskih-vrst-poleg-monitor/>

New educational clips: One with nature`s diversity, Visiting the mountains during winter, Moved by nature on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8hWSbpW2GwBE5IM-vZ-DJg>

EuroMAB 2019 Conference in Dublin Bay Biosphere: representatives of the park presented *development plans for the Julian Alps Biosphere Area as a sustainable tourist destination and new walking trail around Julian Alps - Juliana Trail.*

One of the ecological farm TNP in Trenta valley was chosen as the **best organic farm in Europe** by the readers of Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2019/apr/18/20-great-agriturismo-farm-stays-europe-readers-tips-france-italy>

Third Open Forum of TNP was organized. According to the Triglav National Park Act an open forum should be organized every two years in order to present park`s work and actual issues to general public. The forum allows to general public to actively participate. In 2019 the forum was in a form of a workshop on the following topics: sustainable development, tourism and social acceptance as well as human coexistence with large carnivores.

In order to **improve the conditions of the lake Jezero na Planini pri Jezeru** removal of the algal biomass was organized. TNP published a public announcement for volunteers for help and there was very positive respond, 12 volunteers offered help for two days. <https://www.tnp.si/sl/javni-zavod/obvestila/ukrepi-za-izboljsanje-stanja-jezera-na-planini-pri-jezeru/>

Sediment researches in the Triglav Lakes Valley were conducted by the Department of Geology, University of Ljubljana. The results will show what was happening in this area in the past 10 000 years and also what is the impact of people on the environment.

National Institute of Biology started **ecological researches of mountain lakes** in TNP. The results will be used for preparing the measures to improve the condition of the lakes, what is among the aims of the project VrH Julijcev.

We continue to work on the project LIFE Natura Viva <https://www.naturaviva.si/en/about-the-project/>

We also continue to work on the Interreg V-A Italija-Slovenija project Nar2Care which should end in March 2020 but has been prolonged. <https://www.ita-slo.eu/en/nat2care>

Compiled by Alenka Mencinger
