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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Specialists on the
European Diploma for Protected Areas**

24 February 2021
(*virtual meeting*)

**COMPILATION OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE
2020 ANNUAL REPORTS**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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Name of the awarded area	1. Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve, Belgium	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.66 / 28.03.2021
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)9</p>	<p>1) pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the European Union’s LIFE programme;</p> <p>Since the end of the LIFE programme, restoration works continue with regional funds.</p> <p>2) continue to acquire privately owned plots of land inside the reserve and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly owned nature reserves;</p> <p>All the land plots acquired during the LIFE programme were classified nature reserves (452 ha) by ministerial decree in 2018. Other land plots were acquired in the Breitenbach Valley and will be integrated in the Nature Reserve.</p> <p>3) continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve’s European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision makers;</p> <p>The ecological and touristic value of the area attracts a lot of interest from national and local medias and enable to emphasize the management measures in particular to prevent wildfires. Field visits were organised with the municipal authorities of Eupen and Bütgenbach to raise their awareness about the importance of the area. The area became even more important since the settlement of the wolf in 2018.</p> <p>4) continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse population in co-operation with the relevant European partners;</p> <p>The safeguard project of the black grouse is on-going since 2017.</p> <p>5) ensure the sustainability of the measures taken under the LIFE Programme, which have had a very positive effect by providing the reserve with a</p>	

		<p>guarantee of sufficient financial and human resources.</p> <p>Many new developments continued after the end of the LIFE programme with regional and national financial resources.</p> <p>However, the human resources are still not at desired level in particular for administrative staff and forest workers.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end.</p> <p>The management plans were finalised and approved for two subareas. Delays are faced for the other subareas due delays in the mapping of habitats for the Natura 2000 sites included in the area.</p> <p>The mapping is expected to be finalized in 2021.</p>
	Achievements	<p>The LIFE project, which was completed at the end of 2012, has restored peatland habitats and associated habitats over very large areas: 2860 hectares have benefited from restoration/management measures.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Lack of administrative staff and forest workers.</p> <p>Lack of financial resources to maintain or renew the infrastructures.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Due to the scale and results of the restorations carried out during the LIFE project, it was awarded "Best of the Best LIFE Project" in 2013.</p> <p>Restoration works had very positive effects on flora and fauna.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>Signs indicate that the area is awarded the European Diploma but it is difficult to assess the impact of the European Diploma and what the level of public perception is.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the condition and the recommendations and look forward to the outcomes and findings of the postponed on-the-spot appraisal visit</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>2. Camargue National Reserve, France</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)5</p>	<p>1) study the possibility of reviving co-operation with other deltaic sites that have been awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania); The Reserve has not advance in the cooperation and/or interchanges with other wetlands protected of its characteristics, like the Danube Delta or Doñana, due to lack of staff. Surprisingly the Natural-Regional Park have made progress in this sense, notably without the participation of the Natural Reserve.</p> <p>2) grant sufficient additional resources, both financial and human, in particular with a view to the future setting up of a perimeter of protection as laid down in the law of 10 July 1976 on nature conservation, so as to guarantee management, surveillance and scientific monitoring of the reserve; Le Conservatoire du Littoral has bought extensive peripheral terrains of the Reserve, and assigned its management to the SNPN. This is a remarkable advance in the recommendation proposed. Unfortunately the necessary financial resources both for the Reserve and the adjoining territories are still insufficient or lacking. The budget of the Reserve has been frozen for the last 10 years.</p> <p>3) ensure the strict application of limits to the discharge of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon, and pursue co-operation with rice growers in accordance with sustainable development principles, as well as to ensure the implementation of the five-year action programme as agreed by the different stakeholders; The monitoring of pollutants in the waters of the lakes, ponds and channels of the reserve has shown remarkable levels of pollution of industrial and agricultural origin, including forbidden contaminants. This seems to have affected the <i>Zostera noltii</i> meadows.</p> <p>4) initiate studies for the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as <i>Jussiaea repens</i> (<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>) or <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>, and provide</p>	

		<p>the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control;</p> <p>Both species have been controlled this last year in the reserve. Additionally, a campaign against a newly found invasive species, <i>Araujia sericifera</i>, has taken place thanks to specific financial aid by DREAL.</p> <p>5) give a higher profile to the European Diploma and the work of the Council of Europe, particularly in information provided at public reception points and in leaflets on the Camargue National Reserve;</p> <p>There have been advances in the visibility of the logo of the Council of Europe and of the Diploma both in panels, brochures and leaflets</p> <p>6) control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve;</p> <p>After the measures adopted, the frequentation of numerous visitors to the area and its vicinity cannot be considered currently a problem for the conservation of the area</p> <p>7) prepare a plan for adaptation to climate change, including the rise in sea level.</p> <p>Adaptive management in response to climate change was adopted in the current Management Plan, and would be reinforced in the future one. Social perception of the problem and concern by local population is increasing, which is facilitating synergies with local agents and stakeholders to promote the measures to be eventually adopted to counteract, as much as possible, the increasing effects on the delta and the mouth of the Rhone river due to the reduction in solids provided by influx of fresh water from the river and the effects of storms and the steady rise in sea level in the sand dunes, bars and coastline system.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) guarantee the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2016.</p> <p>The MP 2011-2016 has been completed, along with the following one -2016-2020- which is going to be evaluated in 2021.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>It is noteworthy that both the management, surveillance and monitoring of the area has been maintained in times of budgetary constrains and pandemia</p>

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Sufficient	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try to establish a line of cooperation with other European deltaic systems, particularly with Ebro Delta Natural Park in Catalunya (Spain) and Po delta in Italy.• Full evaluation of the results and provisions of the ending MP, and adoption of the adaptive management approach as the core of action of the new one• Increase public funds and staff to the necessary level	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>3. Peak District National Park, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>29.06.1966 / 28.03.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes, particularly through advice and brokerage of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations; 2) halt and reverse the past degradation of heather moorland and blanket bog through moorland management plans, agri-environment schemes and with help from the Moors for the Future Partnership; 3) step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species, particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland; 4) negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites; 5) implement with partners programmes to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, 2011-2020; 6) maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on land owned by the National Park Authority; in addition, implement measures on authority-owned land to maximise its contribution to nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives; 7) carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach; 8) implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner 	

		<p>organisations, local communities and English Heritage to achieve targets;</p> <p>9) continue to provide encouragement to small-scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit;</p> <p>10) only authorise extensions of existing mineral quarries to meet essential national needs, for example, if the minerals are not available elsewhere or are needed to provide traditional building materials in the park; seek restoration of mineral quarries to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the national park;</p> <p>11) continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and the environment and supports the local economy; ensure that the National Park Authority meets the requirements of an application for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) complete the review of the national park management plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies it contains.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>4. Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site, Austria</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)7</p>	<p>1) review and, where necessary, improve the regulations of the protected area in order to strengthen the protection status; and devote a part of the management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park to the Krimml Waterfalls; Hohe Tauern National Park MP already includes the waterfalls in the management of its runnings of water and aquatic elements. So improvements are being Implemented on an ongoing basis</p> <p>2) continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural monument for future generations; Implemented on an ongoing basis</p> <p>3) avoid impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, especially in the areas around “Wasserfallboden” and “Schönangerl”; Actions in the vicinity of the waterfalls are being analyzed and evaluated taking into account its potential impact on the waterfalls.</p> <p>4) maintain great vigilance regarding the development close to the falls, e.g. installations or extension of shops, as well as medical care and new touristic activities (e.g. ice-climbing); Actions in the vicinity of the waterfalls are being analyzed and evaluated taking into account its potential impact on the waterfalls.</p> <p>5) avoid as far as possible increasing light pollution; No actions reported</p> <p>6) continue to pay close attention to the problem of path erosion; and ensure that visitors only use the existing paths; Maintenance of the paths and balustrades are being properly adopted</p>	

		<p>7) pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on regional birdlife, fungi (including lichens) and bryophytes, as a contribution to protect the area’s typical biodiversity; No research activities reported</p> <p>8) strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially land owners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations. Good terms with local stakeholders seem to be the norm</p>
	Conditions	
	Achievements	We have the feeling that no serious threats menace the area, and that actions adopted by the managerial body are being sensible and appropriate
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information	
Conclusions and action suggested	Include information in future reports of the visibility of the Diploma award in social media, press and publicity in general	

Name of the awarded area	5. Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve, Germany	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 25.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)5	<p>1) pursue a reduction, or at least a limitation to no more than the current amount, of the concession of ground-water extraction and co-ordinate the ground-water extraction for irrigation on farmland technically and quantitatively with the activities and infrastructures of Wasserwerke Hamburg; carry out additional studies and monitoring in order to collect more information about the influences of all kinds of water extraction on species and ecosystems; and simulation modelling should be undertaken for all factors possibly influencing the groundwater level, the soil, the streams, the different types of vegetation including forests, the biotopes of red-list-species, and the natural dynamic of the whole ecosystem;</p> <p>It is not clear whether “unlimited concession” means unlimited in terms of amount of water extracted or time. This aspect should be clarified. If it is the first case, then the compensatory activities developed through land use conversion and planting of trees, seem remarkable but not enough, and should be adopted in combination with measurements of groundwater level and its evolution on time to guarantee provision of the ecological requirements of the area, particularly of the bogs.</p> <p>2) pursue political recognition of the VNP’s Lüneburger Heide Nature Reserve (NLH) and increase the public funding to the same level as that provided to Federal Nature Parks;</p> <p>No advances seem to have been obtained in the successful stabilization of funding provision from the regional administration and in the necessary political recognition of the protected area and of VNP as its managers, by regional and national authorities, despite the achievements accomplished along these years in the effective protection of the area.</p> <p>3) reconsider the ongoing practice of agricultural funding and pursue recognition of all types of heathland cultivation and all heathland restoration activities as a kind of ‘green land cultivation’ with the same amount of</p>	

		<p>funding, especially during the EU-funding period 2013-2020; NC</p> <p>4) pursue the continuation of funding for the rearing of the “Heidschnucke” (Heathland sheep) by Lower Saxony and the Federal Republic and recognise the “Dülmener Pferde” (Heathland horses) as worthy of subsidy by the rear-premium of Lower Saxony; NC</p> <p>5) develop a concept for connecting the large heathlands areas east and west of Wilsede by an ecological corridor; Advances seem to have been achieved in the connectivity of different areas of heathland through forest management techniques and the use of sheep and grazing to control forest growing</p> <p>6) pursue restoration of streams, their associated wetland biotopes and their buffer strips; No advances during 2020</p> <p>7) reduce areas with cultivation of energy-crops to a level that does not affect the nature reserve’s flora, fauna, groundwater and the scenic attractions; No advances during 2020</p> <p>8) continue ecological forest management and convert mono-croppings of spruce into mixed forests including oak (Quercus spp.); During the last years VNP thinned two areas of dense pine tree plantations, an action which will be monitored during 2021 an 2022.</p> <p>9) ensure that existing scientific data are included and respected in regional planning processes and also ensure that negative impacts on the nature reserve from outside the area’s boundary are prevented; before licensing a wind farm, or any other project in the neighbourhood of the reserve, carry out sufficient and detailed studies taking into account the formulated VNP recommendations; Advances have been made in the survey of the beetle, moths, bats, mosses and rare/endangered plant species present in the protected area.</p> <p>10) complete the database of Lower Saxony concerning FFH-Species so that all species existing in the reserve are listed</p>
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		<p>and considered in regional, national and federal planning procedures; No advances</p> <p>11) create suitable ecological corridors between the nature reserve and the black grouse biotopes outside the reserve without endangering infrastructures such as like wind turbines; No advances</p> <p>12) realize the concept of buffer zone areas with a high protection status in the neighboring areas of the nature reserve; The close declaration of “Camp Reinsehlen” as FFH-Habitat, in the vicinity of the protected area seems a promising advance on that.</p> <p>13) Establish a corps of rangers (Naturwacht). No advances</p>
	Conditions	
	Achievements	<p>There has been this year steady advances in habitat management, connectivity and ecograzing to protect the heathland and small wetlands and bogs, which are welcomed</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The role of VNP as the management authority of the area seems quite weak in front of the administration. Perhaps the area should be integrated in the state or federal network of protected areas with equivalent status with the rest of them.</p> <p>The need of conservation-oriented agro-environmental measures in such an extensive area, including habitat restoration by means of grazing techniques, poses the need of strong and steady political and social support as well as robust financing. These seem to be far away of being achieved.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The use of guard dogs, the experience offered by shepherds living in areas of Europe with stable wolf populations and used to co-inhabit with them and a system of fast and effective compensatory payments for the animals lost in attacks, seem to be the best possible strategy. It does not seem realistic to propose the change in the conservation status of the European wolf in times of spontaneous rewilding in Europe of a carnivore which is a key species in the ecosystem2) VNP is asking for a meeting with experts of the Council of Europe to discuss various ecological problems in Lüneburger Heide nature reserve in 2021. This seems reasonable as a help to consolidate a more firm position of VNP as the manager of the area, but maybe not possible during this year of pandemic.

Name of the awarded area	6. Muddus National Park, Sweden	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new “Laponiatjuottjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan; The report considers that Laponiatjuottjudus is an organization well suited to implement the management plan and with enough and competent staff, which currently consist in nine full-time employees. Financing, although not limiting is unstable, varying from year to year and posing difficulties in the long term management of the site. There is already an English version of the MP since 2014, available on the web. 2) continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities; A monitoring scheme of predators status in the NP seem to have been set up and working, under the expertise of CAB, but unfortunately no results on the species, numbers and evolution of the predator population are included in the report. 3) establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors; Laponiatjuottjudus has developed a GIS, which is being implemented on an ongoing basis. Data on public use of the park is indirectly available to the interested through the SEPA. 4) continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change; Seems implemented on an ongoing basis 5) assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact); 	

		<p>The new entrance includes facilities for the visitors, was financed by SEPA and would eventually monitor more accurately entrances to the park and fluxes of visitors</p> <p>6) consider linking the Muddus National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site; No advances regarding this point</p> <p>7) reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters. No advances regarding this point</p>
	Conditions	No conditions were in need of reporting
	Achievements	In 2021 it will be hopefully completed the eradication of the invasive species lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>) that is established in the northwest side of the National Park, which is being controlled and extirpated in the park on an ongoing basis.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Information signs in the entrance were prepared in 2020 and will be installed in 2021. The plan is that the entrance also will contain the European Diploma logo with additional information about this acknowledgement. The visitor cabins in the National park are equipped with books containing information about the area, mentioning the European Diploma for Protected Areas. All the cabins include advertisements on the European Diploma for Protected Area. Award.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The area can be considered well managed in general terms, with minor shortcomings.	

Name of the awarded area	7. Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks, Sweden	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)3</p>	<p>1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the “Laponiatjuottjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;</p> <p>The report considers that Laponiatjuottjudus is an organization well suited to implement the management plan and with enough and competent staff, which currently consist in nine full-time employees. Financing, although not limiting is unstable, varying from year to year and posing difficulties in the long term management of the site. There is already an English version of the MP since 2014, available on the web.</p> <p>2) continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;</p> <p>A monitoring scheme of predators status in the NP seem to have been set up and working, under the expertise of CAB, but unfortunately no results on the species, numbers and evolution of the predator population are included in the report.</p> <p>3) establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Lapponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;</p> <p>Laponiatjuottjudus has developed a GIS, which is being implemented on an ongoing basis. Data on public use of the park is indirectly available to the interested through the SEPA.</p> <p>4) closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing;</p> <p>Seems implemented on an ongoing basis, both by Laponiatjuottjudus, but most importantly by direct</p>	

		<p>surveillance and enforcement by the police and CAB, which are supposedly law enforcement officers</p> <p>5) set up a system for estimating the number of visitors, their profile and distribution over the year and initiate a research programme on the long-term impact of the different human activities (e.g. reindeer herding, fishing and tourism) on the landscape, and design a programme to monitor the effects of the climatic change; Visitors are counted with automatic devices like counters, on an ongoing basis. Impact of tourism activities seem to be properly and co-ordinately monitored, in synergy with the communities linked and dependent on raindeers</p> <p>6) build and equip as soon as possible the visitor information centre in Stora Sjöfallet for the Laponia World Heritage site and provide specific information on the different National Parks; establish a network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks and communicate about the different categories of international designations; The naturum Laponia Visitor Centre in Stora Sjöfallet/Stuor Muorkke National Park seem to fulfill basic requirements for visitors, as a focal point to informing and/controlling their activities. There are at least three satellite small visitor centres/gate to the park in scattered locations which contain information about the WH site.</p> <p>7) consider linking the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with the Muddus National Park and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site; No advances regarding this point</p> <p>8) reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters. No advances regarding this point</p>
	Conditions	No conditions were in need of reporting
		Work to restore and maintain different boardwalk trails in Padjelanta/Badjelánnda have continued in 2020. Along the trails 9 wooden bridges have been replaced with new ones in metal, to improve safety. There have also been maintenance

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>work on two suspension bridges. We have also conducted smaller maintenance work on different visitor cabins in the area. This is an ongoing work that will require attention every year.</p> <p>(SEPA) is responsible for mountain safety issues. To assist in the work of mountain safety SEPA has a council consisting of representatives from government agencies and organisations with a vast knowledge and experience of the mountains and mountain safety. Laponiatjuottjudus is a member of one of the local mountain safety committees and therefore takes part of the work with preventive measures in mountain safety.</p> <p>In 2015 the four research cabins built in the beginning of the 20's century, by Professor Axel Hamberg, in Sarek National Park was proclaimed as national historic buildings. These cabins are historically important from both a scientific and cultural point of view as well as a contribution to climate research. Laponiatjuottjudus has continued the restoration and maintenance of the cabins, including painting indoors and outdoors of the cabins, re-establishment of the furniture, and reparations of the meteorological research equipment.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information included in the report. Maybe it will be the same as the one provided in Muddus NP file</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The area can be considered well managed in general terms, with minor shortcomings. More information-and maybe monitoring- of the population of predators and their social and economic impact, particularly on the reindeer local communities who depend on them, might be necessary, and specifically a nd eventually a special plan addressed specifically on that.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	8. Swiss National Park, Switzerland		Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) take all necessary measures to fulfil the UNESCO condition that the national park, which is the core zone of the “Biosfera Val Müstair/Parc Naziunal” biosphere reserve, be entirely surrounded by a buffer zone; Some advances in this field, although apparently not sufficient enough, has taken place so far. 2) ensure that staff numbers are sufficient to comply with existing requirements and grant sufficient additional resources with a view to the celebration in 2014 of the 100 year jubilee; Already fulfilled 3) continue to raise among local inhabitants, municipalities and visitors, the awareness of the return of large carnivores, working in close co-operation with the Hunting and Fishing Department of the county of Graubünden; The strategy adopted seems to be extremely right in the holistic approach adopted, focusing not only in economic impact of wolves on local economies, but on the ecosystem as a hole 4) initiate studies with the different ministries and authorities concerned on the possibilities of minimising the impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road; Accepting that traffic noise is still a problem, and that investigating noise (or now silence) near the road investigating the impact of traffic noise on (forest-breeding) songbirds. Is a study worth to be taken, direct measures, apart from limiting speed measures in the crosses, might be adopted in the near future, like monitoring of car collisions or construction of passages for fauna, to increase the knowledge of the potential impact of the road to adopt the necessary adaptive measures to minimize them 5) continue the close co-operation with the neighbouring Stelvio National Park; Cooperation continues on an ongoing basis 		

		<p>6) consider the enlargement of the European Diploma area to include the whole of the Biosphere Reserve. Priority is currently on enlarging the area based on Swiss law to receive the status of a "Swiss Park of National Importance" by 2024, and no intention to proceed with the enlargement of the ED area to include the BR is foreseen in the near future.</p>
	Conditions	<p>There are no conditions to be assessed and/or appraised</p>
	Achievements	<p>The strategy adopted in relation with the wolf seems promising and should be encouraged</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>No sufficient advances in the enlargement of the RB to surround completely with a buffer the core NP. More information on the visibility of the Diploma, logos, etc should be included in future reports</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information provided</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>Large carnivores and particularly wolves are back in Europe, rewilding areas where they disappeared long time ago. This is not only happening in Switzerland, but also in most of the traditional "wolf countries" like Spain, where wolf packs are being detected in areas where they were gone for centuries. This is a tendency which has come to stay, so it is extremely important to know that, accept it and be reactive, particularly with local populations and stakeholders, informing, cooperating and being as sympathetic as possible, setting up the necessary structures, both participative and financial to handle properly the consequences and to share all the views, not of immediate perception, of the presence of large carnivores in the European ecosystem.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>9. Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park, Italy</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>27.10.1967 / 26.11.2022</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. begin implementation of the PATOM action plan for the protection of the bear population as soon as possible, facilitated by the administration of the PNALM; The monitoring of the current population is being performed on an ongoing basis, and basic protection measures are being adopted. This has led, apparently, to an expansion of the species to new territories, which is positive. But as expected, problematic interactions and encounters with residents and tourists have not disappeared. 2. continue discussions on the inclusion within the diploma-holding area of the sectors adjacent to the PNALM deemed to be of major biological interest for large carnivores, especially the brown bears and wolves; No advances in this recommendation 3. complete the preparation of the economic and social development plan by the end of 2012, as scheduled by the PNALM administration, with a view to its early implementation; This recommendation needs to be reformulated, as it seems that there is already a socioeconomic Plan for the area, which is going to be revised and updated. 4. substantially increase the human and financial resources earmarked for scientific activities in the PNALM and tailor them to the complex problems which the Park will be facing over the next few years; ensure that its general capacities are such that it can carry out its conservation and monitoring assignments appropriately; The report do not inform whether the research budget is stable, increasing or in deep decrease. Although a remarkable amount of budget has been allocated for the monitoring and management of the endemic brown bear, it does not seem enough, as it seems that the budget have to be used not only 	

		<p>for the bear but for the rest of the surveillance and monitoring activities affecting other species.</p> <p>5. consider the possibility of instructing all technical personnel to record any violations of the PNALM regulations; “Nothing to declare” . In any case, I do fully understand this recomm: it suggest that the technical staff should be enforced as law enforcement officials?</p> <p>6. launch discussions on the need for controlled management of red deer, linking this to improving the state of conservation of the chamois population; No advances in this recommendation</p> <p>7. make a special effort to support rural tourism activities around the PNALM periphery; Many social and cultural activities are reported in the park or its area of socioeconomic impact, in a scenario of difficulties due to the pandemic</p> <p>8. launch discussions with local mayors on the issue of stock and wildlife feeding. No advances in this recommendation</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Conditions</p>	<p>1. that the PNALM National Park management plan be finally adopted within a maximum period of one year, i.e. before the meeting of the Group of Specialists in 2013; Considering the extraordinary delay in the mandate –“before the meeting of the GS in 2013” (!)- , it seems that finally there is certain movement. The MP has not been adopted, but the administrative road seems open for advances.</p> <p>2. that strenuous efforts be taken so that:</p> <p>a. in pursuance of Italy’s Framework Law on Protected Areas, peripheral zones are created on the territories of the Abruzzi and Molise regions by the end of 2013, and that regulations on hunting, which take account of the need to minimise disturbance to bears during the autumn, are introduced in these zones and</p>

		<p>applied with effect from, at the latest, the 2013-2014 hunting season; Advances have been produced in the creation of a peripheral zone for the region Lazio, which will permit an homogeneous management of the peripheral zone and the chase in it, along with the peripheral zones already adopted by the regions Molise and Abruzzo</p> <p>b. the regulations prohibiting livestock farming within zone A of the National Park are applied absolutely and without delay, and that local elected representatives are made aware of this matter; No advances in this condition have been adopted so far</p> <p>c. consultation begins without delay with the municipal authorities of the National Park municipalities on physical closure of those access routes to the diploma-holding area which are most critical from the viewpoint of the conservation of large animals; this consultation should lead to closure arrangements and appropriate regulations, taking account of the rights of local third parties, being adopted by the end of 2013; No advances in this condition have been adopted so far</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>The development of the necessary and compulsory basic tools for a proper management are being developed at a very slow, so to say, pace, including the MP and the peripheral buffer zone</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Monitoring and surveillance of big carnivores –bears and wolves- have been kept and performed, even in times of pandemics. The effect of the reduction of the use of the park during the lockdown by visitors on the behaviour of big carnivores and the rest of the fauna of the park, should have been reported, if not.</p> <p>We welcome the set up of regulations concerning the use of the paths and trails, zone by zone, and the adoption of the necessary awareness measures</p>	
	<p>No information available on that</p>	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	There is a strong need that without more delay the park counts with a robust, modern and well-defined management plan, a fully completed buffer zone and sufficient budget

Name of the awarded area	10. Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve, Germany	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	29.11.1968 / 28.11.2029
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)1</p>	<p>1. in co-operation with the Swiss authorities, assess the possibilities to harmonise the regulations for the protection of nature on both shores and to extend the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to the State border in order to enlarge the water zone, which is especially important during low water periods in winter; No advances in this recommendation so far</p> <p>2. pursue the efforts to improve the connections between protected sites in the hinterland and the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve in connection with the extension of the trunk road B33, including the enlargement and/or adaptation of the nature reserve's boundaries; compensation measures should be continued, and the construction has to be carried out with the least impact for the protected area; Although enlargements of the protected area seem to be envisioned, linked to environmental compensatory measures derived from the development of a new road, no connectivity analysis to increase interchanges and biological connections between protected sites in the hinterland and the Nature Reserve has been presented in the report.</p> <p>3. end fishery in the most sensitive areas, mainly Schläuche and southern Hegne Bay, under the provisions of the bilateral treaty between Germany and Switzerland, with the aim to improve the quality of this area as a breeding ground, wintering place and moulting area; No advances concerning this recomm., as it could interfere with the declaration of a new protected area in the vicinity of the reserve.</p> <p>4. abandon the still existing cycle path between the B33 road and the protected area boundaries, which is only used by a limited number of cyclists, and include the path into the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to enable more efficient control of the visitors by bike; There seem to be a conflict with the municipality of Reichenau, which pretends to continue the former use of the cycling path.</p>	

		<p>5. reduce or stop disturbances to the protected area caused by leisure activities and sports through awareness raising and dissemination of information to boat rental companies, and to hot-air balloon and Zeppelin tour operators; <i>Some seemingly successful advances on awareness raising actions concerning leisure activities –particularly paddling, and overflights on the reserve in critical periods of time, have taken place</i></p> <p>6. strictly consider the boundaries of the protected area, their potential for extension and the need for sufficient buffer zones to meet the objectives of the protected areas when examining the further extension of building areas in the communities concerned. <i>There is ongoing urban development in the vicinity of the area and its buffer zone</i></p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. prepare a study on the legal possibilities of enlarging the strict core zones of the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve and report to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention by 2024; <i>There is a contradiction between the information provided by the report and the condition to be fulfilled: core zone cannot be enlarged if they factually do not exist. Otherwise, there seem to be no real advances in this condition so far. Some minor extensions of the protected area are being planned, but apparently not affecting the core zone</i></p> <p>2. reject any proposals or plans aiming to eliminate naturally formed barriers such as the <i>Schneggλισand</i> and silting areas and to enable undisturbed natural processes without human intervention in a larger area, except in cases of public interest, for example flood protection; <i>Although the report informs that there was no necessity of intervention, the management authority seems not to be entitled to intervene if there were eventually plans to modify the natural conditions and flow of water or sediments in the area. The legal framework seems not to allow that, a fact which weakens the managerial authority in case active management is needed and/or the area is threatened by developments</i></p> <p>3. draft and adopt a management plan meeting the provisions and objectives of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and addressing the recommendations attached to the renewal of the diploma by 2022; <i>The preliminary works and deals initiating the preparation of the MP seem to have been launched. Nevertheless, two years for preparing a MP clearly seems too much time, and might be</i></p>

		reduced
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>The area is dealing, like many other wetland protected areas, with many problems arising from the development and pressure of a densely inhabited surrounding area</p> <p>No information is provided on the budgetary /human resources of the protected area</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	It is suggested an increased effort in the information provided in future reports, necessary for a precise appraisal of the area and its evolution in the future.	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>11. Boschplaat Nature Reserve, Netherlands</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>02.07.1970 / 30.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)9</p>	<p>1) sufficient financial resources need to be available on an ongoing basis in order to safeguard the interests of the Boschplaat’s natural environment, especially monitoring, staff, public relations and communication; <i>Insufficient information. It seems that no advances have been achieved in this recommendation.</i></p> <p>2) measures should be taken to restore the original dynamics in the eastern part of the reserve. The present function of the “Stuifdijk” (artificial sand dike) should be taken into consideration. New insights based on recent scientific research on restoring natural dynamics should be included in the management plan, including the consequences of the current rise in sea levels; <i>Insufficient information. It seems that no advances have been achieved in this recommendation this last two years, although advances are planned for the forthcoming years.</i></p> <p>3) communication with all those involved in the measures to be taken (which are still being contested locally) requires maximum attention and the deployment of the necessary resources; <i>Insufficient information. Some advances have been achieved in this recommendation in difficult times of pandemia, basically through information and recommendations to visitors to guarantee the protection of the bird colonies against impacting activities.</i></p> <p>4) annual shipping incidents in the North Sea to the north of the Boschplaat are a real concern for both people and the natural environment. Better guarantees of safety with regard to the transport of hazardous substances and oil should be instituted; <i>It seems that no advances have been achieved in this recommendation</i></p> <p>5) the number of motorised vehicles on the beach should be reduced. <i>It seems that no advances have been achieved in this recommendation</i></p>	

	Conditions	No conditions to evaluate
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management body has set up a program with volunteer birdwatchers, which is a remarkable achievement and advance in the participation of local communities in the management and protection of the area
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information provided in the report is insufficient to evaluate fairly the management of the area Advances in the protection and proper management of the area seem to advance slowly and timidly
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	Future annual reports need to be modified, trying to answer as precisely and exactly as possible to the requirements of the recommendations and the information required in the evaluation procedure	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>12. Siebengebirge Nature Reserve, Germany</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>22.09.1971 / 21.09.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)10</p>	<p>1) in case of changes in the management of the area, the leading role of the VVS (Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge), whose work to date has been fully satisfactory in the eyes of the Council of Europe, should be maintained; Although there have been changes in the management board of the Natural park which includes (?) the reserve, the leading role of VVS seems to be guaranteed</p> <p>2) develop a new financial plan together with local communities and the Rhein-Sieg-District; Since 2018 VVS is receiving secure funding from local administrations and councils, although apparently covering only staff expenses.</p> <p>3) continue the provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government; The NRW Government and attached administrative institutions are providing robust and secure funding during the last years, on an ongoing basis, and eventually for the future.</p> <p>4) maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads; There is no projected developments of roads in the area the forthcoming years</p> <p>5) minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area and consider the setting up of a system of public transport for visitors; There have been remarkable advances in this sense, with the barrelling of heavy traffic from the main roads, new parking in the vicinity of the area and plans to develop a shuttle line to prevent the use of as much cars as possible to reach the area</p> <p>6) continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area so as to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity of the Siebengebirge as a protected area;</p>	

		<p>No additional area added to the “wildernis” declared so far this last year.</p> <p>7) encourage the continuation and extension of scientific research. Research is being conducted on an ongoing basis.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) to draw up a management plan within three years in order to guarantee the preservation of the reserve and its cohesion within the larger area of the nature park. This condition seems to need updating or removal, as a full operational MP is set in place since 2015</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The robust financing of the area, and the strong support of local authorities and administrations guarantee the conservation of Siebengebirge for the future. The leading role of VVS in the management of the area is remarkable, as well as the entanglement of the reserve and VVS in the management of the wider natural park The annual report is extremely informative and includes most if not all the necessary data for a proper evaluation A timid attempt to control invasive weeds is being started The monitoring of the fauna status seems to be rather appropriate The lack of litter bins inside the reserve, and the admonition to visitors to take with them the garbage produced is a superb measure of management</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The number of rangers entitled as law enforcement officials is clearly insufficient and should be increased in the near future, taking into account the increase number of visitors and current circumstances.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The Covid-19 pandemic has supposed a commotion for the area, both economically but also in managerial terms, as in most of the protected areas worldwide but specially in wealthy countries. Siebengebirge had suffered from a tremendous increase in the public demand for recreation and the use of the area, with a sense of urgency which has not help to manage the visitors adequately and with mutual understanding of the needs, weaknesses and compromises to be adopted. In Siebengebirge, most of the scheduled activities for the 150 anniversary had to be cancelled or postponed.</p> <p>Fortunately and hopefully this will be a temporal period of our life, and things will slowly and steadily calm down. On the other hand, the pandemic can be treated as a possibility both in ecological and socio-economical terms for protected areas, as many changes could have happened and they can monitored and research for the future</p>	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The award is being publicized on a website, exhibitions, magazines and flyers, and has received a dedicated chapter in our 150 year jubilee publication
Conclusions and action suggested	The reserve seems to be very well monitored and managed in general terms. Apart from conserving the ecosystem and its biodiversity the area is supplying a remarkable ecosystem service to local stakeholders, residents and visitors, and both an educational and scientific resource. The increasing number of visitors is a matter of concern for the future, and its regulation through external divert activities a possibility which should be explored

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>13. Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park, Germany/Luxembourg</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>26.10.73 / 25/10/2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maintain and step-up consultation and collaboration between the parties concerned by the Our and Sûre basins, focusing on relations between the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the Rhineland-Palatinate Land; 2. pursue public awareness-raising and information activities; 3. encourage the swift creation of the Müllerthal-Kleine Luxemburger Schweiz Nature Park and incorporate it as far as possible in the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park; 4. find a solution allowing aquatic fauna to pass or circumnavigate the obstacle of the Vianden hydroelectric dam; 5. maintain vigilance with regard to leisure and sporting pursuits (camping, rock-climbing, canoeing, etc.). 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. at the initiative of the States concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible; 2. engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park; 3. define specifications and a road map for the drawing-up of a global management plan for the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park incorporating those of the nature parks on its territory; prepare the management plan before the next renewal of the European Diploma falls due and ensure the funding required for its implementation; 	
		<p>- Good transboardery cooperation and apply more interesting conservation activities, for example arrange information desk with rules in Protected</p>	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Areas and meetings with explain rules and regime of Protected Areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2020, several short films were produced about the natural and cultural heritage of the region and About sustainable development. These films are mainly used in internet on social media platforms to inform and raise awareness among the population and visitors. - In November 2020, the Mëllerdall Nature & Geopark submitted a candidacy for the UNESCO Global Geoparks program. UNESCO Global Geoparks are regions that have an internationally recognized geological heritage and are developed sustainably on this basis. - For protection natural resources administration did a hard-eco-education work. In 2020, an information meeting was held at the Ministry of Environment, where the topic was a cross-border regulation of canoeing on the Sûre River with increased consideration of nature conservation aspects. For the climbing area in Berdorf, the Luxembourg Climbing Association had new information boards with rules of etiquette developed in 2020
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The two exchange meetings planned for 2020 between the South Eifel and Our Nature Parks and the Mëllerdall Nature & Geopark and their partners from the fields of sustainable rural development (LEADER) and tourism (regional tourist associations) had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. - About solution allowing aquatic fauna to pass or circumnavigate the obstacle of the Vianden hydroelectric dam, from administration different possibilities have been discussed both within the framework of the INTERREG project "Nat'Our" (deconstruction of the weirs above the dam) and by the river committee within the framework of the project River Contract Our. Currently, there is no feasible technical solution to establish passability. Moreover, from an ecological point of view, a mixing of the fish stocks of the reservoir with those of the flowing waters of the Our is not reasonable.

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	All activities that are in management are started in 2020 year but Covid has some negative influence and they are executed very slowly and partly.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Status of European Diploma play a important role and increase a level of attractive from visitors and scientist sites. Due to this Status ED is increased responsibility of administration because it is very hard work management of one of the important Protected Areas of Europe. increased responsibility.
Conclusions and action suggested	Germano-Luxembourg Nature Parks administration have a good transboardery cooperation, stay on the right way and achieve a Protected Areas mailn goals and implement recommendations of European Diplomas.

Name of the awarded area	14. Vanoise National Park, France	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.03.1976 / 18.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) pay close attention to natural and landscape issues when development projects are carried out on the periphery of the park and avoid any direct or indirect impact on the core area; 2) co-ordinate the park's "core" and "optimal buffer zone" objectives with the "green and blue infrastructure objectives"; 3) ensure that nature and landscape protection interests are fully taken into account when making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydropower concessions; 4) actively pursue diagnostic and management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses mesh harmoniously with, and are in synergy with, protection of its natural assets; 5) continue to strike a balance between the reception and service functions of refuges and refuge gates on the one hand, and their information and awareness-raising functions on the other hand, by pursuing the development of facilities for categories of visitors who require special attention, such as people with disabilities; 6) supervise and strictly regulate air sports so as to reduce their adverse impact on fauna. 7) consider submitting a joint annual report with Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) define a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of legislation about fishing and establish a control fishing process in PA; - The Park provides a tool for photographic observatory of landscapes in order to raise awareness and offer elements for reflection, online (http://paysages.vanoise- 	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>parcnational.fr/.- it is good tools for identification a changes in local biodiversity and ecosystems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to actively involving of administration in meeting of environmentalist and coordination the optimal membership area with those of the "green and blue grid"- around of PA will be establish Eco-coridor; - More scientific researches and projects are financed due to establish Vanoise National Park that is very attractive for local population and visitors.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>In report short information. It isn't identification shortcomings. Short information about eco-education activities.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>Here are information about different types: pastures new shelters and touristic's infrastructure in National Park.</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Status of European Diploma make a more attractive for visitors and scientist because it talks about reach biodiversity and beautiful landscapes; -Logo European Diploma and all regulations help to administration for apply more environment activities in region and it gives a chance to popularization in whole World. 	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Finally Administration work is very well and they continue to recommendation. Covid has influence but in next year all will be continue and apply new ideas and projects. In addition it will be better think about find sister parks for future collaboration and think about parallel projects and change experience.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	15. Kuşçenneti National Park, Turkey	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	15.03.1976 / 14.03.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement; 2. ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer; 3. set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein; 2. submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe; 3. regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Siğirci Delta and Koçocay Delta; 4. continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it. 	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 2 has a success because Park has a regularly monitoring. In the last 10 years, there have not been any adverse practices resulting from General Directorate of State Water Affairs practices that may affect the bird population. Water fluctuations are caused by seasonal fluctuations and weather conditions. Daily water level monitoring is done according to annual operating programme prepared by General Directorate of State Water Affairs and natural fluctuation is observed. Water level measurement records including last 10 years is attached (Attachment 4). • Recommendation 3 have a low bases and it is continuing a process for establish a new unit. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Scientists and very actively researches and monitoring of natural resources. • High quality and organization of protection of natural resources including Pelican’s nests, that is most important area and habitats for Pelican’s population of whole World.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Recommendation 1 it isn’t apply. Thus staff of Chefdom wich is responsible for only national park decreased. Currently 2 forestry engineer (NP Manager and consultant), a biologist, a veterinarian, a forest guard, a driver and 5 workers have been assigned to management unit been assigned to management unit of National Park. In the next years it is planned to increase the number of staff working for national park.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes. No major change has been observed in flora and vegetation. Beside inventory works preparation of long term development plan, provincial level biodiversity research was conducted in Balıkesir in 2019. A part of research also involves Kuşçenneti.</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The European Diploma is still a source of motivation and increase the awareness for stakeholders. Not only the institutions that are responsible are protecting the area but also the investment side, resource authorities and local people also are using this title as a tool. They are working closely with the Park administration to support conservation activities and public awareness.</p> <p>On the other hand the Diploma is adding prestige and power for the area. Both related institutions and local administrations are making sensitively their application because of this diploma. This situation is supporting effective management of the area. The diploma is also adding additional interest and attention to the national park.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Administration continue effective management of PA and apply all recommendation with conservation of birds and fish’s population. It is increase of interest important Birdwatchers organization. As a global situation visitor numbers in 2020 decreased with the effects of covid-19 pandemics.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>16. Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve, Germany</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>03.03.1978 / 02.03.2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) achieve, as soon as possible, the formal extension of the European Diploma area to 934 hectares, change the name to “Weltenburger Enge, Hirschberg und Altmuehlleiten” and adapt as soon as possible all signposts, brochures, maps and leaflets to the new area. Prepare and adopt, by 2020, an overall management plan in addition to the existing Natura 2000 management plan; 2) assess the effects of wave disturbances, caused by larger boats, on the river bank and on selected and relevant species, especially fish, freshwater molluscs and dragonflies; 3) consider a harmonisation of information boards and a better planning of their distribution across the area and add the European Diploma logo at least to those boards containing information on natural and cultural highlights within the European Diploma area. This includes the information point at the boat landing in Kelheim. Immediately add information about the role of the European Diploma on information boards, at least those at the main access routes; 4) increase and conduct more efficient control of illegal mountain-biking off the official mountain-bike routes; 5) carefully examine the opening of official viewing points taking into consideration the natural value of the specific site, and close down a number of uncontrolled and unsafe spots; 6) put an emphasis on the natural succession of forests and the development of more natural forest reserves in the total area and avoid clear cuts of any size. Minimise commercial exploitation of forests and stop the use of heavy machinery in forestry management. Thoroughly assess any intervention in the forest around the Befreiungshalle and refrain from any forest management that cannot be considered ecological; 	

		<p>7) recognise the need for professional, on-site supervision of the area, including fieldwork by professional and permanent staff, and envisage an increase in capacity of permanent supervision staff;</p> <p>8) assess the technical possibilities and financial support for restoration of the Klösterl cultural monument.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) conduct an expertise on legal options to stop or at least regulate disembarking of private boats on the right bank of the Danube between the Weltenburg landing place and river kilometre 2416, and to ban overnight camping and campfires in the whole European Diploma area. Report to the Council of Europe by 2020 at the latest;</p> <p>2) extend, wherever ecologically and touristically worthwhile and as soon as possible, the stricter regulations of the decree on the Nature Reserve Hirschberg und Altmuehlleiten to the area of the Nature Reserve Weltenburger Enge to make the rules more comprehensible for visitors and supervision more effective, and to underline the unity of both sites as an ecological entity;</p> <p>3) take more responsibility for the preservation of the archaeological monument Keltenwall (Celtic wall) and stop further damage and erosion through visitor management or appropriate installations to limit hiking and mountain-biking on the monument, in co-operation with the government agency for monument conservation;</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>- The authorities have meanwhile also carried out a specific search concerning specially protected species, such as the Danube freshwater snail; and in respect of the extension request submitted by the shipping companies an FFH compatibility assessment is to be prepared by the applicant with regard to the expected effects of wave disturbances caused by shipping on the FFH area and on relevant species and their habitats in shallow water and river banks affected by the project. In the summer of 2020 on-site meetings of the Kelheim County Chief Executive Office (department for water law), the Government of Lower Bavaria and the fishery advisory services were held with the barge operators and the shipping companies.</p>

		<p>-There are no official mountain bike trails in the area. There are, however, combined footpaths and cycle paths which can also be used by mountain-bikers.</p> <p>With the new Nature Reserve Ordinance, cycling in the area is also to be regulated.</p> <p>Moreover, on the initiative of the town of Kelheim, a very constructive first round table on "off-track mountain biking" took place in the summer of 2020. The talks will be continued.</p> <p>At the end of May 2020, the Bavarian Minister of Forestry Ms Kaniber announced that almost 5000 hectares of forest in Bavaria would be placed under permanent protection. The two Nature Reserves "Weltenburger Enge" and "Hirschberg und Altmühlleiten" are part of these forest areas that are, with immediate effect, no longer to be used for forest farming. (https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/wald/lebensraum-wald/234954/index.php)</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Measures for preserving the important cultural monument are generally welcome. The Klösterl is privately owned. The responsibility for maintenance of the monument lies with the owner. The preservation of the cultural monument cannot be financed from nature conservation funds, for budgetary reasons alone.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>By Council of Minister's decision, it has been decided that the particularly significant parts of the Nature Reserve Weltenburger Enge (Danube with adjacent rocks and steep slopes) are to become Bavaria's first National Natural Monument.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>After conclusion of the protected area procedure, all information boards and the visitor channelling concept will be updated for both the National Natural Monument and the entire protection area and, where necessary, supplemented with information about the role of the European Diploma.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the positive start in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations attached to the 2020 and 2021 renewal of the Diploma;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Administration have a seriously steps for implementation recommendation. - It expresses concern regarding the requests of the shipping companies for changing the navigation rules and removing a gravel bank; -The process of merge 2 Natural Reserve during some period maybe stopped or retard some activities to achive a goals and recommendation of EDPA. - It is recommended to add more information and diagrams for better identification of change and progress; 	

	<p>- It is recommended that the administration continues the implementation of all actions especially the renovation of the water condition and bank.</p>
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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>17. Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria), Greece</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.09.1979 / 12.09.2029</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)9</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proceed as quickly as possible to the signing of the pending presidential decree recognising the new boundaries of the Samaria National Park; adapt accordingly the funding of the management board and the implementation of the management plan; continue the monitoring of species and ecosystems, including in particular the phenomenon of drying pine trees; 2. open a certain number of side trails along the main trail for several purposes: a. for mountaineering, b. for scientific research, c. to make some historical buildings or ruins accessible for rehabilitation, and d. to create new emergency paths for rescuing people or combating fires. The access to these newly reopened trails should be prohibited for visitors and strictly regulated; 3. design and apply measures to reverse the observed invasion of old olive groves by pine trees next to the village of Samaria; 4. preserve the current extent and quality of wilderness, excluding any new roads within the limits of the Samaria National Park, and retain a similar situation as far as possible in the surrounding areas; 5. take appropriate measures to facilitate the accessibility of the national park for disabled people up to 2.5 km from the south entrance of the park. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>In 2019, there were not set any conditions for the renewal of the diploma of the National Park of Crete White Mountains, Samaria (Greece), according to the resolution CM / ResDip (2019) 9, which was approved by the Committee of Ministers on November 21, 2019 at the 1361st meeting of the Representatives of the Ministers.</p>	
		<p>- Law 4664/2020 (National Printing House of Greece issue A.32) was issued and in accordance with article 6, the</p>	

	Achievements	<p>management of the White Mountains National Park (Samaria Gorge) is extended to the Decentralized Administration of Crete through the Chania Forest Service;</p> <p>-Chania Forest Service has submitted the study "Protection and clearing of pine forests in the areas of Anopolis and Agios Ioannis Sfakion" of Chania in the area NATURA2000 of the White Mountains GR 4340014;</p> <p>- The study of the Management Body "Study for the evaluation and evaluation of pine diseases and its extensibility in the White Mountains with management proposals." the year 2019 was included in a project funded by the business plan "Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development" NSRF 2014-2020, for conducting pilot management actions to address the existing problem and to monitor its process. The contract for the scientist who will implement the monitoring program is expected to be finalized in December 2020. The contract for the pilot actions is expected to be signed in 2021;</p> <p>- The Managing Authority is in the process of awarding contracts to external scientific experts for the monitoring of 3 types of marine habitats and seals monachus (Monachus monachus) as well as for the bird fauna of the protected area and the relevant programs are expected to start in 2021.</p> <p>- The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (KEK-MAICH) in collaboration with the Decentralized Administration of Crete - Chania Forest Service and the Management Body of the Samaria-Western Crete National Park for the implementation of 3 projects in the area of NAT which include NAT actions 2000. In addition, the MAICH Mediterranean Plant;</p> <p>-In 2020 start to m aintenance and marking of a path in importans objects that will be very attractkive for visitors;</p> <p>- Administration concentrated whole attention on emplamaentation of conservation projects and monitoring researches for this they started collaboration with Scientific Instituts and involve in process Scientist.</p>
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<p>Other highlights worth to be Mentioned</p>	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Only Covid period has some negative influence on the managing process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Directorate of Forests of Chania has supplied a paste of sulfuric acid paste to be used for educational purposes in forested villages adjacent to EDLO ; - In collaboration with MAIC and the Region of Crete, the Directorate of Forests of Chania, with its staff, distributed a questionnaire to visitors within the Samaria National Park in order to record the views of visitors on the management and operation of the Samaria National Park in the middle of the Covid19 pandemic. - From the elaboration of the questionnaires as well as from the guest books it emerged that the management-operation of the Samaria National Park in the middle of a covid-19 pandemic by the Directorate of Forests of Chania is considered very good. - In 2020, the "Organization of the system of environmental interpretation and visitor management" was completed, which is included in a MB project funded by the Operational Program "Crete", NSRF 2014-2020. Through this action, a group of 7 routes for environmental interpretation was created at the borders of the Samaria National Park (White Mountains), based on low power Bluetooth technology and the smartphone application ("Ovgoro" application), in order to offer visitors a brief and holistic guidance for understanding the natural and cultural environment of the pilot sites of the most emblematic protected area of Crete.
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The logo of the European Diploma has been placed on the signs of the Forest, both at the main entrances and along the entire length of the main path. While, it also appears on the official website of the Management Body of the Samaria National Park (http://www.samaria.gr). - Council of Europe flags have been hoisted at both entrances. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, this year's mountain running race "Samaria Run" was not organized, in collaboration with the Mountaineering Association of Chania, nor the annual festival of the church of Samaria. - The Directorate of Forests of Chania has supplied a paste of sulfuric acid paste to be used for educational purposes in forested villages adjacent to EDLO - In collaboration with MAIC and the Region of Crete, the Directorate of Forests of Chania, with its staff, distributed a questionnaire to visitors within the Samaria National Park in order to record the views of visitors on the

	<p>management and operation of the Samaria National Park in the middle of the Covid19 pandemic. From the elaboration of the questionnaires as well as from the guest books it emerged that the management-operation of the Samaria National Park in the middle of a covid-19 pandemic by the Directorate of Forests of Chania is considered very good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In 2020, the "Organization of the system of environmental interpretation and visitor management" was completed, which is included in a MB project funded by the Operational Program "Crete", NSRF 2014-2020. Through this action, a group of 7 routes for environmental interpretation was created at the borders of the Samaria National Park (White Mountains), based on low power Bluetooth technology and the smartphone application ("Ovgoro" application), in order to offer visitors a brief and holistic guidance for understanding the natural and cultural environment of the pilot sites of the most emblematic protected area of Crete.- Conservation Status Estimates for the IUCN Red List Conservation Status Estimates for the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) were prepared for 9 plant neighborhoods of the White Mountains in 2019 by the CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAIC) under the CARE-MEDIFL project www.care-mediflora.eu/el. IUCN Red List Update Pending.
Conclusions and action suggested	Administration apply of recommendation of ED and report presented hard work for protect this status and development environment activites.

Name of the awarded area	18. Minsmere Nature Reserve, United Kingdom		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2029
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. control, wherever possible, the invasion of bracken with mechanical means, as opposed to the use of herbicides; in cases of restoration of big areas, the use of chemical products should be limited to the minimum possible extent and a careful record of this practice should be kept in order to assess and cope with possible undesirable side effects; specific scientific research on this issue should be carried out; 2. pursue efforts to mitigate the effect of the rise in the sea level; explore the possibility of restoring the lost habitats in other parts of the reserve; envisage compensatory measures; carefully monitor indicative plant and fauna species and duly register and scientifically characterise the changes observed; 3. continue the land purchase policy; in the absence of opportunities to acquire new plots, establish long-term agreements with the land owners of selected areas to improve their contribution to biodiversity conservation and/or restoration; 4. maintain the surveillance of alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing the pirri-pirri bur (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>) and pursue the control of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>). 		
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. with regard to the project for a third reactor at the Sizewell nuclear power plant (project Sizewell C), carry out a proper Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment according to international standards; the results of these assessments should ensure that the construction of the new reactor will not be to the detriment of the Minsmere Nature Reserve; 		

	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Minsmere Coastal and Climate Change Adaptation Plan progressed and apply some actions: develop a strategic plan for managing coastal and climate change, incorporate planned adaptation of habitats and species, as well as visitor infrastructure, Two productive workshops were run, continue a monitoring a water level.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very actively are going some important conservation and monitoring projects. - Further work tree felling on the Heathland Restoration Project was undertaken. 219 tonnes of Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) and silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) were removed from heath for nesting nightjars <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No chemical control of bracken was carried out this year. This was planned, but the use of Asulox, other than through aerial spraying, was only permitted late in the season and it proved too late for effective treatment. No mechanical control was undertaken. Treatment in previous years has brought bracken under control but continued management will be required.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There were no appropriate land purchase opportunities this year. Landowner advice on neighbouring land has continued for priority species: turtle dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>), stone curlew (<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unfortunately systematic nightjar monitoring could not be carried out this year because of Covid..
		<p>Covid stopped more projects and has a negative influence on the some activities.</p>
		<p>Extensive consultations with EDF Energy continued regarding the plans to develop the Sizewell C nuclear reactor to the south of the reserve. We have worked closely with EDF to understand the specific environmental implications of the Sizewell C proposal. We remain disappointed at the significant gaps in the information provided and we expected to receive far greater detail in the planning submission made public in June 2020 than was included. A number of potential impacts on local wildlife especially the impact of noise on the features of European protected sites in the area and the impact on the special qualities of Minsmere beyond wildlife alone, such as peace and tranquillity, and how this might impact on both visitor numbers and the benefits the reserve brings to the community. The risk includes vital income streams to</p>

		<p>underpin our conservation work and ecosystem services such as health and well-being benefits.</p>
		<p>Acknowledgement of the European Diploma award was included in the Reserve Leaflet which is given to all visitors to the site.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Administration of Minsmere Nature Reserve has grasped the importance of status of European Diploma and implementation all activities that it was possible during very difficult Covid period. Most of activities were implemented by administration without any organization helps and function of Natural Reserve wasn't stopped because they want to protect this status of most of the wonderful and important European Protected Areas.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Covid has a negative influence on the management of Protected Areas. More actions stopped and continue only in next year.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>19. Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>26.05.1983 / 25.05.2028</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)19</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. make a comprehensive mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2015-2026) in 2020 and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate; 2. prepare a revised management plan, taking an appropriately long-term view based on adaptation to the effects of climate change, by the end of 2026; 3. ensure the continuance of monitoring of, and research on, the flora and fauna for the conservation of the native species, to derive appropriate performance and conservation indicators, and to assess the effects of climate change; 4. devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national nature reserve and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area; 5. develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly targeting children and youths. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>		
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Due to restrictions of Covid-19, and the associated restrictions on movement and working, much of the planned research and monitoring was not able to be completed this year. We have been able to progress some desk based work through analysis of Herbivore Impact Assessments completed in 2019. This work directly informs our habitat management plan through adaptive management. As it will be Beinn Eighe NNRs 70th anniversary in 2021, we have also been working on</p>	

		<p>a spatial analysis to compare woodland cover in 1951 and 2021 using aerial photography and GIS analysis. We are also working with University of Highlands and Islands and our neighbours, National Trust for Scotland, on reactions of wild deer to various stimuli, with a view to protect vulnerable habitats in areas that cannot be fenced or where deer management it difficult, e.g. montane scrub communities.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First two recommendation implemented partly. • It is recommended that add some graphs or pictures to reports. • For implemented all recommendation PA -s enough staff and financing with collaboration more scientific organization. Good work condition without Covid.
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Information about European Diploma status is using in promo documents and giving some prestige to Protected Areas that increase of interest to this territory and biodiversity and some videos about Protected Areas visited by more local population.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>In Report is writing that Covid stopped more projects and Administration has a new plan for establish new projects and continue started actions.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the positive start in implementing the recommendations attached to the 2018 renewal of the Diploma;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whole picture of the situation in the Protected Area is good, but the next report needs to add some more information. The administration has made good progress and the GoS encourage the pursuance of all management actions; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>20. Purbeck Heritage Coast, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.1984 / 20.06.2029</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. secure appropriate funding incentives for continuing environmentally friendly management of the landscape; 2. promote and improve public transportation and more sustainable methods of transport, particularly near the most visited sites; 3. monitor the number of visitors in order to determine their impact on the environment; a visitor-management strategy should be prepared for the areas with the largest number of visitors in order to avoid any negative impact either on the quality of the recreational experience or on the natural treasures of the Purbeck Heritage Coast; 4. consider further investments to improve the habitat and landscape connectivity within the Purbeck Heritage Coast; 5. promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area and encourage partners to co-ordinate efforts and produce high-quality data for the whole diploma-holding area; 6. initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien species occurring in the Purbeck Heritage Coast, particularly the Canada goose and the sika deer, and, if deemed necessary, prepare a strategic plan for their control. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensure that the terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and Perenco are strictly adhered to; Perenco should continue to work to the highest standards; 2. ensure that the enlargement of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries conform to the “exceptions” principle that they should only be permitted if they do not impair the character of the Purbeck Heritage Coast as a result of any one or a combination of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the scale and duration of the project; – the negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities; 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work;
	Achievements	Despite of restrictions on the Coronavirus Administration is continue some activities that connected by preparation of documents, contract and project for future implementation. Administration continue implementation activities for apply recommendation by financial support partner organization.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions for apply Recommendations 1 and 2 are stopped and planning to continue after finish embargo, during period before 2022 year. - Most of activities are depend on the Strategy Plan of development Tourism in Purbeck Heritage Coast. This Plan is in process of preparation.
		<p>Risk: Public finance continues to represent a risk; all conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area. A national Landscapes Review has been published (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review) and recommends strengthening both funding and legal protections for AONBs and National Parks which would benefit the Heritage Coast area. The Dorset and East Devon AONBs have been recommended to be considered as a potential new National Park. This would significantly increase resources and protection for the Heritage Coast designation. UK Government is likely to respond in spring 2021.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Potential change: Government Ministers have indicated that the process for determining new National Parks will begin in 2021. The Dorset AONB, including the Purbeck Heritage Coast is among 3 areas that have been recommended to Government for designation as National Park.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	In report it is identification a good influence a status of European Diploma on the working process of Purbeck Heritage Coast because more institution and University start to collaboration and help by preparation of new monitoring and scientific plans and help by implementation some activities. It is good tendency.	
Conclusions and action suggested	In report we can see more activities that start to achieve the goal and recommendation but future planning changes and establish of New National Park will change and influence on the management plan, activities and need to change some documents (for example Strategy Plan and other) of Purbeck Heritage Coast. Bases on this information administration of Bern Convetion need to Focus attention in the future management	

	<p>process of National Park, identification with Government a destiny of Heritage Monuments. One of the biggest question is how solve this problem a government: preparing a report for taking European Diploma for new addition parts of National Park or continue apply recommendation only for Purbeck Heritage Coast.</p>
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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>21. Fair Isle National Scenic Area, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)10</p>	<p>1. the needs and aspirations of the local community, as detailed in the FIMP, should be fully taken into account, as should the fragile socio-economic situation;</p> <p>2. all efforts should be made to solve the problem of the disposal of plastic in general and agricultural baling plastic in particular.</p>	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. in recognition of the internationally important seabird colonies and associated marine environment currently experiencing severe pressure, the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments should use the powers invested in them through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to establish the protected marine area which has been called for in successive diploma renewals. A new protected marine area should be in conformity with the Fair Isle Marine Action Plan (FIMP);</p>	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The pandemic obviously limited what the Fair Isle Marine Research Organisation has been able to achieve in 2020. However, a major step forward was made with the appointment in September of a drMPA project officer. There were some very good applicants but one selected stood out, in experience, commitment and local knowledge, and that was Martha Thomson. Martha is currently based in Switzerland but comes from a Fair Isle family of many generations. It is currently a part-time one-year appointment, made possible through a partnership with Nature Scotland (for recruitment) and Fauna and Flora International (for grant funding*). Martha starts in November 2020 and will alternate between Fair Isle and mainland Shetland. This gives her access to the relevant Shetland stakeholders and steering group members as well as the Fair Isle community.</p>	
		<p>- Very actively research and inventarisation of flora.</p> <p>- One positive, already in the pipeline, was funding through the Community Resilience Funding scheme. The funding came</p>	

		<p>from Highlands & Islands Enterprise and was distributed through the Fair Isle Development Company.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>- It isn't solve the problem of plastic in general and agricultural baling plastic. Small cleaning activities by island community can't solve this big problem.</p> <p>- Covid has negative influence on monitoring program, for example birdwatching, fish monitoing and others.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite Covid restrict and short time for monitoring some type of monitoring was continue: migration and sea birds, bees, butterfly and Cetacean records, stopped only research of outsides researchers. - During 2020 y. it was printed more scientific research articles and reports that talking about hight interest from Scientist and hard work of local administration. 	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Information and logo of European diploma used in more eco-education presentation and publicity.</p> <p>Status of European Diploma is giving a stimulus for active work and demonstration of high responsibility.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Finally, Administration implemented some actions that were possible during Covid restricts – it is really negative influence on working process but analyzing of report is giving pictures increase number of scientific researches and need hard work for implementation a management activities.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	22. Scandola Nature Reserve, France		Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.85 / 21.09.2020
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) complete, by the end of 2011 at the latest, and implement as soon as possible, the new management plan and include recommendations and objectives for effective monitoring of new, emerging and existing activities; 2) continue the efforts already made in order to provide the manager with the necessary funds to manage the site in an ambitious manner commensurate with its reputation and outstanding character; increase the operating budget and the scientific research budget; 3) move towards an increase of the Barnier tax (the revenues from which are used to finance the management of protected marine sites) through a review of the tax which could include extending it to everyone who visits the site, increasing the amount of the tax, changing the way it is collected and/or monitoring the number of visitors carried by boat trip operators; 4) continue to draw on the work of the scientific committee, in order to manage the site in a effective way; continue to ensure that the reserve serves as a reference point by including it in international programmes; 5) deepen and widen research, especially on climate change which has an impact on animal communities and ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial; publish the methods and findings in order to contribute to providing solutions to environmental problems in the Mediterranean; 6) allow only fishing with highly selective gear and introduce medium- or long-term bans on trammel nets in areas populated by deep-water stands of <i>Cystoseira Profondes</i> and other species, at depths of between 30 and 90 metres, and any other fishing gear (present or future) that has an unsustainable impact on marine ecosystems; 7) maintain and raise the awareness of the need to respect the environment in the Scandola Nature Reserve among boat trip operators; any operators which fail to do so 		

		before a certain date should not be allowed into the integral section of the reserve.
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) undertake, between now and 2012, the planned extension of the marine part of the Scandola Nature Reserve, which should mean a significant enlargement of the site and more specifically of the integral section of the reserve. This project could be included in the works done in the framework of the implementation of the 2006 Law on National Parks, Natural Marine Parks and Natural Regional Parks and/or thoughts carried out within the regional analysis of Natura 2000 marine sites. In the meantime, take steps to reduce the impact of mooring on the Posidonia beds; 2) introduce stricter rules in order to better control tourism-related activities, especially nautical activities, which cause major disturbance to species, in particular certain fish species and osprey, and to anticipate the impact of new economic activities; impose an immediate ban on jet skiing in the reserve, whether supervised or unsupervised;
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of recommendation 4 about collaboration with a scientific committee to ensure effective management of the site gave to administration a chance and the manager of the nature reserve was able to contribute to carrying out study programs on the impacts of human use in the marine protected area within the framework of the European program MARITTIMO GIREPAM. - Implementation of recommendation 5 about collecting information and collaboration with scientist is gives a chance to print scientific articles that use climate change monitoring materials of Scandola NP in high ratings scientific magazine. - Establish a control of fishing process and creation special decree about fishing are a big steps for conservation of fishresources in Natural Reserve and in marine ecosystem; - In 2020, the Association reinforced its commitment by signing the Natura 2000 Charter presented by the organizer of the DOCOB Natura 2000 "Calvi- Carghjese". This Charter implies, among other things, the respect of 24 zones of tranquility around the osprey nests located between Calvi and Cargèse, including 5 nests in the nature reserve.

		<p>It should be noted that the Natura 2000 Charter has also received the support of several other structures and actors called to play a role on the site. In parallel with the implementation of the N2000 charter, as part of a broader strategy on the western facade of the protection of the osprey, an information and awareness campaign for boatmen was implemented during the 2020 season.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Covid period is stopped some processes. Decrease of number of visitors followed a decrease of income PA but from other sides this process caused decrease of disturbances factors on the local ecosystems and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>Management is going bases of acting legislation and countries environmental strategies.</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Enhanced site and greater attractiveness but added value for the economic sector both for activities directly in the area and on the outskirts. Contribution to maintaining populations in the area and to combating desertification of rural areas.</p> <p>The threat of withdrawal made it possible to measure the attachment of the island population to the image of a preserved territory linked to the attribution of this Diploma.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Scientific committee involve and work very actively for development management of Natural Reserve and help by establish modern Environment law and documents. This is very clever way for Government that continue to increase authority of country.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>23. Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve, Italy</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)12</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. implement the management plan for the Casentino Forests National Park and reinforce co-operation with the national park in order to co-ordinate all the activities, especially in terms of research; 2. the nature reserve should continue to stand out as the reference for nature protection in the region; 3. care should be taken to ensure that the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve and the adjacent biogenetic reserves continue to be managed as a cohesive whole; 4. special attention should continue to be given to protecting Monte Falco in order to avoid, in particular, the construction of any new ski slopes; 5. the necessary funding should be provided in order to maintain the very high standard of scientific research; 6. any further damage in the buffer zone, such as the laying of new roads or significant improvement work on the ski slopes, should be avoided; 7. the number of visits should not be increased and they should be restricted to researchers and people with a genuine interest in the site; 8. the possibility of extending the European Diploma to include the biogenetic reserves should be studied. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>-It is visible that the administration is on the right track. - Collaboration with Scientists and implementation a scientific research is on-going;</p>	

		<p>-Long list of scientific research and Administration’s focus on the research and monitoring and popularization of PA.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The opportunity to extend the European diploma to adjacent biogenetic reserves has been abandoned.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>Several research and monitoring projects are underway.</p>	
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>Management of Protected Areas carried out are directly to the recommendations attached to the European Diploma but Covid period stopped some activities.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo -It is visible that the administration is on the right track. - Collaboration with Scientists and implementation a scientific research is on-going 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>24. Doñana National Park, Spain</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)13</p>	<p>1. all efforts should be made to restore the good ecological state of the river at the level of its catchment (river basin or water basin), within the meaning of the Water Framework Directive; all appropriate measures should be taken in order to make water use and other activities, especially agricultural activities, in this catchment (basin) compatible with this aim;</p> <p>The Third Cycle of Hydrological Planning of the Guadalquivir River Basin District is being drafted. So far, the public information process for the Important Issues Scheme (EpTI) has been concluded.</p> <p>This new planning cycle will incorporate in its environmental assessment a specific chapter about Doñana, which will ensure the conservation of its values in the framework of a basin as vast as the Guadalquivir in which Doñana represents only 2.2% of its surface.</p> <p>2. a specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be drawn up;</p> <p>The Natural Area has a Self-Protection Plan against hydrocarbon spills and is a priority area in the Andalusian forest fire plan: INFOCA Plan.</p> <p>There have been no changes compared to last year's report</p> <p>3. the implementation of the action plans for the conservation of the flagship species, in particular the Iberian lynx and the Imperial eagle, should be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be drawn up if needed;</p> <p>The population of Iberian Lynx from Doñana, in addition to having served as the founding nucleus for the Captive Breeding Program for the Iberian Lynx (Lynx Ex-situ), has managed to double its population since it began and stabilize it at around 90 individuals.</p>	

		<p>Regarding the imperial eagle, as of 2005 this trend was changed through the Urgent Measures Program. This turning point led to a relative recovery of the species that managed to achieve in 2016 reaching the figure of 16 chickens that reach the flight phase, the second historical maximum of reproduction of the species since data is available. As of this date, the annual reproductive balance has been reinstated between 8 and 10 chickens per year, a figure somewhat higher than the average of 7.8 chickens / year</p> <p>4. concerning the Port of Sevilla development projects, the Spanish authorities should avail itself of the best international scientific expertise and also take account of the relevant international conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Bern Convention, and work closely with the relevant international bodies, including the European Union and the European Environment Agency;</p> <p>As reported in the section corresponding to Condition 1, this project has been officially rejected by the Spanish state</p> <p>5. the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011;</p> <p>The current planning of the Doñana Natural Area has been in force since September 2016 (Decree 142/2016, of August 2, published in the Official Gazette of the Junta de Andalucía of September 26, 2016).</p> <p>6. the extension of the Doñana 2005 Project to riparian vegetation, correcting erosion problems or extending its scope to adjacent areas of agricultural marsh, should be undertaken;</p> <p>These measures have not yet been implemented, suffering a significant delay, mainly due to the implementation of the Special Plan for the Management of Irrigation Located to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana.</p> <p>The planning will most likely be developed within the</p>
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		<p>framework of the third planning cycle of the Guadalquivir river basin where a specific section of actions on Doñana will be included.</p> <p>7. the possibility of developing co-operation with other European Diploma sites which are deltas, such as the Camargue National Reserve (France) or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania), should be explored.</p> <p>The Doñana Natural Area has a twinning agreement with the Camargue Regional Natural Park since 2008, which expired in 2020 and the procedures for its renewal have begun.</p> <p>Regarding the Danube Delta, no progress has been made in the management of a cooperation and development project with this wetland.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. the Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Port of Sevilla development projects have no significant environmental impact on the Doñana ecosystems. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a complementary study to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report;</p> <p>There have been no variations regarding this matter. The project has been dismissed by the Spanish authorities and has disappeared from hydrological planning documents.</p> <p>2. the Andalusian Government, responsible for the management of the national park and also for water management, should ensure the high quality of water entering the national park and eliminate the illegal extraction of groundwater; in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, it should monitor the status of the aquifer underlying the national park and surrounding lands, the extent of groundwater extraction and the water quality;</p> <p>The most decisive actions in the efforts being made to correct the problems of the Doñana aquifer is undoubtedly the implementation of the Special Plan for the Management of the Forest Crown of Doñana (PEOCFD), as well as the program of complementary measures to the same, approved by Decree 178/2014, of December 16.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and most of the recommendations; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo; 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>25. Bayerischer Wald National Park, Germany</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.06.86 / 18.06.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non-intervention in large areas of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring; 2) pursue consequently a non-intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the older part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the newer part, thus working toward the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the national park by 2027; 3) continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or “bark beetle management” zone); 4) pursue and develop the dialogue with local communities; develop synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the re-establishment of the Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the Sevilla Strategy; 5) pursue the collaboration with the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document “Vision for the Bohemian Forest” including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, both national parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border; 6) maintain the public transportation “Igelbus” network, secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in co-operation with Šumava National Park. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
		<p>-The National Park Administration has already implemented and planned a large number of projects and measures in preparation for the 50th anniversary in 2020. - Administration conduct very well all recommendations;</p>	

	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The collaboration with the Šumava National Park that was resumed in a spirit of trust early in 2014 has been consistently implemented and further enhanced. - App Collector for ArcGIS. To use with the help of a smartphone. To collect information in the field, a "Collector for GIS" app was developed and made available to the field staff. Data recorded offline can be uploaded over the internet and made available to all users (group participants). This can also be accessed from the computer where the recorded data can be further used or processed. - The National Park Administration created a new position for digital visitor management for control and fight with illegal actions from tourists.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	More transboardery scientific research and monitoring activities were continue during 2020 y. This is a good indicator of successful transboardery cooperation.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status of European diploma really works and it is giving good effect during whole process of management; - Responsility of Bayerischer Wald National Park administration is higher; - Logo and some print in special documentations: reports and presentation well influence on success of planning environment and conservation activities. 	
Conclusions and action suggested	Administration of Bayerischer Wald National Park stay on right way. In report is identification hard work and stimulus to continue take status of one of the best managed Protected Areas because hight interest of Protected Areas comes through all direction and management's aspects.	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>26. Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park, Spain</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)6</p>	<p>1. pursue the management of the park in accordance with the Land Use and Management Plan (PRUG) approved in 2015, the Law No. 30/2014 of 3 December 2014 on National Parks and the Royal Decree No. 389/2016 of 22 October 2016 which adopted the Master Plan of the National Parks Network. Follow up on the foreseen creation of a visitor-access point at Pineta Valley and the new visitors centre at Escalona and strengthen collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France);</p> <p><i>The Project to improve the visitor access point in the Pineta Valley, with a new bridge over the Cinca river and a parking area, has been completed, as well as the project for the new visitor center in Escalona. Collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France) has been strengthened, in the monitoring of the natural environment and in audiovisual recording with their participation</i></p> <p>2. ensure that people entering the park are aware of the rule that dogs are only allowed in the park if held on a leash, and inform visitors that they are not allowed to enter the French National Park with dogs, even if held on a leash;</p> <p><i>The communication campaign has been continued and reinforced to inform that within the National Park dogs must be leashed. A report was also prepared to present the proposal to ban dogs in the National Park to the Governing Board and Board of Trustees, reaching an agreement by voting that dogs are allowed access to the National Park.</i></p> <p>3. subject to the availability of resources, conduct a study on mitigating the impact of visitors on flora, fauna and landscape, and assess the effect of promoting alternative access ways to the park on the quality of visits in sectors with high touristic pressure.</p> <p><i>To mitigate the impact of visitors on the natural environment, as a management measure, all the bins inside the National Park have been eliminated, along with an awareness</i></p>	

		<p><i>campaign to collect individual garbage and a reinforcement of the signage of the location of the connectors.</i></p> <p><i>In 2020, the modification of the Master Plan for use and management has been proposed to regulate the camping area near the Góriz Refuge. In addition, in order to distribute the visit to less frequented areas, a project has been carried out to improve access to the Añisclo valley and services to the Escuaín valley.</i></p>
	Conditions	None
	Achievements	All recommendations were promoted in 2020 as described above
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that the project to improve the visitor access point and the project for the new visitor center are completed - It notes that the collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France) has been strengthened - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	27. Store Mosse National Park, Sweden	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)4</p>	<p>1. reduce the dependency upon volunteers for monitoring and regular maintenance work;</p> <p><i>Contractors both in projects and management of the National Park have been used due to the good funding. Volunteers have contributed in some projects.</i></p> <p>2. continue encouraging more scientific research in the park and ensure that all results are centralised in a database maintained by the park or, as appropriate, a relevant scientific institution;</p> <p><i>The National Park continues to be of big interest to scientists, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic a planned workshop together with scientists was cancelled</i></p> <p>3. secure the long-term management and restoration of the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön Lakes for increased birdlife;</p> <p><i>Overgrown vegetation has been addressed by milling at the marshy meadows, and clearing of the lake outflow has been done as a part of the work to enable water flux regulation</i></p> <p>4. set up a comprehensive but simple monitoring system for the park, to be attached to the management plan; carefully monitor the effectiveness and impact of the lake management and restoration, as well as of the LIFE mire restoration project;</p> <p><i>The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's national monitoring program runs according to a plan</i></p> <p>5. implement the new national system for information materials, signs and trail marking and give appropriate visibility to and communicate more actively on the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p> <p><i>The project of implementing the new national system has ended. Knowledge has been passed on from the project leader to the National Park management, whom now have full responsibility to keep working with information and signs in the National Park according with the national system.</i></p>	

	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	All recommendations were successfully promoted in 2020 as described above.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The possibility of volunteers to participate has been limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic</i> - <i>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic a planned workshop together with scientists was cancelled</i>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The good funding of Swedish nature conservation 2020 has made it possible to move forward with a high level of management in the National Park mainly in the Kävsjö lake area.</i> - <i>Effort and resources have been put into facilities for outdoor life to meet the increased visitor interest.</i> - <i>The number of visitors has increased by 30%</i> - <i>The part time ranger who were hired last autumn at 50%, has been increased to a 75% employment.</i> 	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>There is information about the European Diploma on the website of the National Park, but the content could be developed to become even more informative</i> 	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;</p> <p>It notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the favorable funding of the year 2020 has made it possible to implement the restauration measures and that resources have been put into visitor outdoor facilities <p>It urges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to continue the long-term restoration both in the Kävsjö and Häradsösjön Lake areas - to carefully monitor the effectiveness and impact of the lake management and restoration - to organize the planned workshop together with scientists in the near future if possible, considering the Covid-19 situation - to ensure that all results of scientific research are centralised in a database to be available for the National Park management 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>28. Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves, Sweden</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)3</p>	<p>1) pursue the efforts to establish a national park including both reserves as well as surrounding islands and waters;</p> <p><i>The process of establishing a new national park has begun. Personnel have been recruited and a work group have been established including personnel from the County Administrative Board of Stockholm and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to progress the work of establishing a new national park</i></p> <p>2) continue to monitor the activities which are potential sources of disturbances, and enforce the regulations regarding in particular the access to closed areas and make the monitoring results easily accessible to managers and visitors;</p> <p><i>The bird sanctuaries have been supervised by authority personnel. Due to the pandemic, the need to enforce and supervise the sanctuaries have increased, due to a greater number of visitors to the islands. The proliferation of toxic algae in the archipelago is being assessed on a regular basis. The monitoring results of toxic algae have been easily accessible to visitors</i></p> <p>3) continue providing support to farming activities on the islands, following the objectives of landscape and biodiversity conservation;</p> <p><i>The grazing has continued. Further efforts have been done in accordance to present management plan to restore and increase the available grazing land on Bullerö, which also follows the objectives of landscape and biodiversity conservation. New plans are being made prior to 2021 to develop these efforts. Mowing and haymaking are being made in Långviksskär reserve in order to benefit wildflower and pollinators as well as to landscape management.</i></p> <p>4) continue the campaign to control the population of minks.</p>	

		<p><i>During 2020 the number of traps in use have been about 45 in the area. 5 minks have been trapped in Bullerö nature reserve, and 9 minks in Långviksskär nature reserve. Discussions are being made how to make a more coordinated effort in the future to reduce the mink population and to benefit the wild birdlife among the isles</i></p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) prepare and adopt by 2020 a new management plan for the Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves, including a simple but comprehensive monitoring system including birds, fish, environmental parameters and visitors;</p> <p><i>Work has started to make a National Park out of the current two nature reserves and adjacent areas. Work with a new management plan for the upcoming National Park is thereby under preparation. Investigation of present state of birdlife and marine wildlife is underway and further investigations are under planning</i></p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The recommendations were successfully promoted in 2020 as described above.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p><i>A new water purifier has been installed, which purifies and desalts seawater. The installment produces drinking water for staff and visitors on Bullerö island.</i></p> <p><i>A new building management and maintenance plan has been produced especially to the small homestead on the island Rågskär. The buildings have a great value as a culture heritage and are especially protected as a national building monument, representing the traditional living quarters of fishers and farmers among the island. The buildings need special maintenance to preserve the authentic building techniques and material.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the Corona Pandemic, adjustments have been made in the overall management of visitors and the use of buildings, toilets and saunas in order to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.</i></p> <p><i>As a consequence of the pandemic, there have been more visitors than usual in the area during the summer. The same pattern has been observed all over in the Stockholm county in nature reserves and other nature areas.</i></p>	

	<i>There has also been recruitment of one new coworker, for management of Bullerö reserve and to progress the work of establishing a national park.</i>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;</p> <p>It notes that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the process of establishing a new National Park of the current two nature reserves and adjacent areas has begun and that the work with a new management plan for the upcoming National Park is under preparation <p>It urges to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- draw up a management plan to restore and increase the available grazing land on Bullerö, <p>It requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>29. Montecristo Island Nature Reserve, Italy</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)18</p>	<p>1) explore, with the help of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission, the status of the “Montecristo Goat”, the needs for its preservation and if it’s <i>in situ</i> conservation is needed, the ways and means of its integration and conservation within the island’s ecosystems;</p> <p><i>The actions for the management of the Montecristo Goat are carried on as part of the After-LIFE Conservation Plan 2020-2025 and based on the "Goat Management Plan of Montecristo ". New fences to protect habitats of high conservation value have been built. The annual census of the goat population was carried out and also the containment fence for a core of individuals was designed for an ex situ conservation plan at the state reserve of Marsiliana (GR).</i></p> <p>2) continue the monitoring of the island’s flora, fauna and vegetation units, and evaluate the management activities that are necessary for the conservation of species and the restoration of native vegetation;</p> <p><i>Monitoring and management of the protection of habitats and reforested areas continued. The actions had aimed to promote the resumption of the natural ecological succession of autochthonous phytocenoses. The seedlings produced from seeds and propagules collected on the island were integrated. The consistency of the floristic collection has been increased and many cultivation treatments have been carried out among the species of the ex Orto area. In autumn took place the annual seed harvest for the successive seedlings production for future reforestation.</i></p> <p>3) continue ecological surveillance of the island in order to detect undesirable alien species early enough to ensure their eradication;</p> <p><i>Monitoring and treatment for the containment of invasive alien plant species have been carried on during the whole year. The</i></p>	

		<p><i>interventions concerned Oxalis pes-caprae, Phytolacca americana, Opuntia monacantha, Agave americana</i></p> <p>4) complete the remote surveillance system as far as necessary and feasible in order to be able to detect and prohibit any illegal activities on and around the island;</p> <p><i>Work on the remote surveillance system was carried out at the locations of Cima dei Lecci, Punta del Diavolo, Cala Giunchitelli and Cala del Fico.</i></p> <p>5) explore any sensible arrangements for visitors as a possible alternative to the existing quota of 1,000 per year, including possible improvements to awareness-raising and educational activities targeting the public visiting the island;</p> <p><i>Increasing the number of visitors from 1000 to 2000 per year was experimented in groups of 75 people. Visitors were welcomed by military personnel on duty and subsequently guided on three defined paths.</i></p> <p>6) ensure that the resources are secured in a sustainable way to maintain the management of the reserve and to further develop its long-term management plan.</p> <p><i>The authority responsible for the reserve management (RCB Follonica) is going on with the setup of the naturalistic management plan of the Reserve.</i></p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	All recommendations were successfully promoted in 2020 as described above.
	Shortcomings	<p>- <i>A fishing boat sunk nearby the Reserve (Cala Giunchitelli) and is lying on the seabed at a depth of about 20 m. The competent authorities have drawn up a recovery plan. The plan is not in the possession of the Department and the timing is not known.</i></p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.</p> <p>It also welcomes that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the actions for the management of the Montecristo Goat are carried on- the monitoring and management of the protection of habitats and reforested areas continued- work on the remote surveillance system was carried out- the number of visitors from 1000 to 2000 per year was experimented- the setup of the naturalistic management plan of the Reserve is going on <p>It requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>30. Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve, Germany</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.06.1989 / 18.06.2029</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. investigate the possible technical methods to connect the aquatic system of the Haidgauer high moor, separated by the trunk road B465, through water channels or other technical measures in order to enable more water flow towards the eastern part of the moor and to ensure water exchange, especially in the Randlagg; <p><i>A wide variety of surveys and site investigations have been carried out and relevant technical solutions have been examined. A feasibility study to examine possible nature conservation improvements on this road section was commissioned. The final feasibility study with corresponding technical solution options has meanwhile been completed and forwarded to the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Transport to examine the subsequent course to be taken</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. draw up a prevention plan to manage invasive species, to be prepared in case of their appearance, according to EU Regulation 1143/2014; <p><i>The occurrence or presence of invasive species has been observed, and individual species such as Canadian goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>), glandular balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>), Japanese knotweed (<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>) and giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) have been systematically managed by means of appropriate preventive measures. Thanks to this continuous observation, new occurrences can be quickly and specifically repressed or controlled.</i></p> <p><i>Communication with the local hunting community is also planned to promote the hunting of the invasive species of Nile goose, which are already present in the Wurzacher Ried, as well as the raccoon and the tanuki, where necessary</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. pursue the efforts to create an observation tower next to the Torfmuseum to provide an additional attraction in the area without disturbing the ecosystem; 	

		<p><i>Further progress was made in the effort to build an observation tower as part of the visitor guidance system at the Haidgauer Torfwerk. In a first step of the process, planning offices were asked to develop a guiding principle for subsequent planning and to prepare a preliminary draft based on the principle. The town council decided on one of the submitted drafts and commissioned the town administration to initiate further planning. It can therefore be assumed that the planned observation tower could be realised in the near future.</i></p> <p>4. in co-operation with the aeronautical authority, stop any unnecessary acrobatic flights over the Ried due to their negative impact on the site and especially birdlife;</p> <p><i>In a first step, negotiations between the nature conservation administration and the operator of a regional flight school, who is mainly responsible for aerobatics over the Wurzacher Ried, led to the flight activity being relocated to other areas. In the medium term, it is planned that the flight zone above the Wurzacher Ried will be relocated, thus providing a permanent solution to the problem.</i></p> <p>5. resume negotiations with landowners in order to acquire land in the outlying areas – mainly near the village of Albers – to limit and further stop the deposition of substances harmful to this sensitive environment, such as livestock effluents or chemical fertilisers. In case of inconclusive results, long-term agreements should be negotiated to reduce depositions;</p> <p><i>The land acquisition will be continued in accordance with the financial possibilities of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the existing offers of private landowners. Currently, the acquisition of approx. 50 hectares of land from the city of Bad Wurzach, and the purchase of approx. 17 hectares of hillside land near Albers by the property management of the state are about to be completed. The transfer of the slopes at Albers into state ownership represents a positive conclusion of the long-term efforts.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the exchange of approximately 6 hectares of privately owned farmland on the northern edge of the nature reserve with land ownership in the surrounding area is currently under consideration. This would allow these</i></p>
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		<p><i>areas to be extended, which would further improve the overall situation.</i></p> <p>6. preserve the integrity of the landscape around the basin of Bad Wurzach and avoid the construction of technical infrastructure on the hills and hilltops in the visual range of the Wurzacher Ried.</p> <p><i>All the previous plans in this regard were successfully blocked. We are currently discussing an open-space photovoltaic plant (currently applied for) with the competent authorities. The plant will have an extended area of around 1.5 ha.</i></p> <p><i>In the long term – and especially regarding the expansion of regenerative energies – a coordinated concept must be drawn up, in which appropriate potential and any possible impact on the landscape and the visual integrity of the Wurzach Basin are taken into account.</i></p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. By 2021, revise the 2007 management plan or draft a new management framework meeting the provisions and objectives of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and complementary to the Natura 2000 management plan (in preparation);</p> <p><i>The new management plan (MaP) for the FFH and bird sanctuary “Wurzacher Ried und Rohrsee” was completed with effect from November 1, 2019. The management plan presents the occurrences of the habitat types and species of the Habitats Directive on a plot-by-plot basis and specifies the objectives and measures that must be taken to conserve these habitats and species and, where appropriate, to improve their condition and their development.</i></p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant progress has been made in implementing all the recommendations as described above in 2020 • The Regional Administrative Authority in Tübingen completed the faunistic and floristic surveys and the recording of the FFH habitat types for the development of a new “Natura 2000 management plan”, which was finished and published in November 2019. This plan is an important working basis for all future maintenance and development measures.

	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The environmental education work and nature education projects of The Nature Conservation Centre in Bad Wurzach were negatively influenced by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.</i> • <i>The centre had to be closed completely twice for several weeks as part of state-wide lockdowns, and planned events had to be cancelled completely in some cases</i> • <i>This has been clearly reflected in the number of visitors, which has almost been halved in contrast to “normal years” – and the centre has also suffered severe financial losses.</i>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The measures defined in the maintenance and development plan (primarily mowing work in the moor meadows and rewetting procedures) were also further implemented in the current reporting year. Mowing work will continue to be carried out by local farmers (approx. 300 hectares with 35 local farmers). Around 15 hectares of moorland will be mowed with the state-owned mowing caterpillar</i> • <i>An increase in peat moss growth can be seen in the rewetting areas, which indicates a corresponding regeneration of the body of peat.</i> • <i>The beaver (Castor fiber) population, which immigrated in the area in 2000 is still stable with 8-10 families.</i> • <i>The fourth breeding success of the crane (Grus grus) underlines the positive development of the biotope structures in the rewetting areas. The renewed breeding success of the black stork (Ciconia nigra) in the area is also remarkable. An over-summering white-tailed eagle, as well as several observed snake eagles, underscore the importance of the Wurzacher Ried as a large wilderness area and as a habitat for endangered species.</i> • <i>One new animal is worthy of mention: a gold jackal (Canis aureus)</i> • <i>The state government of Baden-Wuerttemberg pushed ahead with the objectives laid down in the state’s concept for moorland protection. The aim of this concept is the medium to long-term renaturation of all regenerative high moors and the adaptation of land use to low moorland in terms of climate protection and the preservation of biological diversity. More planning and coordination steps are planned for the coming years.</i> 	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p><i>The European Diploma with logo can be found in all effective public media, such as the event programme booklet, the website of the nature conservation centre, info flyers and protected area signage. A separate station is dedicated to the European Diploma in the permanent exhibition of the Wurzacher Ried Information Centre.</i></p>	
	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes</p>	

Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the successful progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued efforts;• the comprehensive and informative annual report 2020 <p>It encourages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the continuation of well- established negotiations and initiatives with the various parties in order to achieve results in recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as planned• to create in the long term a coordinated concept to maintain the integrity of the landscape around the basin of Bad Wurzach <p>It urges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• that the large information boards on the B 465 through the Wurzacher Ried, which are renewed will be provided with the current European Diploma logo and texts
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Name of the awarded area	31. Teide National Park, Spain	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2029
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)7	<p>1. undertake further research on the ecology and genetics of endangered and vulnerable species of the national park's fauna and flora so as to assist in their conservation in a rapidly changing climate;</p> <p><i>An ecological study has been carried out on the behaviour of the high mountain scrub habitat to find out the effects of herbivory and how climate change affects the conservation of the plant community and the dominant species – especially retama del Teide or white broom (Spartocytisus supranubius)</i></p> <p>2. establish (and annually update) a register of all non-native species which are found within the national park, and either continue, enhance or commence control measures so as to ensure that these non-native species that have become invasive have a minimal effect on the park's native flora and fauna;</p> <p><i>The staff of the Teide National Park monitor and provide early warnings when they detect the arrival of new non-native taxa. The technical team of the national park are immediately notified, and they supervise and correctly identify the discovery. There is, therefore, an updated list of all the flora present within the protected natural area, to which all the native and non-native species that encroach on its limits are constantly added.</i></p> <p><i>Each new addition of a taxon to the inventory entails a risk assessment based on its invasive potential, and if necessary, the new population is immediately eradicated. Moreover, for those species that are considered invasive and that have become widespread, control campaigns to remove the plant by hand are carried out annually during the spring and before fruiting begins – especially of the taxa that are considered to be more aggressive, in particular, Lactuca serriola, Bromus tectorum and Reseda luteola.</i></p> <p>3. prepare and implement an action plan for beekeeping within the national park which aims to reduce the impact of</p>	

		<p>honey bees on both the native flora and the native species of pollinators; and undertake research on the guild of native pollinators to determine its species composition and the conservation status (endemic to the Canary Islands, endemic to Tenerife, native, and whether endangered or vulnerable) of the species concerned;</p> <p><i>Several studies have been commissioned on the impact of bees on native pollinators in the national park. Studies are also being conducted on how the presence of domestic bees can affect seed germination and the productivity of retama (white broom), thanks to a collaboration agreement with the University of La Laguna.</i></p> <p>4. maintain and expand (as appropriate) the targeted programmes for monitoring the climate and both the biological and geological resources of the National Park;</p> <p><i>The national park's ecological monitoring programme is maintained as in previous years but a process of digitalisation and construction of a technological platform for monitoring flower phenology has been initiated, so as to optimise the participation of all staff working in the park.</i></p> <p><i>The network of weather stations has been expanded through the introduction of mobile micro-stations located in areas of the national park where more detailed information is required, such as the cold air lake that runs through the Siete Cañadas sector. A weather interpolation programme is also being developed to enable a month-by-month assessment of climate change progression at a spatial resolution of 100 m²</i></p> <p>5. identify and include within the new Master Plan for Use and Management (PRUG) actions which have either not been undertaken or have not been completed;</p> <p><i>An assessment of the current PRUG was carried out to identify the actions for which results were satisfactory, in order to systematise and standardise them in the new version, and which actions were not completed, as well as the reasons for such failings, in order to establish new strategies to eliminate or minimise them.</i></p> <p><i>The detected failings are directly related to the lack of powers on the part of the managing authority to deal with them, as</i></p>
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		<p>they depend on external factors not within the remit of the plan.</p> <p><i>The new version of the PRUG takes the logical framework approach, taking into account the analysis of the current PRUG and identifying the problems and direct and indirect causes. In this way, actions for which the managing authority or the plan itself has no powers will not be undertaken.</i></p> <p>6. ensure that the new PRUG contains both appropriate management indicators and targets and supports the European Diploma for Protected Areas; management must inform the Council of Europe when the new PRUG has been completed and formally adopted by the Canary Islands Government;</p> <p><i>The new PRUG has taken into consideration the development of general and specific objectives by area. Last block of objectives includes the adoption of the adaptive management approach, with systems for evaluating results that will make it possible to learn from what has been done and to fine-tune the conservation objectives in a dynamic manner.</i></p> <p><i>The new PRUG will have a system of indicators that will enable information on the progress of the actions to be obtained quickly and easily. The indicators will be simple and objectively quantifiable.</i></p> <p><i>Each year the managing authority will draw up a report that will include the monitoring of compliance with the actions established in the PRUG, based on the corresponding indicators, which will require an interpretation of the results to assess whether the provisions of the PRUG have been carried out in an efficient and effective manner.</i></p> <p>7. demolish all buildings (and other non-natural structures) within the national park which are no longer in use, and restore these areas and their surroundings to as natural a condition as is possible;</p> <p><i>The Teide National Park Management has submitted a project called "Demolition of the houses of El Sanatorio and restoration of the area" for consideration in the new annual budget, and it is included in the 2021 National Park budget, with a financial allocation of EUR 194,244.00.</i></p>
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	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Progress promoting the conditions in 2020 has been made as described above.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The health and social crisis produced by the COVID-19 pandemic is having a very significant impact on visits on the Teide National Park. The estimated visitor numbers for 2020 is that it will be approximately one third of the previous year.</p>

<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ecological study shows that a worrying decline is occurring in the scrublands of the hottest part of the park, where climate change is most pronounced and that the effect of herbivory is still very serious. A recent study carried out 2020 shows that that rabbits have increased in density compared to their populations several decades ago, possibly as a result of warming. • A genetic and ecological study has also been conducted on the endangered species <i>Helianthemum juliae</i>. And dendrochronological studies are underway on the species <i>Juniperus cedrus</i>, seeking to reconstruct the population dynamics of this plant over the last few centuries. • <i>A new species of Teide violet has been discovered, different from the already known Viola cheiranthifoliae, and has been named Viola guaxarensis. It inhabits a very specific area of the national park, and its population is low, such that, according to the IUCN, the species is considered a new threatened taxon in the flora of the Teide National Park.</i> • <i>Several studies have been commissioned on the impact of bees on native pollinators in the national park. One of these was the subject of a final master's thesis at the University of La Laguna, under the direction of Professor Carlos Ruiz Carreira. Studies are also being conducted on how the presence of domestic bees can affect seed germination and the productivity of retama (white broom), thanks to a collaboration agreement with the University of La Laguna.</i> • <i>In October 2020, the Island Council began drafting the plan to eradicate mouflon from the island of Tenerife, which is expected to be ready by the end of 2021</i> • <i>After analysing the information provided, a request was granted for the Teide National Park to be included in the Carbon Footprint, Carbon Offset and Carbon Dioxide Absorption Projects Register of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. It is the first national park in Spain to be included in this register, which seeks to combat climate change by reducing and offsetting the carbon footprint generated.</i> • <i>Work was carried out to protect and prepare the area around El Patriarca ("The Patriarch"), a specimen of Juniperus cedrus ssp. cedrus which is over 1,100 years old. A path was laid to enable access to the area without the need to walk cross-country. The tree was preserved by installing a perimeter fence and protective chains were installed to prevent walkers from leaving the path</i>
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the successful progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; • the informative annual report 2020 • several studies concerning the topics of the recommendations <p>It recommends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to continue to prepare an action plan for beekeeping within the national park • management to inform the Council of Europe when the new PRUG has been completed and formally adopted

	<p>It requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA
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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>32. Berchtesgaden National Park, Germany</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.06.1990 / 18.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)7</p>	<p>1) prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the following period and, to this effect, provide the necessary financial and human resources;</p> <p><i>The draft management plan has been finalized and is currently undergoing internal coordination with the higher-level departments.</i></p> <p>2) include in the plan a provision for continuing a comprehensive long-term research programme, in close collaboration with other alpine protected areas and other relevant networks;</p> <p><i>In 2020, the research and monitoring program in Berchtesgaden National Park has been enforced, particularly due to the collaboration with the Technical University of Munich and a 4-year funding program of the Bavarian Government for joint climate change research with Bavarian Forest National Park. As part of this, a joint long-term biodiversity monitoring has been established for both national parks. Berchtesgaden National Park has joined several global or national monitoring networks, including LIFEPLAN and the insect monitoring of LTER-D, and the establishment of large-scale forest inventory plot following the protocol of ForestGEO has been initiated. Climate and hydrological monitoring programs of the past are continued.</i></p> <p>3) prepare sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives, as integrated parts of the new management plan and taking into account the background of climate change; special attention should be given to:</p> <p>a) military activities;</p> <p><i>The activities of the Bundeswehr are discussed in annual talks between the national park administration and a liaison officer. During these meetings, successes and problems from the past year are discussed, compliance with the jointly defined rules is</i></p>	

		<p><i>checked and the planned activities are coordinated. Thanks to this good cooperation, it has been possible in recent years to largely align military use with the goals of the national park.</i></p> <p>b) recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in cooperation with the mountain guide organisation; providing specific training courses for the guides;</p> <p><i>In regular meetings the responsible persons of the national park discuss the current topics with the respective Stakeholders (e.g. Alpine Clubs, Tourism Associations, Nature Conservationists, Alpine farming association, Hunters</i></p> <p>c) visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts;</p> <p><i>The maintenance of roads, paths and hiking trails is a permanent task. Also, this year about 425.000 € and more than 6.500 working hours were spent for the maintenance of the paths and the visitor infrastructure.</i></p> <p>d) mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply;</p> <p><i>The initiated research on pasture management under the influence of climate change was further developed and will be continued under the direction of the new research department.</i></p> <p>e) water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities;</p> <p><i>The water supply of the communities in the vicinity of the national park is located within the national park. These sources are consistently monitored. This includes regular fine levelling of the surface in the catchment areas by means of drone flights.</i></p> <p><i>In order to ensure flood protection for the community of Ramsau, the dam along the Klausbach is successively renewed in coordination with the national park administration</i></p> <p>4) consequently pursue the transformation of spruce forests into mixed forests until the integration of the intervention zone into the core area is finalised;</p>
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		<p><i>After the Core-Zone with no human intervention has been set to 75% of the Park area, Forest management is restricted to the permanent management zone. There, the promotion of near-natural forests will continue, especially by planting rare tree species (especially fir). For this purpose, only naturally occurring gaps in the forests will be made use of.</i></p> <p>5) continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle proliferation, but without enlarging the bark beetle management zone, and maintain wildlife pressure at an acceptable level;</p> <p><i>The occurrence of bark beetles within the defined management zone is consistently monitored and infested trees are felled and debarked in due time. The timber remains in the biotope as important ecological resource.</i></p> <p><i>To protect the rejuvenation of the forest, ungulates are consistently managed within narrowly defined hunting zones. These hunting zones lie exclusively within the permanent management zone.</i></p> <p>6) anticipate and foster the natural return of large carnivores in the park area and communicate with the public about the benefits this may bring; develop a strategy and action plan to deal with this issue, including cattle protection measures and the training of shepherds;</p> <p><i>The National Park is integrated into the strategy of the State of Bavaria for the return of large carnivores.</i></p> <p>7) pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration (Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung) and the Nature Park and develop synergies with the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas;</p> <p><i>The established cooperation with the neighboring province of Salzburg, the Berchtesgadener Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 Network are continuously maintained and developed.</i></p> <p>8) build and equip the park centre “Haus der Berge”; secure the personnel resources to fully realise its potential as a source of information, as an education centre and for the promotion of the park’s goods and services;</p>
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		<p><i>The central information centre “Haus der Berge” in Berchtesgaden has about 1,200,000 visitors since opening in May 2013 (status: November 2020).</i></p> <p><i>The planning for an improvement of the attractiveness of the exhibitions as well as of the centre itself has been assigned in early spring 2020. This project will last about three years.</i></p> <p><i>The main exhibition “Vertical Wilderness” has been visited by more than 50,000 persons in 2019 (status: October 2020).</i></p> <p><i>Number of persons working within the centre remained constant, number of HR departments too. Number of volunteers working in the centre increased to 10, especially during the main season from May to October.</i></p> <p><i>The five peripheral information centers of the National Park are even in a permanent process of improvement.</i></p> <p><i>The planning of a new exhibition in the “Jägerhaus” on St. Bartholomä peninsula has been assigned.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated opening date will be May 2022.</i></p> <p><i>The former information centre on St. Bartholomä has been closed during the whole year – caused by regulations to avoid spreading of COVID19.</i></p> <p><i>Even the other peripheral centres – exceptional the information centre “Klausbachhaus” - were closed for the same reason in the same period.</i></p> <p><i>Part II of the new information center within the new peak station of the Jenner Mountain Railway is expected to be opened in May 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Over all, these new exhibition form the sixth (peripheral) information centre of the National Park at a very sensitive place at the border between very intensive touristic used and highly protected areas. To be personally more present the National Park administration created one HR department for the centres at Jenner and Klausbachhaus respectively.</i></p> <p>9) further promote the development of the public transportation system within the park and adjacent protected territories; develop a strategy to reduce the private vehicle traffic to and within the park.</p> <p><i>Within the national park, traffic is limited to the narrow circle of authorized persons. In order to prevent abuse, the park administration carries out increased controls.</i></p>
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		<p><i>The improvement of public transport within the valley basin is a constant topic of discussion with the responsible communities. Unfortunately, this problem is not easy to solve</i></p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Significant progress has been made in implementing the recommendations as described above</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The improvement of public transport within the valley basin is a constant topic of discussion with the responsible communities. Unfortunately, this problem is not easy to solve</i> • <i>Caused by specific epidemic regulations (COVID 19) and two lockdowns less than 100,000 visitors were counted until the end of October 2020. In comparison to the years before the number of visitors in the main exhibition decreased as well.</i> • <i>There were almost no public events and activities in the centre – caused by Corona-regulations as well.</i> • <i>Number of visitors attending guided tours (environmental education items) was decreasing – caused by Corona epidemic regulations – and is yet not fully analyzed. The probability of Golden Eagle sightings during the guided tours decreased to almost 85 %</i>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p><i>Golden Eagle monitoring program</i></p> <p><i>In 2020 fifteen territorial couples of Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos, L.) have been monitored in the observation area of “Biosphere Reserve Berchtesgadener Land and surrounding mountain regions. One fledglings has been documented.</i></p> <p><i>Successful couples has been in Ettenberg (two fledgelings, one died). The overall breeding success during 26 years of monitoring (1993 – 2020) has lightly decreased up to 0.29 young birds per pair per year.</i></p> <p><i>Mobile educational offers in the field</i></p> <p><i>The national park is visited by a steadily growing number of visitors. This number is now estimated at around 1.6 million. The previous educational offers only reach a small fraction of these visitors. Many visitors do not know, that they are in a protected area. Especially at hotspots, where many foreign guests stay, it is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid violations of the national park rules. For this reason, mobile educational stands are to be set up at visitor focal points in and around the national park and they are staffed during main visiting hours. At the information stands visitors and users of the national park can find out about current</i></p>	

	<p><i>topics and are informed about rules in the protected area or the effects of rule violations on nature.</i></p> <p><i>In 2020 there were altogether seven stands at different places, Altogether 162 information stands took place in the summer season from June to October. Many visitors gladly accepted this additional offer. After a short discussion it was easier for them to understand and follow the rules of the national park</i></p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2021;- welcomes the thorough and interesting annual report in particular on the promotion of recommendation 8, the Golden Eagle program and Mobile educational offers in the field- notes that the draft management is finalised and undergoing internal coordination with the higher-level departments;- requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.

Name of the awarded area	33. Maremma Nature Park, Italy	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.92 / 18.05.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop, in collaboration with the local authorities concerned, an approach to the management of the Ombrone by river basin, pursuant to the EU Water Framework Directive, with a view to attaining good ecological status for the watercourse within the meaning of that directive; <i>Maremma Nature Park is working to verify the ecological condition of the Ombrone river final flow and the surrounding habitat; the monitoring about overall the geological type is going on. The project about the contract of the Ombrone river, with all the local authorities, at the moment has been stopped. The leader of this project is Consorzio di Bonifica Toscana Sud and we hope it's going to restart soon</i> 2. finalise, within a maximum of two years, the extension of the Park to include the marine environment under conditions to be decided in agreement with local players; <i>No change from last year</i> 3. designate the Trappola (Ombrona Delta) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; <i>No change from last year. Already included</i> 4. considerably increase human resources in the Park responsible for field inspections and ensure a level of funding consistent with the increasing needs of optimum management of the diploma-holding area; <i>No change about the level of funding.</i> 5. step up technical support for local enterprises involved in developing integrated agro-environmental activities and promoting local products and services; 	

		<p><i>CETS: European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The Park is certified.</i></p> <p><i>The Nature Park constantly organise meetings with the local enterprises (BB, agritourism, restaurants, rent apartments etc.) to update them about the Park events, CETS, Park trademark, news and other.</i></p> <p><i>Because of the Covid all the meetings were held on platform online.</i></p> <p><i>Park trademark about quality: at the moment 31 companies are registered.</i></p> <p>6. develop action to promote the protection and enhancement of the Park’s anthropological heritage;</p> <p><i>No change</i></p> <p>7. prepare a plan for the management of the wolf population.</p> <p><i>There are 2 reproductive groups: the Nature Park is monitoring them and genetically examine them</i></p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>To give importance to the points of view of the Scientific Council</p> <p><i>At the moment the Scientific Council works constantly to balance the necessity to protect the biodiversity and the landscape of the area, and the necessity of a balanced socio-economic development</i></p> <p><i>It attends in every situation where the Park has to take action about the management of specific areas (forest management, wild fauna management, research plans, and actions against the coastal erosion). In all these cases it’s always possible to work together with full harmony, with the Scientific Council</i></p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The implementation of the recommendations and conditions is described above as reported</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The project about the contract of the Ombrone river, with all the local authorities, at the moment has been stopped</p>

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing some of the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- Due to the fact that no report was received from 2019 and that the 2020 report is quite limited, the GoS looks forward to a broader and more in-depth report on the implementation of the recommendations from the year 2021- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>34. Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, Portugal</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.05.1992 / 18.05.2022</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)4</p>	<p>1. continue to take all precautions to ensure that no non-native species of plants and animals are introduced;</p> <p><i>No changes or deterioration of the environment occurred, and the policies presented on the earlier annual reports still apply</i></p> <p>2. continue to improve the accommodation and the radio/phone system, which provides the capacity for wardens to contact their authorities in Madeira and their families;</p> <p><i>A VSAT phone system with national indicative is installed, as well as a satellite internet system, fundamental for contacts, either with authorities as family. Small reconstruction and maintenance work was carried out at the biological stations of Selvagem Grande and Selvagem Pequena, to provide a better logistic support to the projects on going in the field and the comfort of the visitors</i></p> <p>3. continue the studies to survey the effect of the eradication of the alien species of the flora and fauna for the next few years;</p> <p><i>The flora and fauna conservation status is improving due to the success of the alien species eradication project (2001 – 2004) (details given on the 2002 annual report). Monitoring of the main actions of this project, is maintained up to present, involving an intensive monitoring on both flora and fauna: evaluate the effects of the programme on non-target species, namely gecko Tarentola bischoffi and pipit Anthus berthelotii; evaluate quantitatively the regeneration of the natural habitats of the island. Qualitative and quantitative data is being obtained every year and reports are being produced accordingly. During 2020, local and foreign scientists develop various research projects in the fields of flora and fauna in Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora</i></p> <p>4. make efforts to eliminate the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull (<i>L. m. atlantis</i>) on Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora;</p>	

		<p><i>Although the yellow-legged gull (Atlantic form) <i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i> should not be considered an alien species, there is a constant effort to prevent their breeding on the islands (Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora). Due to the remoteness of Selvagens Islands and to their characteristics this is an easy and forward task</i></p> <p>5. increase the awareness of the importance of the geological heritage;</p> <p><i>No changes occurred and the policies presented on the earlier annual reports still apply.</i></p> <p>6. continue the programme of reconstruction of the remaining unrestored rubble walls.</p> <p><i>Most of the remaining unrestored rubble walls of the plateau are now well preserved and maintenance efforts are considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Island.</i></p>
	Conditions	<p>1. that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Selvagens Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 15/86 of 21 May 1986.</p> <p><i>The legal status of the Reserve has not been changed and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur, even considering a far future.</i></p>
	Achievements	<p>All recommendations are successfully promoted as described above</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The legal status of the Reserve has not been changed and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur, even considering a far future.</p> <p>Considering the need to contain the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic, and by recommendations of the Regional Government of Madeira, there was a decrease in the number of visitors and foreign scientists</p>

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<i>All the events and lectures addressed to the public in general and target groups, as well as the website, Facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels, used to raise awareness about the importance of the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo</i>
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- It also welcomes the use of the EDPA logo on visibility materials and media.

Name of the awarded area	35. Mercantour National Park, France	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.93 / 03.05.2028
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)17</p>	<p>1) continue to work towards a full commitment and inclusion of the remaining municipalities that have not yet adopted the charter of the park;</p> <p>Confidence building actions targeting outstanding municipalities are on-going.</p> <p>2) pursue all possible efforts and explore ways and means to secure the funding to ensure that the management of the park and activities and projects in the field of scientific research, monitoring, education and awareness raising of the public and partnership projects with the municipalities, all equally important, can be achieved in a harmonious way;</p> <p>Several projects have been implemented on PITER ALPIMED, CclimaTT, BIODIVALP, IBEX, PITER Terres Mont Viso, Plan national loup 2018-2022, LIFE WOLFAlps, etc.</p> <p>3) continue the monitoring of large carnivores and other key species on a regular basis, including in cooperation and networking with neighbouring regions and countries;</p> <p>This is being taken care of within the LIFE WOLF Alps project and National Plan for the Wolf.</p> <p>4) seek the best possible solution in the special case of the road of the Bonette pass (“piste de la Moutière” or “route de la Bonette”, the so-called “Requalification Bonette”) so as to allow the road and the part of the core zone of the park it crosses to remain an experience, especially for motorists, while at the same time diminishing the negative impact on nature to the lowest possible level and aiming to make motorists aware of the objectives of the national park;</p> <p>On-going within the frame of the partnership with the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropole and all the stakeholders of this route. The dynamics must be continued to shift</p>	

		<p>from the pre-study phase to more operational phases of field implementation of a system of interpretation and shared management of the road (delay linked to COVID and elections).</p> <p>5) pursue the co-operation and the trans-boundary work with the Maritime Alps Nature Park and further explore the setting-up of an Alpi Marittime-Mercantour International Park, to be agreed between the authorities of France and Italy; continue working towards increasing integration.</p> <p>The partnership work continued in the context of the various projects mentioned in point 2. Moreover, the last two years have allowed the two parks to deploy their common tool (GECT Parc Européen) which received direct European funding for the benefit of the entire cross-border territory.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	More than 90 criminal offences in 2020 (significant increase compared to 2019)
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Installation of solar panels on the buildings of the Parc in Saint-Etienne-de-Tinée renovated in 2020	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Recognition by visitors and internal satisfaction	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that cooperation with Maritime Alps NP is healthy, calls for continued joint projects, and urges both Parks to continue working with UNESCO and IUCN towards a possible cross-border Park; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	36. Maritime Alps Nature Park, Italy	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.93 / 03.05.2028
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)10</p>	<p>1. explore the feasibility of officially recognising the two Maritime and Marguareis Nature Parks as one national park;</p> <p>Since 2016 the two Parks, Alpi Marittime and Marguareis have been managed by the Alpi Marittime Protected Areas Management Authority. In the National Framework Law on Protected Areas the Alpi Marittime and Marguareis area is foreseen as a future National Park. During 2020 contacts were made with the Ministry of the Environment to assess the possibility of having a single National Park. There do not seem to be any technical obstacles to date and the big problem seems to be of a political nature and above all of economic resources of the Italian State. At the date of writing, it seems that by the end of 2020 the Italian Parliament may approve the National Park's institution.</p> <p>2. explore the extent to which small, scattered reserves (Ciciu del Villar, Benevagienna, Crava Morozzo, Sorgenti del Belbo and Grotte di Bossea) which have very different characteristics, can be managed at a local level by municipal or provincial authorities;</p> <p>These areas are at present still managed by the Parks' Authority. There were no changes this year.</p> <p>3. ascertain that the amendment of the Law L.R.19 29/06/2009 does not jeopardise any of the park conservation regulations;</p> <p>The Regional Law 19 of 29/06/2009 on the System of Protected Areas in Piedmont did not change during 2020. The Regulation on the use of the Protected Areas managed by the Authority remains in the process of being approved. During the year, the Authority approved the Management Plan of the SAC of the Alte Valli Pesio e Tanaro Park (Marguareis Park) and at the same time the Forest Management Plan. The approval of the Alpi Marittime Forestry Plan and the Management Plan for the Alpine pastures is</p>	

		<p>currently underway, while the Management Plan of the SAC Alpi Marittime is being finalised. These Management Plans will make it possible to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of the Parks.</p> <p>4. pursue the co-operation and the trans-boundary work with the Mercantour National Park and further explore the setting-up of an Alpi Marittime-Mercantour International Park, to be agreed between the authorities of Italy and France; continue working towards increasing integration.</p> <p>The Parks continued their close and intensive cooperation during 2020. This collaboration was implemented through the work of the EGTC " Maritime Mercantour European Park ". The EGTC has the management of the NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE project within the "Alpimed" Integrated Territorial Project mentioned above. Collaboration always leads to tackling problems in a common way and planning is unified. A research project on " Chilopods " (terrestrial arthropods) was carried out in the Marittime and Mercantour Parks.</p> <p>In relation to the Unesco World Heritage Site of the "Mediterranean Alps", contacts have been made with the Italian Ministry and with French and Monegasque partners to define a resubmission. Contacts have been made to evaluate the submission of a dossier for recognition as a "Geopark" and/or "Biosphere Reserve".</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. secure an adequate annual budget and ensure a reasonable increase in the management and administration staff to be able to carry out all the necessary work related to maintenance, conservation and sustainable tourism;</p> <p>The allocation of regional funds for ordinary management of the Parks authority amounted to € 490,000.00, for 2020, the same as in 2019. Personnel expenses were also set at 55 employees with a total expenditure of € 2,650,000.00. During the year 2020 we were authorized to fill 1 post of scientific collaborator. However, thanks to personnel management surpluses from previous years, it was possible to hire 7 seasonal workers (June-October), which allowed for a more far-reaching maintenance of the territory with particular reference to trails and signage.</p>

	<p>Achievements</p>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>In 2019 the LIFE WOLFALPS project was awarded the Natura Award by the European Commission.</p>	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It supports the Park’s will to establish strong contacts with the Ministry of Environment to assess the possibility of establishing a single national park; - It notes that cooperation with Mercantour NP is healthy, calls for continued joint projects, and urges both Parks to continue working with UNESCO and IUCN towards a possible cross-border Park; - It notes the concern of the Park regarding the structure of EC funding, and will bring this up at the GoS meeting; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>37. Wachau Protected Landscape, Austria</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. guarantee a sustainable budget for the managing authorities to ensure that the management plan can be fully implemented without relying on financial resources from projects; 2. encourage the setting up of a long-term institutional management framework for the Wachau Protected Landscape and Jauerling-Wachau Naturpark; 3. ensure the implementation and updating of the management plan in a participatory way; 4. continue the good practice of a global approach to forestry and wild-game management (including co-operation with managing authorities in bordering administrative entities); 5. continue the good practice of maintenance and reconstruction of terrace vineyards; 6. continue efforts to preserve the apricot orchards; 7. develop an integral approach to tourist management; 8. explore optimal solutions for preserving the appearance of the landscape (colours of the protection nets and barriers against rockslides, light pollution and Christmas tree plantations); 9. use the European Diploma logo more regularly on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. abandon definitively the scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma; 	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>There are no plans regarding the constructions of dams on the Danube in the Wachau region.</p>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>none</p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to present conditions caused by the COVID-19 (coronavirus pandemic) the current tourist campaign has been focusing on sustainable outdoor activities, e.g. hiking and biking across the cultural landscape along the Danube. • A comprehensive and detailed evaluation of the implementation of the management plan applying the participatory approach is considered for 2022 or later. • Efforts to enhance landscape connectivity and to replace invasive alien species, particularly trees in floodplain forests, by native ones should be appreciated.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma logo is used on all relevant mailings, correspondence and public relations affairs as well as logo tags are installed at some sites and on various official buildings (city halls, etc.).</p>
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Wachau Protected Landscape has been continuing to be a real European Diploma holder due to the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations.</p>

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>38. Oka National Biosphere Reserve, Russian Federation</p>	<p>Date of the award/ renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. draft and adopt in the next three years a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area. This management plan should include strategic aims, goals and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures. Adequate resources, both financial and human, need to be deployed; 2. secure sufficient resources to ensure the proper conduct of scientific research; 3. ensure the conservation of the habitats of the desman population; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. extend the reserve south-eastwards in the Lopata zone up to the Pra River in order to include typical water meadow habitats that are not yet represented in the reserve, a number of oxbow lakes and a portion of the Oka River bank; ii. integrate in the biosphere reserve core area the prime desman habitats, currently located nearby but outside the diploma-holding area. Explore the feasibility of the transfer of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra River, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve, as State properties; iii. intensify efforts to regenerate the habitats of the desman in the Oka plain; 4. allocate adequate resources to raising the awareness of the general public and strengthening links with local communities, while making full use of the reserve’s assets and the large amount of available scientific data; make suitable educational material available to a young audience; 	

		5. explore the feasibility of making the significant collections of scientific research available to the international scientific community by translating the highlights of findings into English.
	Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conditions have been fulfilled. • Most recommendations have been fulfilled or are underway.
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Management Plan was elaborated and approved by the respective authorities and is being implemented in relation to funds available. • Rich communication, education and public awareness activities among the general public and the target groups, e.g. young people up to 20 years old, were implemented even under nonstandard conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Shortcomings	<p>The boundaries of the reserve in the Lake Lopata area have not been expanded yet and negotiations between the reserve administration and landowners have been underway. The same situation is with hay meadows landowners.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The research on wild plant and animal species uses modern technologies, <i>e.g.</i> camera traps or high-resolution cameras.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	no information available	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and most of recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	39. Teberda National Biosphere Reserve, Russian Federation	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.94/ 05.09.2029
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. draft and adopt in the next three years a new management plan for the long-term conservation of the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve; include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species; share the draft management plan for comments with the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas prior to its adoption; 2. design socio-economic development plans in the buffer zone of the diploma-holding area that contribute better to preserving the natural features of this area in close co-operation with the local authorities, including the administration of the Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia; 3. develop further awareness-raising activities targeting youth; 4. ensure the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve research programme and activities take into consideration the effects of climate change on the ecological processes inherent to the long-term preservation of the European interest of the diploma-holding area. Explore the feasibility to make popular and scientific publications of the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve available to foreign visitors and scientists in appropriate languages; 5. pursue and step up co-operation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area; encourage international non-governmental organizations and foundations working in the Caucasus to facilitate this process; 6. ensure by strict enforcement of regulations, the ecological effectiveness of the polygon connecting the diploma-holding area to the Western Caucasus Strict Nature Reserve. 	

	Conditions	When extending the European Diploma of the Council of Europe, the conditions were not set for the Teberda Reserve.
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the situation during the COVID-19 pandemic, activities on science and research and communication with, education of and public awareness of nature conservation among the general public and the target groups have not been reduced. • The cooperation with three municipalities in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic has been continuing. • Half of the scientific papers from the Teberda Reserve has been published in English.
	Shortcomings	Establishing a bilateral protected area with Georgia is in competence of the Russian Federation Government: no progress yet. Moreover, the cooperation between both protected area administrations has been continuing.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The comprehensive Management Plan has been under preparation, <i>i.a.</i> taking into account ongoing and future climate change effect on both biota and the abiotic environment: before submitting it to approval, it will be consulted with the Group of Specialists at the Council of Europe. • There is a progression using current information technologies, e.g. social networks in communication with, education of and public awareness of nature conservation among the general public and the target groups. • Reintroduction of the Caucasus European Bison into reserve has been extraordinarily successful. • No reduction in quite high staff number (204). 	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations.	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>40. Ipolytarnóc Protected Area, Hungary</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)15</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recognising the site's high potential for further discoveries of geological interest, research – especially the palaeontological excavations – should continue; all appropriate measures should be taken to preserve and, if possible, exhibit the natural resources; the results of scientific research should be made publicly available; 2. the site should take an active role in the management of the Slovak-Hungarian transborder Novohrad-Ngrd Geopark, in order to preserve and interpret the natural assets of the region and to become a focal, multilingual information point for geotourism; 3. the entrance to the protected area should have an appropriate gateway displaying information in order to control tourism within the site and the buffer zone; the buildings along the geological trail should be further integrated into the landscape; the power line that runs between the village and the visitor centre should be replaced with an underground cable; 4. gradual replacement of the exotic trees with indigenous species should be continued by assisting the natural succession process through ecologically sensitive land management practices; the control of game – causing considerable damage to vegetation and protected animal species – should be continued; 5. the balance between open spaces and wooded areas on the western side of the conservation area, close to the nearby settlement, should be maintained to preserve the mosaic structure of the landscapes there. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>There are no conditions neither on the reward of the European Diploma of the Council of Europe nor its extension.</p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;">Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the recommendations have been fulfilled or have been underway. 3D laser scanning was introduced and a new EU INTERREG project launched in November 2020 has been aiming at to digitization of the footprint surfaces of the excavated areas. • For interpreting valuable findings at the site, current high-tech technologies use (AR technology, Oculus VR bird-eye view. QR codes, 3D laser scanning) have been continuing. • Special attention is paid for using renewable energy at the site. • The media attention was enormous on the renewal of the European Diploma.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Shortcomings</p>	<p>The management structure of the trans-boundary Novohrad-Nograd UNESCO Global Geopark has been excluding the nature conservation agencies both in Hungary and Slovakia.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020 Annual Report is very comprehensive and detailed. • Due to the COVID-19 disease outbreak, the usual regime could be implemented only from late spring to mid-autumn 2020. • The African swine fever causes some difficulties in the management of the wild boar population and a game-refrigerating container would be useful to temporarily store shot game within the site. • Efforts to relocate the visitor reception facilities to the borderline, <i>i.e.</i> between the village and the protected area itself, and thus to reduce human impacts on nature and the landscape should continue. 	
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The significance of the European Diploma is well recognized at the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area. The logo of the Diploma is on all the publications, road signs and panels of the Ipolytarnóc Fossils, a flag with the Diploma emblem is located in front of the Visitor Centre. Thus, the visibility is well maintained.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>Welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>41. Szénás Hills Protected Area, Hungary</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>11.09.1995/ 11.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)16</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the management of the area should be carried out in close co-operation by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company; the activities of the finished LIFE Programme, such as the conversion of black pine forests, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring, should be continued jointly; the area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site's national and European importance; 2) inside and near the area, permission should be given only for such game population management operations as are strictly consonant with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the area, particularly as regards eradication of the moufflon and reduction of the populations of large herbivores to a level compatible with the preservation of the dolomitic grasslands and natural woodlands; these population control operations should be planned on the basis of accurate population monitoring; 3) the fence enclosing the protected area must be maintained in good condition to prevent technical sport activities from encroaching upon it and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation; 4) visitor reception capacity should be increased by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, to make the public more aware of the importance of preserving the habitats in the area; measures should be taken to prevent motor vehicles from crossing the area; the visitor centre at Pilisszentiván should be restored and modernised; 5) regulations must be worked out for horse riding paths in the area; also a mountain bike trail should be designated so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area; 6) the protected landscape status of the two areas adjoining the special protection area, which were also the subject of the diploma application, should be maintained to keep them functioning properly as buffer 	

		<p>zones; construction in these areas should not be allowed;</p> <p>7) urbanisation pressure must be handled properly; any new development plans of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba should be examined carefully;</p> <p>8) co-operation with volunteers (schools, non-governmental organisations, local governments, scouts) must be continued, as well as with local residents, police and civil guards.</p>
	Conditions	none
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although a lot of activities planned for 2020 had to be cancelled or postponed due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, all the recommendations have been fulfilled or have been underway. • Number of visitors both children and adults declined by two-thirds in 2020 compared to 2019. • Annual agreement (2020) of cooperation between the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company has resulted in some valuable outputs, <i>e.g.</i> employing two professionals dealing with communication with, education of and public awareness among the general public and the target groups. • A new interactive exhibition in the new modern building of the facility presenting the unique values of the area and aiming at species or other taxa protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. • The visitor centre has been renovated in 2020.
	Shortcomings	none
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recently launched LIFE Programme for conservation and researching for Hungarian endemic species and valuable areas funded from the EU budget has been providing some opportunities to keep fulfilling the recommendations. • Special attention should be paid to game population management operations strictly consistent with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the EDPA area if they could be implemented under the COVID-19 pandemic. The same goes for horse riding paths & mountain bike trials. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The annual report is as usually elaborated in details and based on the facts/numbers.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	A drawing competition for children for the 25th anniversary of awarding the area by the European Diploma of the Council of Europe was organised in 2020.
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations

Name of the awarded area	42. Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve, Belarus		Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) sufficient resources need to be generated both by the government and by the reserve to protect effectively the biodiversity resources and to continue scientific research. In addition to extra-budgetary sources of income, other sources should be tapped, especially in co-operation with NGOs such as Okhova Ptushak Beloarusi (Belorussian BirdLife) and the WWF; 2) further efforts should be taken to prevent negative effects from the fragmentation of the reserve by the M3 road and to preserve the integrity of the core area; 3) further study of the dynamics of the mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration between the core and the buffer zones should be carried out in order to follow the progress of the effects of hunting on the current situation and manage the populations accordingly; 4) continue with the efforts between the appropriate ministries to ensure that the development of tourism is well controlled; 5) in order to mitigate possible risks and hazards connected with climatic changes and possible large-scale disturbances on the reserve, the study programme on these topics should be continued. 		
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the protection regime and ownership of the land should be kept unchanged; 		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above condition us being met: Ownership of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve remained unchanged and thus, there were no changes in the reserve’s current protection status. • All the above recommendations fulfilled. • Sustainable forestry using the FSC certification has been continuing outside the core zone. • The staff has again increased in 2020, thus totaling 432 staff members, 252 of them are financed from the state budget. • The Administration has been implementing a huge range of communication, education and public awareness 		

		actions among the general public and the target groups, particularly the youth and visitors
	Shortcomings	None
Other highlights worth to be Mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive ten-year management plan for 2021 – 2025 should be elaborated, approved and implemented. • A new ornithological educational trail <i>Nesting Path</i> has been built. • The research on wild plant and animal species uses modern technologies, e.g. camera traps or an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV, drone). • The report is again data-based, factual and very detailed. 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve extensively uses the logo of the European diploma. At the official website http://www.berezinsky.by/ a logo and brief information on the European Diploma award is available, as well as a link to the Council of Europe website. In addition, the original European Diploma awarded to the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve in 1995 is exhibited in the Museum of Nature Conservation History with the Reserve.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations by the European Diploma holder should be appreciated.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	43. Nature Park Weerribben-Wieden, Netherlands	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 03.06.2020
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2015)2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) implement a monitoring programme to evaluate the effects of the new connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden, the construction of which was finished by the end of 2014, at least on important and/or endangered species, considering the exemplary role of the project; 2) monitor the further development of fish stocks, with an emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements; 3) limit the impact of fishing by defining a maximum number of licenses or limiting the catch; define methods to avoid secondary catches of otter or other species; and ensure the further development of a management plan for fish stocks covering all species, as requested in the previous resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma; 4) carefully observe the development of boating on the Kalenberger Gracht and set limits (for example a maximum number and/or size of boats) or provide for measures in case of increasing numbers of larger boats; 5) continue with the designation of adjoining areas as extensions of, or buffer zones to, the protected areas, especially to the north (Rottige Meente) and south-east (Staphorster Veld), and create a connection between the two separate parts of De Wieden Nature Reserve between the Zuideindiger Wiede and the Bovenwiede; 6) review contracts with business owners and landowners with regard to habitat management, and especially the duration of these contracts, to ensure that management can be directed by the responsible authorities and to prevent long-term and irredeemable contracts through which the reserve authorities have limited leverage; 7) observe possible threats which may occur due to the intensification of agriculture, changes in water management or construction of wind farms; 	

		8) secure adequate funds to convert the Ossenzijl information centre, at least in part, into an educational centre geared towards young people.
	Conditions	1) urge the responsible authorities to adopt the joint Natura 2000 management plan, by the end of 2016, as an official and binding document which will be considered as covering the requirements of the European Diploma;
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition and most of the above recommendations have been met. • In 2020, monitoring of wild animals along the new connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden using wildlife cameras has started: the smart cameras can immediately identify the species recorded. • Due to the new and adapted canoe network and proper communication, the increase in number of visitors on boats during the hot summer caused by closed borders to go abroad did not significantly affect nature and landscape in the Nature Reserve. • In 2020, the project of the construction of several fauna passages should be completed. • Permanent tenants are being bought out by the Province of Overijssel because the new nature management measures can no longer be carried out by the current tenants. • An amount of 2 million euros is available for the development of the European Wetland Centre: the plans are being further elaborated and updated in cooperation with the partners. • The vegetation mapping was launched in 2020 and will be completed in 2022 and reported in 2023. • The Annual Report submitted is well-detailed, factual and based on the facts
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are plans for solar parks (Wanneperveen) and wind farms (Zwartsluis) just outside the nature reserve, but these could affect breeding populations of marsh birds (the Purple heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>, the Great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, the Western marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>).
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the recommendations remain to be kept in focus, given their long-term goals, e.g. monitoring the fish stock, particularly that of the European eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>, as well as the impact of fishery, sustainable use and cooperative management of several habitats in the NP (e.g. reed bed ecosystems), contracts with business owners and landowners with regard 	

	<p>to habitat management and enhancing the landscape connectivity with the adjacent areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The issue of the postponement of the opening of the Lelystadt Airport for tourist flights or any other flights in relation to the De Weeriben-De Wieden National Park is not mentioned in the report.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>44. Seitseminen National Park, Finland</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular five-year intervals; 2) continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity; 3) Metsähallitus should continue to bring together people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster the transfer and exchange of knowledge; scientific research should actively continue; 4) deepen co-operation with local stakeholders, especially in the nature tourism sector; 5) provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) implement the new master plan for the Seitseminen National Park and evaluate by 2014 if there is a need of a new updated management plan. 	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition has been met through the implementation of the NP’s integrated management plan. • The habitat restoration has been continuing: in 2020, 4.5 hectares of forests and 16 hectares of mires were restored. • In January 2020, a new contract was signed by a private entrepreneur to manage the NP’s Nature Centre. • In 2020, two project were carried out for continuing the renovation of the recreational facilities within the NP. 	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>None</p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2020, there was an increase in the number of visitors to the NP by more than 50 % due to increased interest of people to come to nature after decreasing the level of restrictions against spreading the COVID-19.• The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>45. Ekenäs Archipelago National Park, Finland</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan; 2. inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals; 3. continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved; and – the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species; 4. continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure; – further develop customer service and interpretation; and – raise the public’s awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park; 5. review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years; 6. deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. within one year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan (master plan), which itself will include plans to enlarge the national park. 	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition and all the recommendations have been met. • Current research methods, e.g. gathering bottom samples, side scan sonar, HD videos or hydroscope has been applied in inventorying and mapping marine habitats: the water area of the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park is one of the most 	

		<p>densely mapped marine areas in the Finnish coastal area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is again data-based, factual and very detailed. • The efforts to reduce/eradicate some invasive alien species, <i>e.g.</i> the Japanese rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>), the American mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>), the Raccoon dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>), or the White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>) should be mentioned.
	Shortcomings	none
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metsähallitus was granted with partners funding from the INTERREG Central Baltic programme (2018-2020) to improve the facilities in Jussarö. • In 2020, the terms of sustainable nature tourism cooperation agreements were updated. In addition, all cooperation agreements within the NP's territory will be renewed during 2021. All cooperation agreements with local stakeholders, particularly tourist operators, will be renewed during 2021. • New specialist in sustainable nature tourism was hired to Metsähallitus, Coastal and Metropolitan Park Area which has been in charge of supporting, <i>inter alia</i>, private entrepreneurs in the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park. 	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>Being awarded by the European Diploma of the Council of Europe has guided various activities carried out in the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park and been an advantage when applying for project funding. Annual reporting has been a good tool summarize and evaluate the achievements, ongoing projects and most of activities implemented across the NP's territory.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations and the European Diploma can be renewed for the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>46. Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, Belarus</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>30.09.1997 / 30.09.2028</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)16</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maintain a high level of human capacities and a skilled and professional staff; 2. increase and secure the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park budget with State resources, so as to be able to continue to manage the diploma-holding area in an exemplary way, as required by the European Diploma regulation; 3. expand the strict protected zone of the diploma-holding area to the historic Bialowieza forest limits and manage this zone in order to preserve and enhance the ecological and biological natural processes which are key assets of the European interest of the diploma-holding area; 4. totally protect the old-growth tree communities and restore and enhance old natural forest all over the historical Bialowieza forest; 5. pursue the efforts to preserve the ecological character of wetlands and to implement an integrated management of water resources; 6. pursue the efforts to reduce the red deer population (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>) and to remove all winter feeding places from the diploma-holding area (core and buffer zones); 7. assess the state of conservation of the elk (<i>Alces alces</i>) and design a hunting regime accordingly; 8. pursue the efforts to prevent or fight against the spread of invasive alien species in the diploma-holding area, and especially to eliminate <i>Quercus rubra</i>, <i>Solidago Canadensis</i> and exotic fish; 9. create an overall database including performance indicators, covering both natural resources and socio-economic uses and activities in order to ensure the continuous monitoring of the European significance of the diploma-holding area; 	

		<p>10. adopt a clear and sustainable tourism strategy and engage a more active sustainable development policy together with local stakeholders, and if possible with the authorities of Poland, promoting and supporting extensive farming, manufacture and marketing of green products and services, and the preservation and renovation of cultural heritage; include in the forthcoming management plan a specific programme of activities aiming to preserve or restore local cultural heritage, including architecture, local breeds, traditional uses and activities, as well as all other cultural assets of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park and its buffer zone, so as to strengthen sustainable development in the diploma-holding area;</p> <p>11. ban hunting in the whole Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park territory and minimise hunting pressure in its buffer zone; with reference to the moratorium on wolf hunting established in 2015, and as foreseen in the current management plan, forbid wolf hunting by law on the territory of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, as well as in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;</p> <p>12. develop a long-term vision for the European bison population and strengthen scientific and technical co-operation with the authorities of Poland in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;</p> <p>13. consult with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Large Herbivores Commission in order to assess whether the European bison in the diploma-holding area require specific conservation measures.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should meet international standards and take into consideration the recommendations attached to the renewal of the European Diploma; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the recommendations have been met or activities are carried out to meet them.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the amount of funds for the activities of the National Park in 2020 remained the same as in 2019.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the development of the new Management Plan for the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park in accordance with the respective national legislation and recommendations set during renewal of the European Diploma of the Council of Europe has been delayed and began in 2020: it shall be completed to the middle of 2021,
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The NP Administration pays a special attention to invasive alien species control/eradication despite the fact that the area in which the most significant IAS (the Sosnowsky's hogweed <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> and the Canadian goldenrod <i>Solidago canadensis</i>) occur covers 150 hectares.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information available</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations. Moreover, elaboration, approval and implementation of the new Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park Management Plan will be crucial in this respect.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>47. Port Cros National Park, France</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ensure that the development of the new Grand Parc consolidates the protection of Port-Cros and that it in no way undermines such protection; and keep the relevant Committee informed about how the situation develops; 2) ensure the early implementation of formal protection for Porquerolles, with its adjoining marine area, which is a vital complement to Port-Cros; 3) consolidate and co-ordinate the protection of the surrounding marine area initiated under Natura 2000, and seek a regional solution to the problem of waste water from boats; 4) actively work on enlarging the Port-Cros National Park by introducing a partnership zone on the mainland and an adjacent maritime zone, and initiate the consultation procedure for drafting the Park's Charter, ensuring maximum involvement by local stakeholders; 5) continue to assess the impact of recreational activities, introduce indicators for environmental load and pressure capacity indicators in order to prevent the tolerance threshold of the land and sea habitats from being exceeded, and monitor the development and impact of new sports activities in order to regulate them as soon as they emerge; define and implement the necessary tools for achieving this objective and involving all partners in their implementation; 6) continue to monitor commercial fishing and regularly adapt the regulations and voluntary agreements with fishermen in order to ensure sustainable use of this local resource; assess the impact of angling and tailor the regulations if necessary; 	

		<p>7) provide visitors with more visible information on the fact that they are entering a natural protected area at the ports of entry and by displaying notices in the shuttle boats, and place greater emphasis on the European Diploma;</p> <p>8) continue to monitor and control invasive alien species such as <i>Carpobrotus</i> spp., <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>, black rats and feral cats, and actively participate in the Mediterranean alarm network on new high-risk species;</p> <p>9) involve the Park more actively and visibly in measures concerning sustainable development and moderate use of such resources as fresh water and energy;</p> <p>10) clarify the formal and actual responsibilities and tasks of the National Park and those of the other local players such as the municipal, departmental and maritime authorities;</p> <p>11) promote local reappropriation of the Park by developing partnerships with local political, economic and voluntary players.</p>
	Conditions	
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		

Name of the awarded area	48. Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) continue efforts to provide the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with more appropriate funding and to raise more additional funds from external sources; 2) accelerate liaison with the authorities of Romania so as to complete the process of establishing a transfrontier Biosphere Reserve within the next two to three years; 3) pay more attention to the elaboration and implementation of clear strategies and actions plans for the development of co-ordinated green activities around the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, working in close co-operation with the local stakeholders and in line with the presidential guidance; 4) provide the Council of Europe with adequate and detailed figures, information and data on the legislation concerning the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in Ukraine and the enforcement of that legislation in the country, especially with regards to Article 6 of the Bern Convention; the State Party should be urged to report on this issue to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention at its next meeting, and encouraged to strengthen its efforts on reducing the poaching activities in and around the Diploma-holding area; 5) devote priority efforts to the monitoring and conservation of the European mink and to the control of the population of the American mink within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve; 6) follow up the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations made in the reports on inventory and monitoring, and on the challenges and solutions for the management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, published in 2008 and 2011, giving the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve the capacity to undertake these; 7) strengthen co-operation with the local socio-economic stakeholders, including the forest and the tourism sectors, and develop specific awareness pilot activities targeted on them; these activities should address the issue of climate change, and promote local adaptation measures to global warming, including alternative socio-economic measures, 	

		such as schemes for green tourism, carbon sequestration and payment for ecosystem services.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Most recommendations have progressively been improved on. Major achievements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) An increase of budget is mentioned. Three EU-project applications were prepared in 2020. (b) Plans on the intensification of the establishment of a transboundary biosphere reserve has been done (c) The implementation of the State Program for the Development of the Ukrainian Carpathian Region for the period 2020-2022 went on. (d) There seems to be progress in European Mink monitoring as the equipment market is planned. (e) The active phase of the implementation the 10-year development strategy and the 5-year action plan for the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has begun (f) A new forest management project for the territory of the reserve was approved (g) The relevant Ministries approved the CBR's territory expansion project, and it was submitted to the Administration of the President of Ukraine for preparation of the relevant Decree of the President of Ukraine. (h) Cooperation between the CBR with and the local communities had reached a new, better level and a new agreement on the use of land tax to be received by the communities from the CBR has been achieved
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Some planned activities have been cancelled postponed to the next year due to pandemic (b) The market of the equipment is expected to contribute to conservation of European Mink and to confirm that no individual of the IAS American Mink has ever been observed in the entire history of observations in the reserve.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations and acknowledge the cooperation with local communities	

Name of the awarded area	49. Poloniny National Park, Slovak Republic	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. by 2020, develop a prioritised plan for all land in State ownership to be reclassified as levels 3, 4 or 5; and demonstrate significant progress in reclassifying the level-3 forest as either level 4 (with exploitation by a silvicultural selection methodology) or as level 5 (no exploitation); 2. encourage church, association and private landowners to reclassify their land as level 3 or 4, utilising a single-tree or group-selection silvicultural system wherever appropriate; 3. maintain the management of meadows outside the World Heritage Site, preferably by summer grazing with livestock or alternatively by cutting and removing the cut material from the site; 4. liaise with appropriate stakeholders, especially those involved with sustainable tourism, to prepare an inventory of objects of cultural significance within the national park and support a prioritised programme of restoration of these culturally significant objects; 5. develop effective research and monitoring programmes which provide data helpful to the management of the national park's resources; 6. devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national park and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area; 7. maintain co-operation with the other nations which incorporate parts of the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe World Heritage Site, as well as with Bieszczadi National Park in Poland, the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the two neighbouring Landscape Protected Areas – Východné Karpaty and Vihorlat; 	

		<p>8. continue the dialogue with local communities in order to build confidence and foster involvement in the diploma-holding area.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1. by 31 December 2021, submit to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe a detailed report, covering the implementation of each of the 52 actions in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan (Appendix 6.6.17 of the Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026);</p> <p>2. by 31 December 2023, initiate the revision of management and action plans for the Poloniny National Park so that they can be approved (by government resolution, if necessary) before they are due to be implemented on 1 January 2028;</p> <p>3. deploy adequate resources, both financial and human, in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome of the actions detailed in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan;</p>
	Achievements	<p>The park has managed to engage on most recommendations and is reporting on new landmarks on most of these.</p> <p>(1) All forests within NP are reclassified either as level 4 or as -5 ones. A proposal for World Heritage property boundary modification was prepared and the process toward designation of three new nature reserves was started.</p> <p>(2) Data from research and monitoring programs has been published in scientific journals.</p> <p>(3) A study on current situation in tourism development in the NP has been conducted and measurements which would be taken to stimulate tourism in this region has been proposed.</p> <p>(4) Good contacts with neighbouring protected areas have been maintained</p> <p>Two of the above-mentioned conditions are on their way to being achieved. More specifically:</p>

		<p>(1) Amendments to the legal documents (acts) have been came in force towards regulation on sanitary logging in protected areas and assessment of forest management plans.</p> <p>(2) No 2 will be initiated in a due period.</p> <p>(3) The number of employees at the Administration of the Poloniny NP decreased but after the election of the new government the status of the Poloniny NP Administration would strengthen and requests for compensations from the state budget have been approved</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>None reported the last year.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>It is not stated specifically how the visibility has improved during last year.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The Group welcome the progress in implementing several of the conditions and recommendations.</p> <p>The application of newly adopted legal amendments towards only close to nature forestry in national parks should be a priority</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>50. Bieszczady National Park, Poland</p>		<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)20</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. draw up and implement three-year action plans, within the framework of the management plan (2011-2031), and set up a monitoring mechanism based on performance and conservation indicators; 2. pursue the efforts to include the beech forests of the Bieszczady National Park on the World Natural Heritage list; aim to harmonise the management of the contiguous beech forests and upland meadows with the similar forests and meadows across the border in the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic); 3. manage and control visitor pressure; devise and implement with local stakeholders a sustainable tourism strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed in line with conservation objectives of the area; 4. strengthen co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and municipalities, with a view to forging a common vision and designing common objectives for regional planning and development, taking the biological and landscape interests, and sensitive nature of the site, into account; 5. develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services targeting children and youths; 6. continue the monitoring of the flora, fauna and vegetation units, and evaluate the management activities that are necessary for the conservation of species and the restoration of native vegetation. 		
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>There has been further development of the work on the recommendations, and most are followed, or started. Major achievements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The implementation of nature protection tasks for the years 2019-2021 is continued (2) Efforts to include the most valuable fragments of beech forests on the list of World Natural Heritage were resumed from the last year 		

		<p>(3) The Park continued to work on the improvement of marked trails and natural environment protection at tourist routes</p> <p>(4) Strengthen co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and municipalities</p> <p>(5) The reconstruction of Ecological Education Center and Natural Museum in Ustrzyki Dolne is started</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>(a) The adoption of a strategy to manage and control visitor pressure should be a priority. Some progress has been done but this must continue.</p> <p>(b) Pandemic has forced restrictions on the provision of educational facilities and the organization of certain events, and has made it difficult to manage the park</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The new Scientific Board was established for the years 2020-2025	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	It has been improved. European Diploma logo on the official website www.bdpn.pl and on the new information boards which were installed in the park.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several of the recommendations; - The Group to welcome the continuation in the implementation of the recommendations and urge the authorities to handle the visitors' pressure. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>51. Dobročský National Nature Reserve, Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)12</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. add a chapter on scientific research to the management plan defining clearly the needs of the management of the nature reserve and including a timetable to avoid surveys that are not directly connected to the further development of the area; 2. develop, according the precautionary principle, a strategy on how to deal with invasive alien species, in case of their appearance; 3. prepare a study on the effects of climate change and global warming, both on the nature reserve itself and on the regional forests, including a strategy on how to manage the surrounding forest to avoid negative impact in the nature reserve; 4. explore the possibility of moving the exhibition from the Skalickou cottage to the Forestry Museum. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. conduct a study involving all stakeholders to verify the necessity of a new forest road into the buffer zone and identify measures guaranteeing a least-intervention solution to minimise the impact of the road, provided that the construction is not carried out during the vegetation period and in the breeding season, and that the felling itself does not include heavy machinery; a natural re-cultivation of the road should be foreseen once the forestry work has been carried out; report to the Council of Europe before starting the road works; 	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The majority of recommendations are met. Major achievements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Research activities were conducted in line with the Management Plan of the National Nature Reserve. Bat species recording has been started (2) Confirmation of no presence of invasive alien species within the Park as a result of monitoring. (3) The climate change research has started (4) Construction of a wooden summer house has launched in the open-air museum to serve for the exhibition currently located in the Pred Skalickou cottage 	

		Condition: The road construction is delayed and therefore the condition will not be fulfilled until the time of its construction.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Shortcomings	<p>The local management in the reserve was realized in accordance with the Management Plan of the National Nature Reserve</p> <p>Amendments on current Acts on nature and landscape protection and on forests came in force</p> <p>The Open Day event in the Dobročský prales NNR has been organized as requested.</p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the continuation in the implementation of the recommendations; - Remind the authorities that when the suggested road is planned, the condition must be met with 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>52. Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve, Russian Federation</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.09.98 / 18.09.2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in co-operation with the Finnish authorities, remove security equipment (wire fences, electric fencing and other devices) on the border between the two countries to optimise links between the two sides of the border and to foster ecological processes; 2. implement individual training plans for field staff in the conservation/management of natural environments and in natural sciences in general so as to broaden the scope and raise the level of skills of such staff in matters which are central to their work; 3. consider the renewal of the management plan for the diploma-holding area for a period that is consistent with the duration of the renewal of the European Diploma and with a view to its updating in the context of the integration of the diploma-holding area in the Kostomuksha Nature Reserve since 2015; 4. finalise by 2022 the project for the establishment of the biosphere reserve including the diploma-holding area. Ensure the strong commitment of local authorities and socio-economic stakeholders to help the authorities of the diploma-holding area to preserve it. This should also help adapt the composition of the diploma-holding area and in particular its buffer zone and if possible extend them, so as to confirm its European significance and the preservation of the diploma-holding area; it is referred in particular to the central area of the Kalevala National Park; 5. ensure the long-term preservation of the natural aspect of the diploma-holding area, which helps to maintain its European significance by the appropriate management of fires and other natural processes as a whole; 6. develop a regional vision for the development of scientific, and/or nature-based tourism so as to optimise the potential of the diploma-holding area and of the Kostomuksha Nature Reserve as a whole; this should (1) be considered with the support of the UNESCO MAB (Man 	

		<p>and the Biosphere) programme and of the Council of Europe, (2) involve regional and local authorities and the private sector, and (3) exclude all tourist practices that are incompatible with the natural aspect of the diploma-holding area, such as artificial feeding of wildlife;</p> <p>7. continue monitoring the pumping of water in the diploma-holding area and provide regular information on its impact on the diploma-holding area in the annual reports on this area.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Some progress has been carried out towards meeting with the recommendations for the Strict Nature Reserve.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It seems that the cleaning of the territory of metal fences is done, and so there are no iron barriers on the border between Russia and Finland 2) The staff who participating in field work surveys annually gain new knowledge. 3) Work is underway to develop the territory of Kalevalsky national park 4) Annual monitoring of the state of water is conducted
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The creation of the Coordinating Council for working on the creation of a common development plan should be a priority (<i>Rec No3 reported in the 2019 report does not seem to have made any progress</i>)</p> <p><i>The reporting is somewhat scant, and should be more exhaustive, to enable a better evaluation</i></p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided</p>	

Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of most of the recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Encourage more comprehensive reporting in the future.- Some of the actions mentioned in the previous annual reports do not seem to be treated: (a) Declare what the management plan for the Metsola biosphere reserve includes, (b) what the plan for the integration of federal protected areas into the socio-economic development of the Kostomuksha urban district means for the tourism, (c) how the approved strategy of tourism development in the territory of Kalevalsky national park is expected to affect the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve
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Name of the awarded area	53. Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve, Russian Federation	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensure that the necessary funding for the diploma-holding area is provided for in the federal budget and obtain greater financial support from the Kursk regional authorities; <p>In 2020, funding was received for a project to survey the territory for the construction of the Concentrate Enrichment Corpus of the Mikhailovsky Mining and Processing Integrated Works to identify rare and endangered plant and animal species listed in the Red Books of the Russian Federation and the Kursk Oblast in the amount of 50 000 RUB. There was no financing from the regional authorities of Kursk Oblast</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. draft and implement a programme to update and renovate the museum; <p>In 2019 the repair of the Museum of Nature of the Reserve was completed from the financial resources allocated by the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. ensure that the current project for the extension of the biosphere reserve is completed as soon as possible and link it by 2022 to a management plan for the buffer and transitional zones in particular, thereby ensuring the European significance of the diploma-holding area and maintaining its integrity; <p>A whole set of documents for establishing a biosphere range “Stepnoy” was sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation in 2016. However, in connection with the organizational circumstances (personnel movements and formation of new department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology) creating of biosphere range was suspended. At the present time in light of different reasons the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology is inclined to the option of establishing a new site of the Reserve, rather than the biosphere range. To initiate its creation, it is necessary to submit to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia the borders of the proposed protected areas in a new format. The Reserve was supposed to receive a new format of borders and submit it to the Russian Ministry</p>	

		<p>of Natural Resources by the end of this year, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lack of funding it is likely to postpone this work to the next year.</p> <p>4. continue and strengthen the international co-operation efforts of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve by means of projects that meet the major interests of steppe environments in this part of Europe and which contribute to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity targets.</p> <p>Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve is working to develop international cooperation in order to preserve the steppe environments. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no foreign experts visited the reserve in 2020.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. clarify by 2020 the status of the three units withdrawn from the management of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve (Janskoy, Lycie Gory and Stinky Izgoria) in 1990 and entrusted since then to the Belogorye Strict Nature Reserve; maintain, if possible, these three units within the diploma-holding area given their contribution to its European significance;</p> <p>At the present time the three sites (Yamskoy, Lysyye Gory, St'enki Izgoria) belong to the State Nature Reserve «Belogorye» and the status of these three units has not been changed in 2020. The administration of Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve planned to offer to the Administration of the Reserve «Belogorye» to conclude an agreement about maintaining the status of these sites as the holders of the European Diploma for Protected Areas, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conclusion of the contract was postponed until the next year.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The Administration of Kursk Oblast tried to challenge in court the cadastral registration of the buffer zone of the Reserve, however the court left the decision unchanged. The Investigating Committee of Kursk Oblast opened a criminal case in relation to unidentified persons of Administration of Kursk Oblast upon illegal issuance of building permits for individual dwellings in the buffer zone of the Reserve.</p> <p>The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in November 2019 confirmed the legitimacy of the Regulation on the buffer</p>

		<p>zone of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve, which was adopted in 1988.</p> <p>At the present time, the Administration of the Kursk Oblast is working with the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources to conclude the so-called "Road Map" agreed with the Administration of the Tsentralno–Chernozemny Reserve to overcome the current situation.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Considering the current situation the European Diploma drew the attention of local media and law-enforcement authorities to the problems of the reserve.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information provided.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the start in the implementation of most of the recommendations;</p> <p>It urges the managing authorities to ensure the integrity of the buffer zone by all legal means;</p> <p>It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>54. De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, Netherlands</p>	<p>Date of the award/ renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>09.09.1999 / 09.09.2019</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the annual reports must include a specific paragraph on all developments in relation with Lelystad regional airport; 2) the authorities of the surrounding municipalities and the province must be persuaded to decrease external impacts on the reserve by reviewing urbanisation and zoning plans where appropriate; 3) the optimal functioning of the two visitor’s centres (Almere and Lelystad) should be ensured by increasing the budget for personnel, particularly with regard to the recruitment of communication experts; 4) the further integration of adjacent green areas such as Hollandse Hout into the reserve management should be completed; priority should be given to rebuilding the railway along a new route to the south of this zone and opening a new railway station at Lelystad-Zuid; 5) the visual impact of the urbanisation in Almere should be further minimised with the aim of a better gradual integration of the city into the open landscape by fully respecting the border and buffer zones of the reserve and by still further lowering the agreed building heights and volumes; 6) the recommendations of the ICMO (International Committee on the management of large herbivores in the De Oostvaardersplassen) report related to the management of the reserve and the further extension of the reserve should be implemented by building a corridor to Horsterwold; all efforts should be concentrated on establishing the De Oostvaarderswold as a multifunctional corridor with combined importance for nature conservation, recreation and water management; the existing windfarms along the future Oostvaarderswold corridor should be reviewed to reduce the risks of bird collisions and make it appear as “wild” as possible; new developments, infrastructures and investments in the future corridor zone other than those related to its specific ecological functions should be avoided; future ecological 	

		interconnection potential should be maximised by constructing wildlife crossings and tunnels where necessary.
	Conditions	<p>1) With regard to new information received concerning the development of the Lelystad regional airport, despite the condition attached to the award in 1999, any development of the airport must not have any negative impact on the reserve; this is to be confirmed once the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure, including public consultation, has been finalised, and this should examine in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all alternative locations with least disturbing effects on the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and its surroundings; - all flight routes and heights and their risk of disturbing the fauna making use of the reserve and its surroundings as well as the risk of collision of birds with airplanes;
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>55. Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area, Czech Republic</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reassess and guarantee the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan; 2) Arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management that promotes the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area through close co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the departments active in the field (agriculture, forestry and Bílé Karpaty departments) as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved; 3) Eliminate non-indigenous species, namely fallow deer, from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas and further develop consultation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment in order to control big game populations; 4) Continue the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of existing hardwood forests; 5) The European Diploma should be more visibly associated with the image of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (for example, in the information centres, in publications and on the website). 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Keep at least the existing access to the Radejov hunting reserve for the visitors and decrease the population size of the non-indigenous game species, such as fallow deer, control the pressure exerted by game so that the forest may regenerate, draw up a hunting plan in conjunction with the administration of the protected area, and finally refrain from building any new facilities (e.g. hunting lodge); 2) Amend agri-environmental funding rules in accordance with the protected area's management plan in order to secure financing of management needed to attain objectives set. 	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The majority of recommendations are met. Major achievements include:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current funding regimes secure financing of management needed to attain conservation objectives set. - Current forest management reverts to natural regeneration of broadleaved trees. <p>Conditions:</p> <p>Visitors have access to the Radejov hunting reserve based on the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court from 2018.</p> <p>The negotiations with the Radejov hunting preserve managers on possible measures to significantly reduce the non-native game species population sizes has been continuing in 2020</p>	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Guidelines for Grassland Management in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA were published.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The ED award is presented in some NCA CR's web pages</p> <p>In <i>Ochrana přírody/Nature Conservation Journal</i>, there was an article, inter alia informing on renewal of the ED to the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. PLA.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and conditions; - Request the continuous reassessment and secure of the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan; - Request the authorities to strengthen the co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved to arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management as well as to eliminate non-indigenous species; - Request the authorities to continue the current forestry policy; - The negotiations with Radejov hunting reserve manager to result to minimize the non-native game species numbers to facilitate forest regeneration should be continued 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>56. Karlstejn National Nature Reserve, Czech Republic</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)5</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) continue the restoration of non-forested areas of forest steppes and xerophilous calcareous grasslands through appropriate management; make funding available to conclude contractual agreements with the goatherds and/or shepherds in order to guarantee grazing, and thereby maintenance, in the long term; 2) continue the restoration of the broad-leaved forests by gradually eliminating conifer plantations; in the interests of allowing natural regeneration, avoid reintroducing non-native game species such as mouflon or fallow deer; 3) make it compulsory to draw up land-use plans (spatial development) and explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation; also stimulate the establishment of regular consultation procedures with relevant local and regional authorities, scientists and NGOs; 4) improve signposting, notably by translating the texts into English, and possibly into German, and by displaying the European Diploma logo on the signs; 5) stimulate the development of high quality visitors' centres and organise environmental education for the wider public; encourage local authorities to disseminate information on the merits of the nature reserve and its position in Europe in appropriate places (such as railway stations, camping sites, municipal halls, museums, etc.); 6) ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the reserve's staff, including administration, research, surveillance, education and training, as well as habitat management. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>- Grazing management on dry calcareous grasslands and forest steppe localities continued on similar area compared to previous years.</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No non-native game species has been introduced. - Removal of non-native conifer tree species continued - Land-use plans has been drawn for all communities. - Cooperation with relevant local and regional authorities and scientists has been established. - The project of a visitor centre received construction permission and the preparation of construction ground started in 2020 - The budget for administration including the budget for active management of target species and habitats was secured.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazing management and shrub and tree removal are not guaranteed since funding is only provided on a yearly basis. - The special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation has not reinforced
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>In 2020 completely new educational trail has been created. Three starting panels from this trail bear European Diploma logo and also QR code enabling English version.</p> <p>Additional three new educational panels concerning wetlands and bats bearing European Diploma logo have been erected in 2020.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations; - Negotiations to decrease number or even eliminate moufflon from the hunting district should be continued. - Request the authorities to explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>57. Podyji National Park, Czech Republic</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.06.2000 / 21.06.2020</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 2) secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019; 3) control the development of leisure activities, and in particular avoid the use of the River Dyje for water sports; 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; 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; 6) pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones; 7) grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter; 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. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Most recommendations are being carried out. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved handling regulations ensure minimum residual flow rate. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the tasks of the 2012-2020 management plan have been completed. • The next period management plan has been prepared and it should be approved in the first quarter of 2021. • The protection rules of the river Dyje remains unchanged (no water sports outside inhabited areas). • Research initiative on the fish stock levels, the extent to which they are affected by sporting fishing, as well as the potential sport fishing risks for terrestrial biota has extended until end of 2021. • In buffer zones of the National Park, efforts to diversify the structure of the landscape have been done in cooperation with civic associations. • Preliminary research results on river permeability (include the fish research) showed that the weirs are not an absolute barrier for fish as the migration is taking place to a certain extent there.
	Shortcomings	Some tasks of the management plan 2012-2019 have been partially fulfilled.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations; - Request the authorities to monitor the water level; - Request the authorities to continue evaluate the tasks whose objectives were not fully met in the previous management plan (2012-2019). - Request the authorities to evaluate the implementation of the management plan that will be adopted in the 1st quarter of 2021. - Request the authorities to continue to evaluate the results of the research on fish stock levels and the effects of fishing in core zones of the National Park and to formulate recommendations for fishing regimes. - Request the authorities to analyze and evaluate the final results of the project regarding influence of the artificial barriers on the ecosystem of the Dyje River, and to formulate recommendations. 	

Name of the awarded area	58. Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romania	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)17</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned (Moldova, Romania and Ukraine) should be continued and strengthened and the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area should be considered in the framework of the trilateral agreement signed by the three countries concerned, under the auspices of the Council of Europe; 2) the possibility of reactivating the co-operation between other European Diploma sites which are deltas (Camargue National Reserve (France) and Doñana National Park (Spain)) should be explored; 3) the monitoring of the ecological services and of the socio-economic activities carried out on the reserve (fishing, hunting, shipping, agriculture, forestry, logging, tourism) should be strengthened in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystems and the value of the reserve; special attention should be paid to the shipping activities (movement of boats and speeding) as well as to illegal fishing and hunting. 4) potential external threats should be continually monitored, especially the likely adverse transboundary impact on the ecosystem of the whole delta of the works related to the Bystroe canal in the Ukrainian sector; 5) the usefulness of banning hunting, or of managing hunting on a demonstrably sustainable basis, on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, especially in the most sensitive areas, should be studied; 6) a system for better management of natural fisheries resources should be explored for the benefit of the local people, in order to reduce the categories and number of intermediary actors/stakeholders; the fish resources should be managed by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority; 	

		<p>7) information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be made readily available to the public;</p> <p>8) the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private operators in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment) and assist with information on organising and developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve, such as ecotourism, bird watching and handicrafts;</p> <p>9) the restoration programme of the existing buildings should be continued, using traditional materials and natural local products; the cultural value of the reserve, especially the different ethnic roots of the populations, should be enhanced with the engineering and technical input of specialised institutes;</p> <p>10) an external review and assessment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve’s Conservation Strategy (for example, priorities, management objectives, operational objectives and financial requirement) should be organised in 2010, ten years after its declaration, with the support of international expertise;</p> <p>11) the necessary funding should be provided in order to improve the capacities/performance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority; a feasibility study on the creation of a financial mechanism should be undertaken so that all commercial activities and uses (not only tourist activities) contribute to the financing of the reserve;</p> <p>12) the adoption of the legal framework (master plan, Law on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Law on the Protected Areas) should be accelerated;</p> <p>13) noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is in operation, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to analyse carefully the requests for new wind farms in the neighbourhood of the reserve.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Most recommendations are fulfilled. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Romanian Parliament initiated the discussions for the establishment of a trilateral biosphere reserve between the three countries, Danube Delta – Lower Prut.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cooperation with the Camargue National Reserve is continuing. - Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority and Public Institution “Nature Park Kopacki rit”, Croatia, signed a Cooperation Agreement in the field of nature protection and future development of both protected areas - It was approved the elaboration of a scientific study on the assessment of hunting resources in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR), for the numerical assessment and to establish the status of health and the delimitation of population areas for the main species of wild animals in the DDBR - Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority supports local communities in accessing the funds. - The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority ensures that the objectives of the Building Regulation in the Reserve are followed.
	Shortcomings	The covid19 pandemic cancelled some plans and activities or postponed them for the next year.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations; - Request the authorities to explore the cooperation with Doñana National Park (Spain) in line with the Camargue National Reserve; - Request for the resource acquisition to the elaboration a study regarding the tourist support capacity of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. - Request the authorities to improve its legal framework and the strategies for the conservation of the Danube Delta’s biodiversity and ecosystems (Rec 10); - Request the authorities to continue to carefully monitor the development of wind farms in the reserve’s neighborhood areas. 	

Name of the awarded area	59. Thayatal National Park, Austria	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)21</p>	<p>1. set the minimum flow in the river Thaya/Dyje at as large a level as possible; the present minimum levels of 2.8 m³/sec (summer) and 3.3 m³/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;</p> <p>The long-term agreement of minimum flows of 2.8 m³/sec (summer) and 3.3 m³/s (winter) from the year 2016 with the operator of the Vranov Dam is still valid. The hydrological situation in 2020 allowed generally higher flow rates almost throughout the entire year.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The research and monitoring of the dead wood in the Thaya river is being studied in the current INTERREG-Project “Dyje 2020/Thaya 2020”, which was prolonged until December 2021. First results indicate a definite utilization of deadwood of the local fish population. The research will be completed in 2021.</p> <p>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;</p>	

		<p>With the Vranov Dam being almost complete full throughout the entire year, strong surges occurred multiple times after heavy rainfall. Generally, the flow rates were higher in 2020, resulting that sediments hindering the natural reproduction of the local fish population were on a large scale washed out.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>As part of the INTERREG-Project “Dyje2020/Thaya2020” the monitoring of fish stocks was prolonged with the project extension till the end of 2021. Multiple fish were equipped with a transmitter, providing the monitoring with data about the behavior of the local fish population in the National Park section of the river Thaya.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>As part of the INTERREG-Project “Dyje2020/Thaya2020” a study carried out by a team of experts from Austria and the Czech Republic together on the influence of fishing and activities related to fishing on the disturbance on protected species from the activities related to fishing is going on. This study aims to provide the authorities with scientific data to argue new fishery regulations in the new management plan and is expected to be completed in 2021.</p> <p>6. evaluate the existing agreement on co-operation between the Podyjí and Thaya National Parks in view of a possible twinning agreement.</p> <p>Both National Parks are working together on new management plans. Since legislative requirements</p>
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		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.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	The implementation of all the recommendation is on track. In particular the cooperation between the authorities of the Podyjí and Thayatal National Parks which result in streamlined management plans and the setting of common objectives.
	Shortcomings	Strong surges occurred multiple times throughout the year.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>-The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;</p> <p>-Collaboration with Podyji NP seems healthy, and to be progressing;</p> <p>-Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	60. Matsalu National Park, Estonia		Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)5</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. continue the co-operation with the local farmers and other stakeholders to improve the management and well-being of the grassland communities of the national park. Liaise with both farmers and others in relation to the use of the cut hay; <p>Several trainings for farmers and local communities of the area were organised 1) Management of seminatural grasslands, 2) Working with horses and horse work equipment, 3) Horse health 4) Hay making with scythe.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. envisage the setting-up of a scientific advisory group in order to achieve the full potential of the national park for scientific research and education. The group would provide strategic advice and, upon request, review the quality of research proposals and scientific results, and provide other scientific advice; <p>Several scientific research projects took place Preliminary solutions for Kasari river delta spawning areas of fish; Managing coastal grasslands for endangered wader species can give positive results only when expanding the area of open landscape; The Impact of COVID-19 on the Management of European Protected Areas and Policy Implications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. despite the hunting restrictions within the national park, strengthen co-operation with hunters for the management and control of some invasive species; <p>The cooperation with hunters for the controle of invasive predators has continued.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. set up a warning system to detect, at an early stage, and enable appropriate action to be taken against alien, invasive species which could threaten the biodiversity of the national park; <p>Trap cameras were installed in order to monitor predators. A monitoring programme of mammal's footprints in order to detect invasive alien mammals was initiated. A web platform to monitor the eradication of giant hogweed <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> was created. There are some web-cameras in the nature to monitor the predators.</p>		

		<p>5. prepare a climate change adaptation plan for the national park by 2024;</p> <p>A project application for research and modelling of climate change impacts on Matsalu area has been prepared.</p> <p>6. ensure that printed guides to the hiking trails and routes in Estonian and translations into the major European languages are available for national and international visitors and assess the opportunity and feasibility of an increase in the number of trails.</p> <p>An application for visitor infrastructure was created in 3 languages: Estonian, English and Russian. Information The website is available in 3 languages. Signs are translated into English.</p>
	Conditions	<p>Ensure that the management plan for 2015 to 2024 is implemented and appropriately funded and revised before the end of the plan's period in 2024.</p> <p>The nature conservation activities which were planned until 2020 in the management plan are fulfilled almost to 85%.</p>
	Achievements	<p>The steps towards monitoring and eradication of IAS.</p> <p>The process of merging the Environmental Board and Environmental Inspection is completed.</p> <p>The translation of information material into other languages.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	A reviewing process of protection rules, regulation and borders for the Matsalu National Park has started in 2020 with public hearings.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided but the European Diploma mentioned (visit logo) on the home page of the National Park.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts. - Encourage the authorities to step up their efforts in designing the climate change adaptation plan. - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>61. Tihany Peninsula, Hungary</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)15</p>	<p>1. by 2020, prepare an overarching management document integrating the relevant planning instruments currently applicable to the site; define management objectives for the five main zones;</p> <p>The draft of the new management plan for the European Diploma holding area was prepared by an expert group and shared with the Ministry of Agriculture for approval. The zoning of the management plan is in line with the zoning of the national park.</p> <p>2. together with the municipal authorities, continue to enforce the ban on new buildings on the site;</p> <p>The National Park Directorate has been able to reinforce the ban on new buildings on the site with the help of the municipality and other state authorities.</p> <p>3. continue to manage and control visitor pressure; together with the municipal authorities take measures to moderate the motorised traffic in the peninsula;</p> <p>In 2020, mainly due to the Covid epidemic a strong growth in tourism, especially walking tourism was noticed. A complete renovation of the previously built study trails in the area will take place in 2021 financed by Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme. Plans for the information board system and the planning of the individual equipment are in progress. A new study trail will be built around the Inner Lake, and there will also be important improvements in the garden of the Lavender House Visitor Center to keep visitors close to the village, reducing the pressure on the other parts of the peninsula. Cycling tourism has also noticeably intensified. Cycling paths were designated and the route-system was shared with several cycling organisations.</p>	

		<p>4. keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas (open meadows, meadows with hedges and bushes, lavender fields with oaks and almonds);</p> <p>Mechanical and manual activities carried out by the national park maintained the current state of play. The development of the machine park for area management is in progress. A complete rebuilding of our sheepfold on Csúcs hill financed by Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme has been done.</p> <p>5. encourage farming and wine-growing practices consistent with the conservation of natural and landscape assets and establish a functional buffer zone between the vineyards and the wetland zone;</p> <p>The 17-hectare vineyard area on the northern side of Lake Külső, which was placed under the management of the BfNPD in 2018, plays an important role in maintaining the nature values of the lake. In the part of the area further away from the lake, there will still be a vineyard on about 5 hectares, but the other parts will be treated as grasslands, ensuring the development of the natural zonation of the lake shore.</p> <p>6. pursue the policy of acquisition of private land;</p> <p>Because of the very high land prices on Tihany peninsula the National Park Directorate has not been able to buy new land here this year.</p> <p>7. take the necessary steps to improve the water quality of the Belső Lake;</p> <p>A project financed by a state-tender was started to improve water quality and restore the natural state of the lake. A shallow settling lake to filtrate the rainwater coming from the village has been established.</p> <p>A multi-functional amphibian machine and tools have been bought to work as an aquatic weed cutter and vegetation harvester. Thanks to the machine about 40 tons of seaweed from the Külső Lake were reallocated to the Belső Lake to accelerate the establishment of macrovegetation and thus begin to improve water quality.</p>
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		<p>8. continue to control invasive species such as <i>Ailanthus</i>;</p> <p>The achieved results have been maintained by the NP.</p> <p>A detailed survey was carried out on the spread of invasive non-native species. The NP participates in the Life4Oakforests project, which was started in 2017, as part of which will again be a large scale intervention on the peninsula to reduce invasive species. This year, about 150 acacia trunks were injected with herbicide, the affected area is about 5 hectares. There has also been mechanical extermination of invasive species, especially young <i>Ailanthus</i> trees.</p> <p>9. pursue the co-ordinated management with nearby protected areas such as the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Külső and Felső marshes.</p> <p>No significant changes have occurred since the last report. The National Park has managed the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and Lake Külső and Felső marches with the same method as other parts of the protected area.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	A complete renovation of the previously built study trails in the area will take place in 2021
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It requests more information on the overarching management document of Recommendation 1, and of possible linkages with the Natura 2000 Management Plan;- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.
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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>62. Triglav National Park, Slovenia</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>05.05.2004 / 05.05.2029</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)3</p>	<p>1. strengthen the inter-ministerial co-ordination regarding the management of the Triglav National Park;</p> <p>Different ministries and local communities have an important role in the implementation of management tasks and activities. As leading 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 programmes, staffing and financial plans. Most of the expert work has been done in the field of implementing measures for sustainable traffic mobility, preparation of the building typology and tenders by the agricultural sector to co-finance individual environmental measures. In general, the realisation of sectors is lagging behind the planned indicators. The Government or competent ministry should strengthen the coordination of 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.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 activities;</p> <p>2. pursue the efforts aimed at transforming the zoning towards the first zone (wilderness) and keep the third zone for sustainable use, provided that the central part of the national park does not decrease in size;</p> <p>TNP does not have an active role in the denationalisation process but collaborates closely with the Ministry and other institutions to follow the process and contribute to decision-making. 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 on behalf of the state of Slovenia. In this year, a pre-emption right was exercised on 15 ha of land. Since available funds dedicated specifically for land acquisition are quite limited, the TNP Public Authority has been seeking for</p>	

		<p>other options for purchasing privately owned forests and grasslands.</p> <p>3. 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 construction and renovation works;</p> <p>Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zones, 3rd is peripheral zone. There were no changes in zonation in 2020.</p> <p>4. continue to work on solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human use;</p> <p>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 the municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora have been prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design. TNP Public Institution is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the NP. In 2020 a manual about building typology of Bohinj alpine pastures was prepared, edited and published.</p> <p>5. develop a funding mechanism to support local development projects of the national park and municipalities within the biosphere reserve;</p> <p>By the end of 2019, 16 of 36 mountain huts had wastewater treatment plants. Slovenian Alpine Association and park staff regularly monitor the treated wastewater. A new Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater was passed, underlining that the proper treatment and discharge of wastewater should be settled by the end of 2021. 4 of 6 TNP-owned mountain huts have wastewater treatment plants. The project Vrh Julijcev also deals with wastewater treatment and finding solutions to minimize the impact of mountain huts and visitation on water quality of high-altitude lakes.</p>
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		<p>6. 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;</p> <p>The Government adopted a decree on standards and criteria for supporting and co-financing of projects, investments and implementation of activities in the Triglav National Park. Annual financial resources of one million Euros, will be provided by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. On the basis of the Decree and the TNP action plan projects of park local communities in the area of the national park will be co-financed from the state budget. 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 insufficient. In addition to the coordination of the biosphere reserve, most of the work focused on the network of elementary schools in the Julian Alps area, development of sustainable tourism, cooperation with the local population and joint activities in all four biosphere areas of Slovenia.</p> <p>7. strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificially regenerated spruce forests to climax mixed forests and increase the area of protected forests; apply appropriate mitigation measures specifically adapted to the national park status after natural disasters;</p> <p>The bear, lynx and wolf are regularly observed. Bear-human conflicts are decreasing (although one conflict bear was removed) but wolf-human conflicts are rising. The question of proper effective management of large carnivores will become a priority issue in the next years. TNP Public Institution collaborates closely with competent institutions, and issues preventative tools to farmers. Discussions with farmers, and awareness-raising were scheduled in 2020 to increase social acceptance of these animals but had to postponed because of the pandemic.</p> <p>8. in liaison with relevant partners, implement the tourism strategy and continue developing practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation,</p>
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		<p>the development of new technologies and new forms of tourism, especially in seasonal hot-spot areas;</p> <p>The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration. However, some conifer forests in TNP (e.g. high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are important from a nature conservation point of view (e.g. glacial relics such as Western Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) presenting an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in TNP. Due to bark beetle's infestation, intensive interventions are required in order to limit further spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands. The TNP Public Institution is in regular contact with relevant stakeholders to agree on these interventions. In 2019, the project VrH Julijcev was approved and some actions focus on the improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka plateau by planting different broadleaved trees.</p> <p>9. prevent the extension of installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as ski jumping; the renovation and upgrading of existing installations should be accepted only if the protection of nature and the landscape are duly taken into account; continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national park, with special attention to the development of new sports (electric biking, for example), and ensure that they remain compatible with conservation objectives;</p> <p>A detailed management plan highlights problems related to traffic and transportation. Several Sustainable Mobility Promotion Days were organised such as 8 days of free P+R system during August weekends. The Hop-on hop-off bus also continued to operate this summer in several municipalities. Along with Ministry and municipality representatives, work continues to find solutions to cope with traffic on the Vršič road. Sustainable mobility is promoted in publications for visitors. A 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, based on reducing speed and traffic monitoring. At the same time more frequent bus-schedules were introduced throughout high-summer and –winter season. Two new speed control monitors were installed in Rudno polje.</p>
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		<p>10. encourage the best possible integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings while respecting the traditional local style; support the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices and their related infrastructure (shepherds, hay racks, mountain shelters for animals, etc.); further develop the park or regional branding system for goods and services;</p> <p>According to the Triglav NP 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. Detailed maps show where cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, paragliding and mountain biking is allowed. In 2020, the preparation of an action plan for the management of sports and recreational activities was merged into a joint action plan for directing visits to the area of the national park.</p> <p>11. promote capacity building and specialisation among permanent park rangers and hire more seasonal rangers during the peak season; use the European Diploma logo more regularly on publications and appropriate infrastructure and promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas more actively in general.</p> <p>The TNP Authority continues 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 the Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora municipalities have been prepared. The Public institute TNP is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park. In 2020 a manual Typology of Alpine pasture of Bohinj was published and the work on the brand for local products – ‘Quality Mark’ continued and five new Quality Mark holders were selected.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Permanent park rangers attend different training programmes every year. In 2020 park rangers participated in Life Safety and Fire Protection Fundamentals Training and attended a</p>
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		lecture on negative effects of exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation at higher altitudes. During the high season no seasonal rangers were hired, because no one applied for the tender.
	Conditions	<p>1. national authorities must 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.</p> <p>For the implementation of the annual programme of the TNP Public Institution, 2.790.810 € was planned in 2020. Most of the funds (part of 77,2 %), 2.164.535 € were provided from the state budget. Other funds (626.275 €) are provided from international projects (350.425 €), so-called non-public sources (88.650 €) and commercial activities (187.200 €). The financing follows the dynamics set out in the TNP Management Plan from 2016 and the items of adopted state budget. Funds (partly raised by the rebalancing in November 2020) are sufficient to cover most of the planned tasks of the TNP Management Plan. However, some further efforts should be dedicated to the budget to become more operational as its availability is strictly related to the adoption of the TNP annual programme of work. For this reason, some measures which should be implemented in winter or early spring could not be financially supported.</p>
	Achievements	VrH Julijcev - Improving the condition of species and habitat types in the Triglav National Park has officially started in 2019. LIFE Natura Viva: TNP experts participate in inventory of dry stone walls and other dry stone constructions. A symposium Dry stone wall construction in the Alpine space was held in TNP centre Bohinj.
	Shortcomings	The budget of TNP should become more operational to ensure the implementation of the annual programme of work.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	TNP Youtube channel: this year more than 20 new videos on different topics were uploaded.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Diploma logo is used on all important park publications. The Diploma was mentioned durin all important events.	

Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.
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Name of the awarded area	63. Naardermeer Nature Reserve, Netherlands	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2029
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)12</p>	<p>1) following the withdrawal of the plans for the A6-A9 motorway connection that required the construction of a new stretch of road north-west of the nature reserve, monitor the possible impact on the diploma-holding area and its surrounding environment of the alternative selected route using the existing A1 and A9 highways;</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>2) finalise the Natura 2000 management plan and the water management plan including the water level agreement for the Naardermeer Nature Reserve by 2020; if necessary, plan and implement additional management lines to ensure the long-term conservation of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve within the context and requirements of the European Diploma;</p> <p>The finalisation of the Natura 2000 Management Plan Naardermeer is reaching its final stage. If no appeals are made within the legal procedure, the Natura 2000 Management Plan will be effective from November 2020. The Water Management Plan including the Naardermeer Water Level Agreement is also in its final stage and is due to be effective within approximately 6 months. Both plans are vital to ensure the long-term conservation of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve. Natuurmonumenten, Waternet and the Province of Noord-Holland participated in developing a new development plan to raise the water levels outside the Naardermeer core area. This plan, called development plan “de Schil” (Shell) benefits the growth of reedbeds and its spatial distribution and maintains the amount of water in the Naardermeer for a longer period each year, preventing the water level becoming too low. The development plan is integrated in the Natura 2000 Management Plan for the Naardermeer.</p>	

		<p>3) by 2020, draw up a development plan for the recently acquired lands within the buffer zone of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve – the Hilversumse Bovenmeent (De Jong grounds) – in order to ensure the full integration of this area into the reserve buffer zone by 2024;</p> <p>A development plan for the De Jong grounds has been made as part of the total development plan for the Naardermeer Nature Reserve buffer zone, the so-called “De Schil”. According to the latest schedule, nature restoration at these grounds will be realised in 2022 and will be fully integrated in the buffer zone.</p> <p>4) before 2029, secure the necessary funding to acquire the remaining areas within the buffer zone which are not yet the property of the Natuurmonumenten organisation. Alternatively, if the current administrative procedures do not allow the necessary land acquisition, ensure that the management of these areas is carried out in collaboration with the authorities responsible for the diploma-holding area;</p> <p>Although it was not yet possible for Natuurmonumenten to acquire all the missing lands and this way completing the Naardermeer Recovery Plan, it was possible to buy a large property in the south-western part of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve, the so-called De Jong grounds. The other missing properties, about 20ha in the Overscheense Polder, are mainly in agricultural use. These properties are part of the development plan “De Schil” as mentioned above at Recommendation 2 and 3. The province of Noord-Holland has taken initiative to obtain these last properties and has started negotiations with the owners. After realizing the development plan the Naardermeer core area will be almost totally surrounded by nature restoration areas in 2025/2026</p> <p>5) within the continued monitoring of Bovenste Blik Lake, integrate further research aiming to identify the main reasons for the decreasing water quality in this lake; define and implement appropriate management measures to prevent further water contamination; improve and keep the water quality</p>
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		<p>in this lake at the same levels currently observed in the remaining lakes of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve;</p> <p>After study we found out there were two reasons for the high level of phosphate in the Bovenste Blik. First reason was a leaking dam between former agricultural grounds and the Bovenste Blik, which resulted in phosphate rich water moving towards the Bovenste Blik. This leakage has been repaired this year. Second reason was phosphate rich sludge on the bottom of the Bovenste Blik.. To create more suitable habitat for Chara vegetations and to decrease the amount of phosphate-rich sludge a large dredging project has started this fall. Without delay this project will end in 2022.</p> <p>6) initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien plant species occurring in the reserve and prepare a strategic plan for their mechanical or manual control;</p> <p>A strategic plan how to deal with invasive species has been prepared in 2018. Measures as mentioned in this plan have been carried out by volunteers and Natuurmonumenten. It's a living plan: if new invasive species occur they will be recorded in the plan, including the needed measures. For instance, this year we found Floating Pennyworth Hydrocotyle ranunculoides, a very aggressive water plant from Northern America, and removed all the plants the same day, followed by a monthly survey to check for any overseen or new plants.</p> <p>7) strengthen the monitoring programmes and the conservation measures to guarantee the presence of naturally occurring species newly appeared in the diploma area.</p> <p>In 2020 a full breeding bird monitoring programme and dragonfly monitoring programme have been carried out. On-going monitoring projects contain the camera trap research for Otters and other mammals.</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Conditions</p>	<p>1) preserve the integrity of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve and avoid, through regional planning processes, further habitat fragmentation within the reserve and in the surrounding landscape; increase the ecological connectivity both within the reserve and between the Naardermeer Nature Reserve and the surrounding natural areas.</p> <p>The integrity of the Naardermeer Nature reserve has been preserved and improved the last year. Some important measures were implemented aiming at reducing the barrier effect caused by the major road A1 that delimits the Reserve towards the Natura 2000-areas Markermeer & IJmeer and Gooimeer & Eemmeer Zuidoever. It's not only about crossing the A1: also the surroundings of the eco-tunnels, the so-called ecological corridors, are planned to be optimized in the near future. Next to that, the railroad has been provided with no less than 9 eco-tunnels in 2019. First results are already known: camera footage shows the crossing of Grass Snake, Bagder, Pine Marten, Weasel and a variety of mice. The largest passage is even used by Roe Deer, the largest animal of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Achievements</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<p>A separate count of Great Cormorant nests and Purple Heron nests have been carried out. Some interesting facts: the Purple Heron colony peaked at 105 nests, which is the highest number of nests since 1978. The dragonfly monitoring revealed huge numbers of Scarce Darters, which is a rather rare species in the Netherlands and typical for lowland marshes. A small number of fresh Lilypad Whiteface, a very rare species of dragonfly which has reproduced for the 2nd year in a row in the Naardermeer after its first appearance in 2018.</p>	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	

Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo;
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Name of the awarded area	64. Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore e Massaciuccoli, Italy	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	15.06.2005 / 15.06.2020
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)3</p>	<p>1. care should be taken to ensure that new activities or developments do not harm either the natural or landscape heritage;</p> <p>A 2.5 km railway construction project of the American Military in Camp Darby Base in the Natura 2000 Site began in January 2019. This project had been submitted to the Park for Impact Assessment. Despite the negative impact, but based on security grounds, the project went ahead, with certain mitigation and compensation measures such as reforestation, creation of wetlands. However in April 2020 the Park noted that the compensation measures were not completed. The Park therefore requested the suspension of construction work and imposed on the Base to bring the compensation measures (wetlands and reforestation) to completion before the end of October 2020, which was finally done and verified on the spot in early November 2020.</p> <p>2. the deer- and boar-culling measures should be continued;</p> <p>These measures continue, and in 2020 2 233 deer (much more than 2019) were caught which is close to the objective of 2 500. 280 boars (less than 2019) were caught which is far from the objective of 450/500.</p> <p>3. consideration should be given to nature conservation in water management, especially when implementing hydrological measures;</p> <p>The 75 projects of the Territorial Integrated Project Plain of Pisa: from Piedmont to the sea were approved between 2019 and 2020. Some of between them started in 2019. The projects aim to restore hedges, small ponds and wetlands, etc.</p>	

		<p>4. more active consideration should be given to natural assets in the management of areas outside the nature reserves, especially in forest and agricultural areas;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>5. the implementation of measures to minimise the negative impact of risks to the Massaciuccoli Lake, especially from pollution caused by agriculture, should be speeded up and further efforts made to improve the quality of the lake’s water;</p> <p>Extension (from 15 to 40 ha) of a lagoon on the shores of the Lake.</p> <p>6. the measures to better protect coastal dunes and to raise awareness of their importance;</p> <p>Restoration of access routes to the sea. During the spring-early summer thanks to access restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, two pairs of <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> had nested on the beach. For the first year, following a strong information campaign, both the municipal administrations and the seaside companies provided assistance to delimit the nesting areas in order to protect them from the passage of tourists who once again “invaded” the beaches in May / June. The Nature Protection Association helped in providing correct information on the site.</p> <p>7. the efforts to combat invasive exotic species should be continued;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>8. use should be made of every opportunity to improve wildlife crossing corridors under or over roads and railways;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p>
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		<p>9. noise pollution in recreation areas should be minimised;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>10. the process of relocating craft activities to the area around Massaciuccoli Lake should be completed.</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<p>Online public consultations on the new Integrated Park Plan (Management Plan for the protected area which also includes the Natura 2000 site Management Plans).</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meetings took place on an internet platform, with strong public participation. A first meeting on this subject took place with the Scientific Council of the park.</p>	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	<p>No information provided.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing several recommendations; - Concerning the railway project of the American Military, it urges the Park to closely monitor the works and ensure the mitigation measures are thoroughly implemented; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	65. Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 18.03.2021
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3</p>	<p>1) Ensure that funding is primarily provided by the state, regions and provinces, and adequately integrates other sources of funding;</p> <p>The resources of the Park are sufficient to cover management costs and therefore to maintain a high conservation level of the GPNP. Most of the personnel expenses are due to the costs of the Park rangers, who now represent over 57% of the Park staff. Park rangers are mainly employed in land protection. However, some active conservation actions and important works for restoring the integrity of some habitats cannot be financed only with state contributions. To carry out these actions GPNP mainly used European funds.</p> <p>2) provide the national park with adequate staff at executive level to enable the director to deal with essential tasks, especially strategic issues;</p> <p>The staff level has fallen slightly, and there is a shortage on certain sectors. On the executive level, the current organic structure will have to be slightly modified in the future, to allow the director and top management to devote more time to the elaboration of suitable conservation strategies, active monitoring and conservation plans and projects.</p> <p>3) actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town planning proposals and decisions;</p> <p>Most infrastructure plans are for the bottom of the valleys, near historical settlements. Many municipalities have specific implementation regulations for interventions in the historical centre. With the approval of the GPMP, the relationship between the management choices of the municipalities and those of the protected area will be even clearer, as the rules of the Park plan have been included in local urban planning. These regulations concern in particular the methods of recovery and conservation of the historical, cultural and landscape heritage.</p>	

		<p>Buildings dedicated to tourism are generally concentrated in the inhabited centres; some huts and a road at a high altitude involve flow concentrations in summer months that locally create some conservation problems. The main problem is to limit the flow of motorized vehicles at high altitudes: the proposed solutions are to ban the use of these vehicles in limited summer periods and to encourage the use of electric vehicles. An agreement with the local communities has not yet been found, with the aim of definitively closing the traffic of vehicles with internal combustion engines: meetings on this topics will start again next summer.</p> <p>4) integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;</p> <p>The GPMP identifies, as a management objective, the naturalistic forestry aimed at the conservation of forest habitats. The Park Plan also includes the Management Plan of the SIC (IT1201000) which provides conservation measures for all forest habitats and specific measures for forest habitats of Directive 92/43 - EEC. Finally, it should be underlined that, in the GPMP, relevant forest areas were identified in which active management is totally excluded, to allow the forest to follow an autonomous evolutionary dynamic.</p> <p>5) continue to encourage farming activities that are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation;</p> <p>Aside from domestic grazing, agricultural activities are practically absent in the Park. Research is being carried out on the impact of domestic grazing on animal biodiversity that will be fundamental for the management of these activities in all the territories of the Park in order to preserve biological diversity.</p> <p>6) avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the national park;</p> <p>To minimise the consequences of water withdrawals, a careful monitoring is carried out by the Park and any other new project of dam building is banned by the Park. After the approval of the Park Management Plan, only small water withdrawals, for local energetic purposes, may be authorised.</p>
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		<p>7) establish a scientific advisory council or other mechanism to provide input from the scientific community regarding the management of the park.</p> <p>Despite the National Law on Parks forbidding the establishment of a scientific advising commission, the GPNP continues to foster relations with universities, and in 2019 identified researchers to conduct non-binding species and habitat research and monitoring, in order to obtain useful results for conservation. Unfortunately, in the spring of 2020, the Park director left his job and, as a result, the scientific commission was not activated. The identification of the members of the Commission is postponed until the appointment of the new director (probably in spring 2021).</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) the park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.</p> <p>The management plan of the Gran Paradiso National Park was finally approved by the two regions in 2019 and it is therefore effective and applied. This plan contains the maps that represent the different areas subject to different protection constraints. In the winter of 2020, some meetings will be held with local farmers to verify the problems related to the full application of the maximum protection areas (Areas "A"), in which even the grazing (by domestic herbivores) activities are prohibited.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>There was a reduction in the number of Park rangers, due to the sharp reduction in turnover, imposed by the last Italian governments.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
	<p>No information provided.</p>	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.

Name of the awarded area	66. Piatra Craiului National Park, Romania	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 27.09.2021
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)2</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>The national park budget is approved through a Common Order signed by Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Ministry of Public Finances and Ministry of Work and Social Protection which provide 90% of the budget. The remaining 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 staff salaries 1.3 mil. lei.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The Visitor Centre which was completed in 2016 has to date received 24,860 visitors.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No new developments.</p> <p>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</p>	

		<p>consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;</p> <p>Since April 2019 the Park Administration is one of the partners in the Building Management Capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas for the Integration and Harmonisation of Biodiversity Protection and Local Social Economic Development (Central Parks) project, financed by Interreg – Central Europe Programme. Its main goal is to improve management capacity of protected areas.</p> <p>From 2020 the Park Administration is one of the partners in “Increasing the economical competitive status of forest sector and the life quality by knowledge, technology and competence transfer” project, aiming to evaluate the functions and services of forest ecosystems and to identify the main threats to forest biodiversity.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>In 2020 the Park Administration organised 96 control actions to enforce the protected areas law, 25 of them with the help of other authorities. The result was 58 contravention fines with a total of 43500 lei.</p> <p>The Carpathia Foundation purchased 16.000 ha of forest land for conservation in the national park surroundings. 2.500 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.</p> <p>The "Forest Radar" regulation was established in 2014. As a result the illegal logging and transport has decreased since then at national level. By Government Decision no. 497/2020 a second improved version of SUMAL, a system that tracks any transport of timber, should be implemented by 31st of October 2020.</p>
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		<p>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.</p> <p>In 2020 the Park Administration organised 5 garbage collection campaigns, with the help of volunteers, along the touristic trails, with a total length of 30 km. 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. The Environment Guard controlled regularly the southern area of the park and eliminated some collecting platforms for garbage that were incompatible with the national legislation.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1. complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.</p> <p>The Management Plan was approved in 2013, and the revised plan which was sent in 2015 to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest was adopted in February 2020.</p>
	Achievements	<p>The final approval of a revised management plan.</p> <p>The number of chamois constantly increased because the ban of hunting in the national park</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>There is an increasing pressure to build modern pensions and holiday houses that affects the traditional architecture of the mountain villages.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>During a project sponsored by French Embassy in Romania aiming to restore the ecological balance and the natural type of forest, there were planted 7000 beech and sycamore saplings on a surface of 1,4 ha, included in a man-made spruce forest, planted a century ago and affected now by the bark beetle.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the	<p>The European Diploma logo use increased on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons for awarding the Diploma. All 3 logos (National Park, European Diploma and</p>	

European Diploma has been improved?	National Forest Administration) can be seen on the Park official papers and inside the visitor center. The award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas recognises the management and the conservation efforts of Piatra Craiului National Park Administration, attracting more visitors in the protected area and raising awareness of the importance of nature conservation.
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.

Name of the awarded area	67. Retezat National Park, Romania,	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2008 / 02.07.2023
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2013)4	<p>1) the Romanian authorities should secure a sufficient budget for the national park and allocate the funds early enough in the year to ensure favourable working conditions for the staff, the completion and maintenance of the park's infrastructure, more information for visitors and the improvement of tourist facilities;</p> <p>Even though the central public authority for environment didn't finance at all the park's activity, the National Forest Administration ROMSILVA (in whose structure we are included) has ensured, at the beginning of the year, a reasonable financial support in order that we have been able to perform most of our activities without financial constraints.</p> <p>2) the competent Romanian authorities should work together to harmonise the different national and international designations in order to achieve efficient joint management and to implement joint scientific research and monitoring programmes;</p> <p>Following the problem of 2018 of designation of the Park as a Biosphere Reserve, a new compliance plan was again submitted to the International MAB Committee for analysis, but still no reply has been received.</p> <p>3) the management plan should be approved as soon as possible, and at least an executive summary should be translated into either English or French;</p> <p>The implementation of the project to elaborate the second edition of the park's management plan which was initiated in 2018 and has a budget of 4,234,584 Euros last until 31 December 2020. The project completed very well and the management plan is to subsequently be elaborated.</p> <p>4) the park, in close collaboration with the mountain rescue services Salvamont, should maintain or renew, when necessary, the tourist infrastructure (trail marking, information signs, etc.); a particular effort should be made to solve the problems of the toilets in the camping areas and near the huts;</p>	

		<p>There are 94 information and guiding panels placed on the park’s territory, as well at the entrance points. In early October, in collaboration with an environmental and tourism NGO, RNPA staff built a new toilet near the campsite at Bucura Lake (at over 2000 m altitude). The RNPA’s staff took care permanently to maintain in good condition the orientation-information infrastructure in the park.</p> <p>5) the park should maintain pressure on local communities to prevent construction of inappropriate buildings either in the park or in its immediate vicinity; and</p> <p>In 2020 there were no problems with illegal constructions.</p> <p>6) the park rangers should monitor the pastures in order to identify early possible changes due to over grazing and/or under grazing; before the next evaluation, the park should carry out a new study on the pastures; the changes in terms of species composition, erosion, etc., should be analysed in relation to the type and amount of grazing.</p> <p>No developments since last year. The existing monitoring plan is being reviewed in order to include new conservation measures.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extend the visibility of the</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	

European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- It is also concerning that there is continued doubt over the harmonisation of the status of the Park as a Biosphere Reserve: dialogue with the International MAB Committee is encouraged.- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>68. Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>21.10.2009 / 21.10.2028</p>
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)9</p>	<p>1. implement the new management plan and in particular control the protective measures for the different zones; after five years, make a comprehensive, mid-term assessment and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate;</p> <p>There are no developments since last year. Observance, security and inspections of compliance with regulations and norms continue on a regular basis. The mid-term evaluation of implementation of the 2nd management plan finished in May 2020. The public hearing was postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis.</p> <p>2. take measures to better control poaching in the park and implement as soon as possible the strategic guidelines for the development of the security and control in the Central Balkan National Park, which includes a section on the prevention of poaching. In particular, strictly limit road development and systematically control road usage;</p> <p>There are no major developments since last year. Prevention of poaching remains a high priority for park employees. Monitoring and control equipment (still insufficient quantity) is provided, some barriers are being built to prevent the unregulated movement of motor vehicles on the territory of the park. Specialised equipment (new GPS devices, drones and transponder readers) were delivered. Part of the public tender for specialised equipment (new generation radio, specialized vehicles, monitoring equipment, night vision devices) has been appealed and cancelled. The preparation of the documentation for new public tender for the rest part of the equipment is in a progress. New deliveries are planned for 2021. This will help the park rangers better perform their duties. Thanks to this project, other facilities will be built to prevent unauthorised access to the park by motor vehicles.</p>	

		<p>3. maintain strict control on grazing permits and prohibit any increase of grazing animals; maintain the pressure to reduce grazing by horses, which are much more difficult to control, and increase the number of water sources and their access;</p> <p>The Park Directorate continues to spend enormous administrative and human capacity to control livestock grazing. The Annual plan for grazing and hay use in Central Balkan NP has not changed significantly. For the third consecutive year, the precision of the processing of the documents has been increased in practice to 100% correct declaration of available livestock and to approx. 60% correct tracking of the grazing process during the pasture season by compiling of the necessary protocols in time. By decision of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria from September 2018 the Park Directorate is a beneficiary under a project financed by the ERDF under the OPE. Within this project measures to protect and restore habitats throughout the park are implemented and will be implemented in the years up to 2024. In 2020 some critical wooden or electric fences between pasture lands and other park areas with no commercial uses were positioned. After the end of pasture season they were dismantled. Some of the planned measures for 2021 measures provide for the restoration of old and the creation of new watering facilities in the pasture areas of the park. This will reduce the negative pressure on streams and downstream habitats in pasture areas.</p> <p>4. set up comprehensive monitoring of the impact of grazing; in general, allocate the necessary funding for more management-oriented scientific research and studies;</p> <p>See Rec. 3 above, regarding the progress of the new ERDF project, which will also aim to establish a methodology for the annual assessment of natural habitats subject to livestock grazing. The technical specification and the tender documentation for the procurement have been prepared in 2019. The</p>
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		<p>selection of contractor was finished in spring of 2020. The implementation is planned for the period 2020 – 2021. The first field season was held successfully. Selection of the sample plots, first visits and pilot testing of methodology started in June 2020. Training of the Park Directorate’s staff also started.</p> <p>5. propose solutions at national level to improve the infrastructure related to mountain pastures, like shelters for animals and shepherds or dairy facilities; improve their visual and ecological impact, as well as their sanitary conditions for dairy production;</p> <p>No major developments since last year. The CBNP is also looking for opportunities through the status of the Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve (see point 7 below) to offer new opportunities for preserving and marketing these products.</p> <p>6. explore solutions to increase the role of the national park in the management of tourist infrastructure (chalets) inside the park, including their maintenance, the control of their ecological impact and their use as information points;</p> <p>No developments since last year. The Park Directorate intends to use the mechanisms of the Biosphere Reserve (see point 7 below) in order to implement, in partnership with the Bulgarian Tourist Union, projects for the construction of waste management systems and of waste water management systems in the chalets on the territory of the national park.</p> <p>7. use the newly established biosphere reserve to reinforce the role of the Public Advisory Council as a link between the national park, the municipalities and civil society organisations around the park; allocate adequate financial and human resources to fulfil the tasks and commitments undertaken at international level with the designation of the park as part of the biosphere reserve and World Heritage property and establish, as soon as possible, corresponding management structures;</p>
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	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technical specification and the tender documentation for the procurement have been prepared and implementation is expected in the period 2020 – 2021 of the new ERDF project; • The partnership with Thuringian Forest Biosphere Reserve appears promising;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inclusion of the national park directorates in the Natura 2000 process is encouraging.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>In 2020 CBNPD continued to use the EDPA logo for printing materials as follows: several types of information boards in the park, 1 brochure and calendar for year 2021. The logo was used also in all presentations for the CBNP presented by park employees. On the webpage of Central Balkan there is information about the European Diploma of the park and link to the official EDPA webpage.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and appreciates the information provided on promotion of the EDPA; - It notes that the mid-term evaluation of implementation of the 2nd Management Plan of CBNP was completed in 2020, and urges the Park to report on this next year; 	

Name of the awarded area	69. Khosrov Forest State Reserve, Armenia	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2028
<p>To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)14</p>	<p>1. as part of the new management plan, create and fund an awareness and training programme for local people, visitors and members of the staff of the reserve, in particular in relation to the management of litter and other waste, and to the development of sustainable tourism;</p> <p>An awareness and training programme as part of the new management plan will be created and funded.</p> <p>2. secure the Khosrov Forest State Reserve administration capacities in the future, with the support of the Armenian authorities and external donors; provide staff with specific incentives to foster their interest in the preservation of the reserve and its value;</p> <p>The management of Khosrov Forest State Reserve SCNO is funded by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and international donors: WWF/ World Wildlife Fund/, CNF/Caucasus Nature Fund/, which provides staff with specific incentives to foster their interest in the preservation of the reserve and its value.</p> <p>3. assess the state of conservation of the wolf population (<i>Canis lupus</i>), both at national level and in the diploma-holding area, and adapt the current legal and administrative regime of protection accordingly; design a “wolf concept” providing a general legal and administrative framework for the management of this species in Armenia, in line with the Bern Convention and the regulation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p> <p>Since 2013 until now a number of vertebrate species (predatory mammals, hooved animals, birds of prey) including wolves have been monitored in the territory of Khosrov Forest State Reserve. The state of conservation of the wolf population (<i>Canis lupus</i>),</p>	

		<p>both at national level and in the diploma-holding area are assessed by specialists.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should also consider a strategic approach for the development of sustainable tourism compatible with the carrying capacity of the Khosrov Forest Reserve and the preservation of its integrity as a strictly protected area; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;</p> <p>The new management plan of Khosrov Forest State Reserve is expected to be adopted in 2021. All conditions submitted to the SNCO are included in the new management plan and prior to its adoption it will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.</p> <p>2. launch a political and administrative process aiming to sustain the preservation of the European interest of the area by means of expanding the territory of the reserve to better preserve the state of conservation of the key species (large carnivores and herbivores); removing the existing 11 enclaves along the border of the Khosrov Forest State Reserve; establishing a buffer zone with a clear protection regime and limits, minimising hunting and the effects of grazing on the reserve; addressing the issue of the “transit routes” that cross the reserve; and working to minimise their general impact on the natural assets of the diploma-holding area;</p> <p>The new management plan expands the boundaries of the reserve, as well as establish a buffer zone with a clear protection regime and limits, which will ensure the integrity of rare and endangered plant and animal species. It will also reduce the probability of anthropogenic pressures (grazing, poaching) and will</p>

		<p>improve the effectiveness of conservation of the reserve.</p> <p>3. maintain and sustain the legal regime as a strictly protected area for the Khosrov Forest State Reserve in the future law on the protection of nature currently under discussion in the parliament;</p> <p>The legal regime of Khosrov Forest State Reserve as a strictly protected nature area will be maintained in the future law on the Specially protected nature areas of Armenia. The latter will be submitted to the government for discussion in 2021.</p>
	Achievements	The management plan is expected to be adopted in 2021.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The leopard was observed in the area.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts. - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>70. The Burren region, Ireland</p>	<p>Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>10.07.2013 / 10.07.2028</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)13</p>	<p>1. prepare an overarching management framework document for the Burren Region diploma-holding area, outlining the various management initiatives and their inter-relationships;</p> <p>An 'Entity relationship diagram' for the Burren Programme (managed by HNVS Ltd) was attached to the 2018 report. There are no updates to this diagram in 2020 with all the actors listed remaining in place.</p> <p>2. aim both to increase the quality of the natural heritage and to prevent damage to the cultural heritage in those areas of the Burren Region not included within the three Special Areas of Conservation;</p> <p>Approximately 5% of the BP area is non-designated, Annex I habitat. The quality of the natural heritage in the BP area continued to improve during the reporting period and the BP team continued to ensure that no damage is done to these areas of Priority habitat.</p> <p>Non-designated Annex I habitat outside of the BP is protected under Local Authority plans or through DAFM EIA rules. Any instances of damage being reported or witnessed is reported immediately by the BP team to the Local Authority and/or to DAFM.</p> <p>3. work with other stakeholders, especially those involved in tourism predicated on the farm holdings, as well as the natural and cultural heritage, to support communities living and working in the Burren Region;</p> <p>During the past 12 months the BP, with support from The Burrenbeo Trust, planned to work with Grand Circle Tours to bring 120 groups of tourists to the Burren in 2020 to visit one of six Burren farms for a farmer-led walk across the land. BP and Burrenbeo also worked with Air BnB 'experiences' to develop 'farming for nature' visitor experiences. Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, these initiatives had to be paused.</p>	

		<p>4. consider the development of further walking trails throughout the Burren Region.</p> <p>There are no current plans to extend trails in the Burren. Burrenbeo Trust and the BP continue to develop and promote farmer-led walks across the Burren but this has proven difficult in 2020 due to the pandemic.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1. secure a budget from 2022 onwards for the development of a successor programme to the current Burren Programme; share with the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas the details of the successor programme to the current Burren Programme prior to its entry into force;</p> <p>The Burren Programme is funded under Ireland’s Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) with 5-year contracts awarded to all (328) participating farmers. Given the delay in agreeing a new CAP, transition arrangements for 2020-2021 are currently being developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). These include a provision of an extension of all BP Farmer contracts until the end of 2022 and an extension of the contract for HNVS Ltd who administer the Programme.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The Burren Winterage Weekend was held again in October 2020 and included an international conference on high nature value farming, a national ‘farming for nature’ awards night, and a widely-publicized cattle drive. All of these took place virtually and attracted contributors, and participants, from four continents.</p> <p>The Burren in Bloom festival and Learning Landscape Symposium were also organized by Burrenbeo in 2020, all events took place on-line. Burrenbeo also carried out 10-week heritage-education courses in local schools (8 primary,2 secondary) and organised monthly heritage walks and a series of Winter talks.</p> <p>The work of the BBT and BP featured in several National TV, Radio stations and in Newspapers in 2020.</p>	

	<p>In mid-2020 the BP successfully submitted an initiative to the CoE on the management of the Burren Region within the framework of the World Forum for Democracy on the theme “Can Democracy Save the Environment?”. The BP have been involved in supporting the communication plan for the World Forum by providing interviews and supporting materials</p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>No information provided.</p>
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	71. Desertas Islands Nature Reserve, Portugal	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2014 / 30.06.2029
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maintain all necessary precautions to ensure that no plant and/or animal species is introduced into the reserve; <p>Stringent quarantine measures are rigorously implemented to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve. Visiting boats are forbidden to pass any ropes to land and all the food and equipment of the site management staff, or other visitors, are transported in sealed containers. Additionally, during the summer, when the number of visits to the island increases, a cordon of tubes with rodenticide is placed around the only official anchoring place of the island and these are inspected regularly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna, following the definitive eradication of all alien species, including recent available data for the three islands; <p>In 2020, local and foreign scientists developed various research projects in Desertas Islands. Qualitative and quantitative data is obtained every year and reports are produced accordingly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. monitor soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio and, if deemed necessary, implement restoration measures; <p>Monitoring of the main actions of the project LIFE SOS Freira do Bugio – Urgent actions for the recovery of Pterodroma deserta and its habitat which was developed between 2006 and 2010, has been maintained up to present, involving habitat restoration. There is a constant effort to combat soil erosion, considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Reserve.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. keep the goat population at a very low level and under a strict monitoring scheme to ensure the regeneration of natural vegetation and the success of propagation programmes for threatened or extinct plant species. While 25 years of field experience has led to positive results, continue to explore and test alternative methods for a 	

		<p>selective and progressive reduction of the goat population while avoiding animal suffering;</p> <p>The main actions of the project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands (2013-2019) involves an evaluation of population densities and distribution of goats; a significant reduction in the goat population and establishing a monitoring scheme that allows the evaluation of the success of the management measures implemented to control the goat population; which has been maintained up to present.</p> <p>5. ensure a high level of training for the guides who accompany tourists in the reserve;</p> <p>Visitors are met by the Nature Wardens, accompany them along the informative circuit and then to the reception centre. In the case of maritime-tourist visitors, this guided tour is made by the staff of each company; whose employees have received specific training provided by the site management staff.</p> <p>6. pursue the monitoring of the yellow-legged gull breeding population and their possible interferences with seabird colonies, in order to ensure early detection of possible negative changes;</p> <p>Although the yellow-legged gull (Atlantic form) <i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i> should not be considered an alien species, there is a constant effort to prevent their breeding on the islands (Ilhéu Chão, Deserta Grande and Bugio). Due to the remoteness of Desertas Islands and to their characteristics this is an easy and forward task.</p> <p>7. monitor the implementation of the management plan against conservation objectives and initiate its revision by 2024.</p> <p>The responsible regional authority is committed to update the management plan of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve by 2024</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. eliminate avoidable causes of non-natural mortality of Mediterranean monk seals. To this end, revise the design and construction of the local fishing gear, the so-called “covos”, to include mechanisms which prevent the capture</p>

		<p>of young seals and their subsequent death by drowning. Alternatively, replace the fishing equipment that causes these accidents with safer and more sustainable systems which do not interfere with the population of marine mammals in general, and of the monk seal in particular.</p> <p>The responsible regional authority is working on updating the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve legislation and regulations in order to forbid the use of the local fishing gear, the so-called “covos” in the Reserve’s area. It will be officially published in the near future.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>		
<p>To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>All the events and lectures addressed to the public in general and target groups, as well as the website, facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels, used to raise awareness about the importance of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	72. Vashlovani Protected Areas, Georgia	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.2015 / 03.06.2030
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)8</p>	<p>1) Finalise and start implementing in 2020 a new Management Plan for the next 9-years period. Include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of species and habitats typical from the area;</p> <p>The preparation of a new Management Plan for the next 9-years period is under the process of finalization and planned to be finished by the end of 2020. The management plan is elaborated with the support of Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF) and Society for Nature Conservation (SABUKO) with the active involvement of the Agency of Protected Areas, administration of Vashlovani Protected Areas and local stakeholders.</p> <p>2) Continue to fully implement the Pasture Management Plan as part of the general Management Plan. Carefully monitor the pasture activities and the respect of the lease contracts by the farmers. Secure the corresponding budgets from state and other sources;</p> <p>Ensuring the full implementation of Pasture Management Plan represents one of the key priority directions for the Agency of Protected Areas, accordingly various important activities and projects have been facilitated with an active involvement of the Agency, local administration representatives and donor organisations.. Successful completion of the following project “Sustainable management of pastures in Georgia the evaluation of pasture productivity has been conducted. an adjusted map of pastures prepared.</p> <p>Regular awareness raising meetings with farmers are also held by the local staff of Vashlovani Protected Areas.</p>	

		<p>3) Collect all the available scientific data and integrate them into the database under construction. Present a systematic list of habitats with short description and respective coverage in the Vashlovani Protected Areas. Establish a comprehensive list of endemic, rare and threatened species with differentiation between the Caucasus, Georgian and local respective species;</p> <p>Data is periodically collected by the natural resources specialists and the agency ensures the integration of an updated information into the database.</p> <p>4) Continue working closely with the local authorities and communities, especially in the field of tourism and sustainable development;</p> <p>The administration of Vashlovani protected areas continues close coordination with the local authorities and tourist service providers. There is a joint work in order to increase awareness of the park and municipality on local and international level. The Administration of Protected Areas promotes the development of local tourism businesses.</p> <p>5) Continue maintaining and improving the visitors' infrastructures in the park; carefully control the motor traffic on the roads inside the protected areas and monitor the visitors' activities;</p> <p>By the end of 2020, 7 tourist shelters in Mijnskure and 8 tourist shelters in central Vashlovani will be refurbished. Roads are being repaired regularly. Restrictions on driving motorcycles inside the park were imposed.</p> <p>6) Pursue and develop international collaboration with the Republic of Azerbaijan, especially focusing on ungulate and large mammals' conservation.</p> <p>Georgia-Azerbaijan cross-border cooperation has been in an active phase since 2013. Cooperation in the field of biodiversity restoration in the Iori-Mingechauri cross-border area is noteworthy, in which the main</p>
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		<p>component is the Gazelle Reintroduction Project. 73 Gazelles were relocated from Shirvan National Park to the Eldari lowland in 2013-2020. The project is successful and today the number of Gazelles reaches up to 180 individuals.</p> <p>7) Use more the European Diploma designation in promotional activities and display its logo; carefully consider other potential international designations, in order to avoid confusion among local authorities and population.</p> <p>Information about the European Diploma is constantly reported in the local and international media and social networks. To ensure the high visibility of European Diploma, the agency printed brochures and leaflets with European Diploma logo displayed on it. The designation is emphasised in every presentation and public speech to highlight the international acknowledgement of Vashlovani Protected Areas.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The number of people employed in the administration increased by 6 units</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<p>The establishment of the first ever Biosphere Reserve in Georgia is planned in Kakheti Region, connecting Vashlovani Protected Areas and Tusheti Protected Areas to each other.</p>	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>See recommendation No. 7</p>	

Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations and looks forward to the adoption of the new management plan.
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Name of the awarded area	73. Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato, Italy	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.2020 / 23.09.2025
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)1</p>	<p>1. enhance the present management of the forest towards a greater natural character, with more diversity of ages of trees, as at present parts of the forest in the park are formed by trees of a similar age. It would also be advisable to leave on the ground – without removal – some trees that may have died as a result of wind or other natural or biological processes so as to favour saproxylic fauna;</p> <p>The current management plan of the Gallipoli Cognato Forest, drafted and approved in 2010/2011 expires in spring 2021. The board of the Park has already commissioned the new management plan for the period 2022/2031. The Plan, in the preliminary drafting phase, provides targeted interventions on individual forest particles aimed at obtaining a different age forest structure and to increase biodiversity with the creation of ecological islands with maintenance of dead biomass. this kind of interventions.</p> <p>2. enhance the control of non-native trees, in particular conifers planted during the 1970s and re-forest, with indigenous trees, the relatively small areas affected;</p> <p>A first experimental renaturalization area, on a surface of about 4000 sqm, has been carried out on a conifer reforestation built in the 70's removing the conifers and replacing them with Fraxinus both ex novo implanted and naturally reborn, together with Quercus pubescens reborn in the area after the cutting of conifers.</p> <p>The Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato Piccole Dolomiti Lucane obtained a regional funding of € 500,000.00, split over three years, 2021-2022-2023, for the implementation of the project "Actions for the maintenance of flora biodiversity in Basilicata" aiming to the management of reforestation.</p>	

		<p>3. enhance the repopulation of the park with new releases of the Italian hare <i>Lepus corsicanus</i>. The numbers of animals so far introduced do not ensure the long-term viability of the population due to inbreeding depression caused by the founder effect;</p> <p>In order to encourage the expansion and recovery of the Italian hare and avoid the dangerous phenomena of inbreeding, a reintroduction program based on the following strategies has already been launched and consists in the introduction of 12-15 animals per year (M/F ratio 50%) for three consecutive years and in the constant monitoring through radiotracking techniques of the reintroduced subjects with radio collar to ascertain the percentage of survival and dispersion.</p> <p>The first nucleus of n. 6 animals was reintroduced on 25 November 2020.</p> <p>4. monitor closely the effects of the introduction of the roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus italicus</i> in the park, particularly in the forest. The low density of its only possible predators with the exception of man, the wolf, might lead to an explosion in numbers, which should be avoided;</p> <p>A few years after its reintroduction, the Italicus Roe deer has been widely ascertained in all suitable areas of the protected territory of our Park. The monitoring carried out on sample areas of the Park made it possible to ascertain that the taxa is present with not very numerous groups in the areas of original reintroduction, showing an evolution of the population in dispersal towards more external areas of the protected area, with colonization of the subjects towards new areas.</p> <p>5. consider carrying out studies on the effects of climate change on the flora and fauna of the park.</p> <p>Within the aforementioned project "Actions for the maintenance of flora biodiversity in Basilicata" the Park is carrying on the study project "Evaluation of the vulnerability of vegetal ecosystems to climate changes in the area of Regional Park Gallipoli</p>
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		Cognato". The main aim of the study project is to verify the impact of the 2017 climatic event, characterized by excessive heat and prolonged drought, on the forest vegetation in the Park.
	Conditions	<p>1. the regional authorities should ensure by 2022 a substantial increase in the budget presently allocated directly to the park to enable enough means for a stable management and a long-term consolidation of what seems now to be a very efficient but vulnerable structure;</p> <p>Regione Basilicata, with Regional Law n. 6/2020, has ensured an extra budget of €100.000,00 per year, in addition to the annual consolidated contribution of € 450.000,00, ensured during the past years.</p> <p>This additional budget allows the Park to improve the management of human resources available and to reinforce the structure and the whole management system.</p> <p>2. the regulations for the pre-park area are to be adopted by the regional government before the expiration of the first five years of the European Diploma (2025);</p> <p>Contacts and meetings with the municipal administrations of the pre-park area in order to discuss the first draft of the regulation are on-going.</p>
	Achievements	The increase in the budget
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the	No information provided.	

European Diploma been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.