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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

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**COMPILATION OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE
2018 ANNUAL REPORTS**

*Document prepared by the Directorate
of Democratic Participation*

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No annual report was received in 2018

Name of the awarded area	1. Belgium, Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)9	1) pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the European Union’s LIFE programme;	
		2) continue to acquire privately owned plots of land inside the reserve and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly owned nature reserves;	
		3) continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve’s European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision makers;	
		4) continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse population in co-operation with the relevant European partners;	
		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 guarantee of sufficient financial and human resources.	
	Conditions	1) finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end.	
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?			

Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.
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Name of the awarded area	2. France, Camargue National Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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); 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; 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; 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 the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control; 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; 6) control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve; 7) prepare a plan for adaptation to climate change, including the rise in sea level. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) guarantee the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2016. 	
	Achievements	<p>Recommendation 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The initiatives to alert relevant authorities about the contamination of water have been successful. In 2018, the authorities (DDTM) addressed this issue with targeted studies and measures against 	

		<p>regulation infringements.</p> <p>Recommendation 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The initiatives for the control of invasive species, the <i>Baccharis halimifolai</i> and <i>Fraxinus Americana</i> are successful. The last phase of the work is being undertaken for <i>la Jussie</i>. <p>Recommendation 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SPNP is partnering successfully with the other institutions to control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve. <p>Recommendation 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new management plan (2016 – 2020) includes measures for adaptation to climate change. In the framework of this plan as well as the co-management of “Camargue salt flats Lagoons and marshes”, the rise of sea level, the movement of dunes etc. have been monitored.
	Shortcomings	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A management plan 2016-2020 is being implemented, however the lack of resources prevents from successfully implementing all the actions foreseen in the plan. <p>Recommendation 1 and 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lack of human and financial resources has not allowed for 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 is facing financial constraints and therefore growing difficulties to carry out its scientific tasks and mission of public information. - The levels of water contamination haven't decreased yet.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Setting up of a perimeter of protection hasn't been validated, however the National Society for the Nature Protection (SNPN) is responsible for the management of the areas at boundaries of the National Reserve and therefore limits the threats to the Reserve.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma is visible in the visitors centre and public areas. Since 2015, posters and leaflets with the logo of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma are also available for the public. Logo will be displayed in the new editions of the visibility materials.</p>	

Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Encourage again the authorities to pursue efforts for securing the necessary budget for ensuring an effective management and scientific monitoring of the reserve, including outreach activities;- Continue its efforts in raising awareness of authorities and stakeholders on water pollution and keep the group informed of studies' results.
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Name of the awarded area	3. United Kingdom, Peak District National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.06.1966 / 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)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; 	

		<p>8) implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner 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	<p>The 2018-23 National Park Management Plan was adopted in September 2018 and includes an update of the National Park's Special Qualities. Seven special qualities and six areas of impact have been highlighted together with an action plan.</p> <p>The Authority continues to work to safeguard key habitats through negotiation of new agri-environment schemes. The area of land in the National Park within an agri-environment scheme agreement has now dropped to around 50%. The Authority continues to influence future</p>

		<p>policy and support systems post Brexit which will secure and enhance the management of existing key habitats.</p> <p>The Authority, working through the Moors for the Future Partnership (MFF) continues to co-ordinate major landscape scale delivery across upland habitats with the start of Moor Carbon, a £3 million project which is part of Defra's Peatland Restoration Fund. Consensus on good practice management for moorlands (blanket bog and deep peat) for the whole of England has been reached and the Moors for the Future partnership produced a land management guidance toolkit on behalf of the national Uplands Management Group</p> <p>In the Dark Peak surveys have shown a very positive response to moorland restoration by birds such as Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), with a reversal of past declines. Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Red Grouse (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>), Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) and Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) also increased significantly following restoration.</p> <p>Work has therefore started with partners to diversify woodlands to ensure their long-term resilience, and a funding bid has been prepared to roll this work out across the whole Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>On the Authority's Warslow Moors and North Lees Estates a programme of moorland grip blocking has been implemented to restore the hydrology of the sites with good results.</p> <p>Community work has been undertaken and strengthened at landscape scale thanks to different sources of funding.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The exceptional summer weather this year gave rise to a number of moorland fires. Operation Firewatch was launched to raise public awareness on fire.</p>

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Authority has secured a further grant of £180,000 from National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative Fund to carry out landscape enhancement works in the Longdendale Valley to ameliorate the visual impacts of the high voltage electricity line.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The conditions and recommendations of the Diploma renewal are integrated into the National Park Management Plan and other corporate planning documents which guide the Authority's work. The Authority continues to highlight the importance of the Diploma by including the logo
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations and of the condition.

Name of the awarded area	4. Austria, Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site	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)7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 2) continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural monument for future generations; 3) avoid impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, especially in the areas around “Wasserfallboden” and “Schönangerl”; 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); 5) avoid as far as possible increasing light pollution; 6) continue to pay close attention to the problem of path erosion; and ensure that visitors only use the existing paths; 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; 8) strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially land owners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations. 	

	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Most of the recommendations are implemented or ongoing.</p> <p>As reported in 2017, the management plan for the Hohe Tauern National Park was agreed on by the national park committees. The Krimml Waterfalls will be integrated in the action field “running waters and wet habitats” and in the chapter “legal basis”. A separate sub-item was dedicated to the European Diploma. This is on-going</p> <p>As regards to Recommendation 6, the report notes that the balustrades were renovated by the Austrian Alpine Association.</p>
	Shortcomings	No efforts to avoid increasing light pollution
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The number of visitors increased this year.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The PR materials of the Park (on the theme "Year of the Water" in 2018) included references to the logo.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations. - Encourage again the competent authorities to step up their efforts to avoid of light pollution. 	

Name of the awarded area	5. Germany, Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 25.10.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 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; 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 funding, especially during the EU-funding period 2013-2020; 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; 5) develop a concept for connecting the large heathlands areas east and west of Wilsede by an ecological corridor; 	

		<p>6) pursue restoration of streams, their associated wetland biotopes and their buffer strips;</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;</p> <p>8) continue ecological forest management and convert mono-croppings of spruce into mixed forests including oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.);</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;</p> <p>10) complete the database of Lower Saxony concerning FFH-Species so that all species existing in the reserve are listed and considered in regional, national and federal planning procedures;</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;</p> <p>12) realise the concept of buffer zone areas with a high protection status in the neighbouring areas of the nature reserve;</p> <p>13) establish a corps of rangers (Naturwacht).</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>- The approval process for a new concession for groundwater extraction required by Hamburg Wasserwerke (the regional water</p>

		<p>supplier) is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The withdrawal quantity has been reduced. VNP now receives the requested funding to maintain and develop the Natura 2000 site. The granted projects run until 2022. However, the Reserve expresses a need for legal/administrative support to apply for public grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As reported in 2017: the ongoing practice of agricultural funding and pursue recognition of all types of heathland cultivation and all heathland restoration activities are not managed properly. Dry European heathland with <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and formations of <i>Juniperus communis</i> have to be considered as agricultural land. The case of the “100 tree rule” is reported to be creating a lot of problems in management. - An ecological restoration scheme was carried out on various streams in the nature reserve throughout the past years, the last stages were implemented in winter 2017/2018. - In order to increase biodiversity on arable land for energy crops, the VNP implements many projects for ecological measures in agriculture, such as flowering wildflower strips or crops. The projects are funded by the European Union, the state of Lower Saxony and other ecological foundations. The effects are investigated by the University of Lüneburg (Leuphana). The reserve didn't manage to secure funds for arable land. - During the last years VNP carried out restoration work at Wilsede pasture woodland (35 ha). - In autumn 2017 VNP worked out a conservation scheme for pasture woodlands and arranged for further promotion and public funding. - Planning procedures by the regional nature conservation authority are going on to
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		<p>declare “Camp Reinsehlen” (an area west of Lüneburger Heide nature reserve) as Natura 2000 site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding was secured for management plans, implementation and billing of care measures, monitoring of success, technical advice and governance, drafting of technical contributions, extensive monitoring and annual work plans. Unfortunately, there is still no public funding for a ranger service. - An instrument (database) that bundles all up to date ecological information of Lüneburger Heide nature reserve in one place is now available.
	Shortcomings	<p>Shortcoming are underlined in most of the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preservation of heathland is not included by the land of Lower Saxony in the list of priorities for drinking water protection. - An ecological corridor linking the heathlands north and west of Wilsede (forest fringe north of “Heinköpen” Woodland) was not carried out yet. VNP expects that corridors to be included in the new Natura 2000 Management plan, which will be drawn up in 2018. - Active breeders and rare breeds are not subsidized equally in all German federal states. - There are still no coherent ecological data bases in Lower Saxony. There is still severe lack of information concerning bats. - No measures to improve or safeguard existing ecological corridors for Black grouse were carried out by the district of Heidekreis during this period of report. VPN is asking for support from the Group of Specialists on EDPA on this matter.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Wolves repeatedly attacked herded sheep flocks in the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve. The attacks took place during daytime, while shepherds and their dogs were present.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the	<p>EDPA information are displayed on the VPN webpage</p>	

European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to take note of the difficulties the authorities are facing in the management the area;- Reminds the authorities of the existence of the case file system of the Bern Convention for dealing with infringements to the Convention;- Encourages the authorities to pursue the efforts to comply with and implement the recommendations conditioning the renewal of the European Diploma.

Name of the awarded area	6. Sweden, Muddus National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new "Laponiatjouttjudus" (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; 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; 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; 4) continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change; 5) assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact); 6) consider linking the Muddus National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Lapponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site; 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.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Laponiatjuottjudus has nine employees. Laponiatjuottjudus has been granted a new extended trial period from the Swedish Government to manage the Laponia World Heritage site until December 2022.</p> <p>The authorities are collaborating with the Sami communities and the Norrbotten County Administrative Board (CAB) for the predators' inventories.</p> <p>Laponiatjuottjudus has developed a basic GIS system to use within the organisation. In November 2017 Laponiatjuottjudus got access to the system "Skötsel-DOS" used by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the county administrations (CAB). The system is used to manage data in protected areas, including all the facilities such as cabins, trails, bridges, and the efforts planned and performed by the management during the year.</p> <p>Construction work for the new visitor entrance in Muddus/Muttos is ongoing. It aims to better channel visitors and monitor the impact of visitors on the area. New materials for the public have also been developed in 2018.</p>
	Shortcomings	The funding to assure the management of the site and the long-term planning of activities is not secured.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The elimination of the invasive species lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>) that is established in a two-hectare area in the north-west side of the National Park is included in the 2019-2020 plan.</p> <p>Studies from the CAB show changes in both vegetation and animal species that possibly could be associated to climate change. Laponiatjuottjudus will monitor this matter and collaborate with CAB.</p>	

	Result of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological association in 2018: Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>): one successful breeding with three chicks was confirmed.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The logo of the Diploma is displayed in the visitor Centre and is expected to be even more visible with the works on the new entrance of the site
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations; - Request the authorities to explore the feasibility and the relevance of linking Muddus National Park with Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks; - Pursue the efforts already undertaken to further develop a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area.

Name of the awarded area	7. Sweden, Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks	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)3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the "Laponiatjouttjudus" (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; 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; 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; 4) closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing; 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; 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 	

		<p>network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks and communicate about the different categories of international designations;</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;</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.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>The recommendations for Muddus EDPA and these parks are almost identical, and thus only the ones specific for Sarek-Padjelanta will be commented here.</p> <p>Laponiatjuottjudus is cooperating with the authorities to ensure that visitors and inhabitants in the parks are following existing laws and regulations.</p> <p>Six visitor counters are available in Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Parks.</p> <p>Laponiatjuottjudus collaborates with the reindeer herding communities, the Norrbotten County Administrative Board (CAB) and tourist companies in matters of permissions and tourist activities. In 2018 Laponiatjuottjudus have developed ethical guidelines and a certification for tourist companies operating in Laponia. In 2019 Laponiatjuottjudus have been granted funds to start a project to increase the</p>

		knowledge about the nature and cultural values in the World Heritage site.
	Shortcomings	Funding for management is still limited and uncertain
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Results of the inventories of predators performed by Norrbotten County Administrative Board and Ornithological association in 2018: Gyrffalcon (<i>Falco rusticolus</i>): four observed successful breeding's with 14 chicks in total.</p> <p>Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): three observed successful breeding's were confirmed.</p> <p>Laponiatjuottjudus has continued the restoration and maintenance of the cabins.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The visitor cabins in Padjelanta/Badjelánnda are equipped with instruction and information books containing suitable information about the area that among others mentions the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations; - Request the authorities to explore the feasibility and the relevance of merging Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with Muddus National Park. 	

Name of the awarded area	8. Switzerland, Swiss National Park	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)6	<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; 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; 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; 4) initiate studies with the different ministries and authorities concerned on the possibilities of minimising the impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road; 5) continue the close co-operation with the neighbouring Stelvio National Park; 6) consider the enlargement of the European Diploma area to include the whole of the Biosphere Reserve. 	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>The Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair Reserve was definitively recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2017 with three equal partners: the Swiss National Park, the Regional Nature Park Biosfera Val Müstair, and the Engadine buffer zone and transitional area.</p> <p>Work relations within the Regional Nature Park Biosfera Val Müstair are stabilised, following</p>	

		<p>some issues reported on in 2017 and the Scuol municipality wishes to further its relation as a partner of the Biosphere Reserve. Communication with the local population is proceeding well too.</p> <p>The measures implemented in 2017 to improve safety along the Pass dal Fuorn road have proven to be successful concerning safety around the parking areas. Traffic decrease also because of the new 60km/h speed limit.</p> <p>The financial problems mentioned in last year's annual report could be resolved to some extent, thanks to the goodwill of the federal authorities.</p> <p>No changes in the natural environment of the National Park and management continues successfully.</p>
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair Reserve is still in the early stages therefore the issue of the extension of the ED area is to be pursued when the time is right, hopefully when renewing the award in 2021.	
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 the recommendations; - As the Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair Reserve functions as a consortium, encourage maintaining constant dialogue for reaching political and management consensus; - 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	9. Italy, Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.1982 / 26.11.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<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; 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; 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; 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; 5) consider the possibility of instructing all technical personnel to record any violations of the PNALM regulations; 6) launch discussions on the need for controlled management of red deer, linking this to improving the state of conservation of the chamois population; 7) make a special effort to support rural tourism activities around the PNALM periphery; 8) launch discussions with local mayors on the issue of stock and wildlife feeding. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 2) that strenuous efforts be taken so that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 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 applied with effect from, at the 	

		<p>latest, the 2013-2014 hunting season;</p> <p>ii. 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;</p> <p>iii. 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;</p>
	Achievements	<p>Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation measures for the five Natura 2000 sites of the Park are now approved. The two sites of the Lazio Region have been transformed in Special Conservation Zones. 2. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The peripheral zone has been created by the Abruzzi Region. ii. The PNALM keeps monitoring the farming activities in zone A. Natura 2000 conservation measures include regulation for pastures. iii. No changes <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presence of two bear females noted. Actions implemented to protect food sources in villages. 2. No change reported 3. No change reported 4. Funds received in 2018 will be allocated to monitor the Marsican brown bear and other priority species. PNALM will received additional funding from the European Commission as partner of the Life project to experiment system to secure roads. 5. No change reported 6. A programme of work has been prepared to update data on ungulates and compare it to chamois related data. The PNALM will benefit from additional human resources in the context of the "Civil National service" to carry out this work. 7. The Park participated in many awareness-raising

		<p>events involving local producers, local touristic actors. The certification “European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas” was renewed</p> <p>8. No change</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Condition:</p> <p>The Management plan of the PNALM hasn’t been approved yet.</p> <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The regulation for touristic activities has not been integrated in the Park rules yet.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new water purifier was built in the municipality of Pescasseroli to manage the tourist affluence over summer. - New species spotted in the PNALM: otters in the Sandro river and new implementation of Epipogium aphyllum. - A third report on the presence of the bear in the Abruzzo Park was produced during the summer. - Material for the public were produced: visitor guide and photography book. 	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of most of the recommendations. - 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	10. Germany, Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.11.1968 / 28.11.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) it is extremely important to allow the nature reserve to develop naturally, particularly in the shallow water sections. To this end, there should be no obstacles to the natural erosion and sedimentation processes; 2) all fishing activity must be halted in the Schläuche and the Hegnebucht “lagoons” for an experimental three-year period in order to further reduce the disturbances arising. An overall assessment of this measure should cover both the waterfowl and fish ecology; 3) the Wollmatinger Ried is a refuge area for avifauna sensitive to disturbances, particularly during the moulting season. Increasing numbers of ferruginous ducks (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>), a threatened species, are coming to the area north of the Reichenau “dyke road” for the moulting season. Few studies of this have been conducted, so it should be documented, and all potential disturbances eliminated (fishing, water sports, etc.); 4) throughout the protected area, but especially in the Ermatinger Becken area, an effort is needed to harmonise protection measures by developing co-operation between Germany and Switzerland, for example, as part of the international conference of Lake Constance; 5) the scheduled road works to improve traffic flow at the entrance of the reserve – B33 and western bypass (Tangente West) – are part of a comprehensive landscape concept and must not be detrimental to the protected area. The compensatory measures necessitated by the work must be implemented as a matter of priority; 6) the continued operation of the reception 	

		centre in the premises of the former Reichenau railway station is not guaranteed for the medium and long term. This question should be settled as soon as possible.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>The new NABU-Bodenseezentrum was inaugurated on 13 October 2018 and will now assume the tasks of the former Naturschutzzentrums Wollmatinger Ried.</p> <p>There is also an increase in the state's funding.</p> <p>Surveillance activities were increased as due to the low water levels in August, moulting waterbirds could hardly find a refuge in the reeds and the area attracted unauthorised walkers which increased the disturbances.</p> <p>In the course of the extension of the B33, measures for avoidance, minimisation and compensation are presently implemented. Expansions and adjustments of the reserve's borders are provided, which should be implemented in the near future.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The costs for an investigation programme concerning the actual disturbance caused by fishing activities on waterfowl and the effect of a halted fishery zone on the economic basis of professional fishing would be high. Therefore, the Ministry for Environment, Climate and Energy did not agree to the prepared investigation concept.</p> <p>In 2018, there were no meetings of the "Round Table for fishery in the nature reserves Bodensee-Untersee", since the decision on the extensive investigation had to be awaited. No steps were taken to extend the protected area on the water side provided in the management plan for the Natura-2000 area.</p> <p>No progress in the establishment of direct contacts between the nature reserve management and Swiss authorities to improve</p>

		the protection of the shallow water 3 zone of the Ermatinger Becken.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Cycle Path Initiative undertakes serious efforts to make the former path between Kindlebild crossing along the reserve border and in the area of the green bridge within the reserve usable again. This would impair the effect of the green bridge and possibly increase disturbances. The management authority is planning to oppose the path renewal.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma logo is used in various leaflets, signposts and information boards for the reed.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	11. Netherlands, Boschplaat Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.1970 / 30.06.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 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; 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; 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; 5) the number of motorised vehicles on the beach should be reduced. 	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>For 2018, financial resources were sufficient.</p> <p>The area started the preparation of the "Boschplaat 2050" future vision aiming to allow more space for the natural dynamics of wind, sand and water.</p>	

		<p>Due to the extensive oil disaster practice drill in 2017, the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management has now issued a “Terschelling Deployment Plan” describing the potential measures to be taken in the event of oil pollution. It also includes specific ecological points of interest, logistics, the contractors and site managers involved and the process & administrative arrangements.</p> <p>Thanks to the talks with Rijkswaterstaat during the on-the-Spot appraisal, a field visit was planned to Boschplaat in December 2018 in order to explore the specific site circumstances (tidal channels, accessibility, tides) and any measures to be taken.</p> <p>The number of beach traffic permits was set at 932 in 2012. Since then, the local authorities have been using that figure as a maximum. In practice, this figure is not quite achieved; in 2015/2016 and in 2016/2017, 819 permits were issued and in 2017/2018, that figure was 794. The south-eastern-most tip of Boschplaat is closed throughout the year because of the birds that rest there.</p> <p>Due to the extreme and prolonged drought, island farmers suffered an acute shortage of roughage last summer. In order to cope with these shortages, Staatsbosbeheer (the National Forest Service in the Netherlands) responded positively to the request to be able to mow part of the high salt marsh once.</p> <p>After acquiring the ownership of approximately 24 ha of salt marsh and a decoy at Grië, which lies adjacent to Boschplaat, in 2016, the plots in the south-eastern-most corner of this transaction were added to Groede, the grazed section of Boschplaat. Old grids were removed and everything was reorganised, as a result of which it now forms an integrated part of the grazing unit.</p>
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	Shortcomings	Capacity for monitoring and surveillance by legally authorised officers during the autumn and winter periods were particularly insufficient.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The “Boschplaat 2050” future vision is a major development and is considered as a formidable tool for improving the management of the area.	
To what extend 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 the recommendations; - 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	12. Germany, Siebengebirge Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	22.09.1971 / 21.09.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 2) develop a new financial plan together with local communities and the Rhein-Sieg-District; 3) continue the provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government; 4) maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads; 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; 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; 7) encourage the continuation and extension of scientific research. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
		<p>The management plan ready since June 2015.</p> <p>Budget contribution by the communities of Bonn, Bad Honnef, Königswinter and the Rhein-Sieg District and the North Rhine Westphalia authorities were secured for the 2018/19 period.</p>	

	Achievements	<p>New roads have not been built nor are they planned. One road within the reserve had finally to be given up because of the danger of a former underground quarry collapsing</p> <p>The Rhine-Sieg District will employ two official nature guards from 1st January 2019, strictly to ensure compliance with the rules of the reserve, as the problem of private cars trying illegally to drive up to the Drachenfels continues.</p> <p>The wilderness area and management are more and more accepted by visitors, thanks to the work of the authorities.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Continue to work towards regulating the stream of visitors through the creation of new tracks, etc.	
To what extend 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 the condition and the recommendations; - 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	13. Germany/Luxembourg, Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	26.10.1973 / 25.10.2018
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)14	<p>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;</p> <p>Cross boarder cooperation is enshrined in the objectives of the 3 nature parks in Luxembourg. The practical documentation of this objective is documented in a number of projects implemented since the last annual report in 2012.</p> <p>2) pursue public awareness-raising and information activities;</p> <p>Awareness raising activities were carried out within the framework of the project implemented since 2012.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The Möllerdal Nature Park was founded in 2016.</p> <p>4) find a solution allowing aquatic fauna to pass or circumnavigate the obstacle of the Vianden hydroelectric dam; Different options were explored but no feasible technical solutions could be found.</p> <p>5) maintain vigilance with regard to leisure and sporting pursuits (camping, rock-climbing, canoeing, etc.).</p> <p>A sustainable visitor guidance was produced.</p>	

		The Natura 2000 management plans contain also specific protection targets.
	Conditions	<p>1) at the initiative of the States concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible;</p> <p>Four workshops on cross-boarder cooperation took place within the preparation of the South Eifel 2030 Nature Park plan. The re-convening of the German-Luxembourg Government commission was agreed on.</p> <p>2) engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park;</p> <p>The South Eifel Nature Park plan provides the framework for analysing the objectives of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park.</p> <p>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> <p>Management plans were designed with broad public participation for the Südeifel, Our and Mëllerdal Nature Parks which form the basis for the sustainable development of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information is provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the submission of the first annual report since 2012.- The Group would have expected a more comprehensive report on the actions carried out during the 6 past years.- 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	14. France, Vanoise National Park	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. 	
	Achievements	<p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An architect was contracted to support the renovation of the built heritage. The Park engaged in a programme to monitor the Tetra. 2. The Park Charter includes objectives about the support to municipalities for "green and blue infrastructures" 3. No opinion requested in 2018. Monitoring of prospective projects carried out. 	

		<p>4. The Park is heavily involved in management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses are in synergy with the protection of its natural assets, such as awareness-raising, trainings for farmers, support activities for farmers victims of wolf attacks, refuge maintenance and management, pollinators conservation, research programmes, etc.</p> <p>5. The Park is managing an important programme of awareness activities for the public and has renovated 4 out of the 16 refuges. The label "Tourism and disabilities" was renewed.</p> <p>6. The Rules for air-sport are strict and enforced</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>None of the municipalities located in the Park signed the Park Charter (re-opened for adhesion in 2018) which was the way to comply with the condition. The buffer zone is thus defined by means of Prefectural decree for the time being.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Park has validated a strategy and communication action plan for 2018-2021 and finalised a guide on the animal well-being - The presence of <i>Gypaetus Barbatus</i> has increased and the - 6 wolves packs are now present in the Park. 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to encourage the managing authorities to deploy more efforts on raising awareness about the importance of the Charter and its acceptance by the municipalities. - 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	15. Turkey, Kuşçenneti National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.03.1976 / 14.03.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)6	<p>1. increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement;</p> <p>In 2018, 5 people started to work in the national park as permanent workers. 5 people were assigned to the National Park for 6 months during the high touristic season.</p> <p>2. ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;</p> <p>Monitoring of water level and water quality is done by DSI (General Directorate of State Water Affairs) and natural fluctuation is observed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the Kocaçay Delta section, the wardening unit has been defined within the already approved plan and will be implemented after 2019.</p>	
	Conditions	<p>1) finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;</p> <p>The management plan was approved by the Ministry in November 2018. The activities defined in the plan will start to be implemented as of 2019.</p> <p>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</p>	

		<p>conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;</p> <p>The water quality examination and control of Sigirci River is monitored by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanism.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Bird population dynamics have been observed and recorded at 12 different points, especially Sigirci Delta and Kocaçay Delta. In May 2018, a satellite transmitter has been mounted on two Dalmatian pelicans (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>). One of the pelicans flew to Greece.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are no facilities within the boundaries of the National Park. All facilities in the buffer zone are permitted according to "Annex-2 of the Regulation on the Protection of Wetlands" and the operators are regularly inspected. Warning and penal sanctions are applied.</p>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 vehicle has been allocated to the park. • A bird observation tower was renovated, and 1 telescope was installed for bird watching. • Maintenance and reed coating of Pelican nests were completed. • Construction of social facilities including 6 WC, 1 disabled WC, 1 lactation Room and 2 prayer rooms have been started in the National Park and will be completed in 2019.
	Shortcomings	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	A project for a major renovation of the Administration and Visitor Promotion Center is in preparation
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Establishment and renovation of infrastructure is one step towards the development of eco-touristic services.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations;- 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.

Name of the awarded area	16. Germany, Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.03.1978 / 02.03.2028
<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)2</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Stakeholders began to explore the prerequisites for the formal extension of the European Diploma area and the preparation of an overall management plan.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>An expertise from the year 2007 on the “effects of wave disturbances caused by larger boats on fish fauna in the Weltenburger Enge” already exists. In addition a specific search concerning specially protected species, such as the Danube freshwater snail was carried out.</p> <p>Another study on the expected effects of wave disturbances caused by larger boats on the habitat function of shallow zones and river banks is in preparation.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>A concept for channelling visitors, with uniformly laid out guidelines for the protected area, was already</p>	

		<p>prepared some years ago and needs to be deployed within the area. The European Diploma is pointed out as a general rule in publications as well as on information signs (e.g. flags with the corresponding information printed on them).</p> <p>The area manager is currently checking all nature reserve information boards for the presence of the European Diploma logo. Wherever necessary, the logo will be supplemented over the course of the coming year with brief information about its meaning.</p> <p>4) increase and conduct more efficient control of illegal mountain-biking off the official mountain-bike routes;</p> <p>To date, there are no official mountain bike routes in the area. Unfortunately, endeavours undertaken up to now have not been able to sufficiently counteract illegal mountain-biking.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The viewing points are to be checked within the framework of the updated visitor channelling concept, and are to be improved or closed down, if necessary.</p> <p>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> <p>Forestry management is carried out according to the Nature Reserve Ordinance and is essentially implemented on the basis of good practice. A further minimisation of forest use as well as a reduction in the use of heavy forestry machinery would be</p>
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		<p>desirable; however, this can only be implemented together with the landowners and with the forestry management.</p> <p>A renewed initiative was started by private sources to clear the area around the Befreiungshalle. It was claimed that earlier there had been an unimpeded view to the town of Kelheim. The nature conservation authorities continue to reject clear cuts to expose the Befreiungshalle.</p> <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>The area manager has been in permanent employment since April 2018. A ranger is to be employed under limited term contract through the Altmühltal Nature Park as from the beginning of 2019.</p> <p>8) assess the technical possibilities and financial support for restoration of the Klösterl cultural monument.</p> <p>The nature conservation authority at the Kelheim County Chief Executive Office will approach the institutions responsible for monument conservation in this respect.</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>Consultations began. As a first result it was suggested to set up additional signs marking the protected area along the water course in order to make it clear to that people are entering the conservation area “by water”.</p> <p>2) extend, wherever ecologically and touristically worthwhile and as soon as possible, the stricter</p>

		<p>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>A first meeting took place in September 2018 between the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and the nature conservation authorities of the Government of Lower Bavaria and of the Kelheim County Chief Executive Office within the scope of an expert discussion on the decision of the Bavarian Council of Ministers to establish the Weltenburger Enge as a Natural Monument.</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>This goal was already met by the installation of signs prohibiting the riding of bikes or mountain bikes. Further improvements are foreseen.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>Shipping companies requested that the suspension of shipping operations at a water level of less than 2.25 m should no longer apply, and that instead the speed of boats should be reduced in critical areas at a water level of less than 2.40 m. The regional authorities did not reach a decision on this issue so far.</p> <p>Due to the 2018 drought, the low water level and a gravel bank at the level of the Römerwand made it impossible for passenger boats to land. The request for the removal of the gravel bank by means of dredging operations was introduced but rejected.</p>

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	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.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	More information about the European Diploma is expected to be in place in the Nature Reserve in 2019.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the positive start in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations attached to the 2018 renewal of the Diploma;- The Group expresses concern regarding the requests of the shipping companies for changing the navigation rules and removing a gravel bank.

Name of the awarded area	17. Greece, Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria)	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)3	<p>1. the relevant authorities should accelerate actions to extend the boundaries of the national park to cover a much larger area of the Cretan White Mountains;</p> <p>No progress. The boundaries are still the same.</p> <p>2. an expert on biodiversity should be appointed or contracted to carry out regular monitoring of the flora and fauna of the park;</p> <p>A monitoring programme is in place for the Natura 2000 sites but no reference is made to the hiring of an expert on biodiversity.</p> <p>3. an annual budget should be allocated to the park, to be administered by the management board. The income from the entrance fee to the park may also be considered to finance monitoring projects, particularly recommendation 2 above.</p> <p>The budget for staff and operation of the park is secured by the Ministry of Environment. The park is not dependent any more from EU funds. The park benefits also from the financial support of different projects.</p> <p>The Ministry is still not allocating the entrance fee to the park.</p>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>Secured budget</p> <p>The implementation of restriction measures against the insertion of domestic goats has continued.</p> <p>The monitoring programme of important habitats and species, particularly of the Cretan wild goat (<i>Capra aegagrus cretica</i>) has continued. The data collected provides valuable information about the ecology of the species.</p>	

	Shortcomings	The management plan is still not approved
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>Public relation material is made available in several foreign languages. Unfortunately, neither information about nor the logo of the European Diploma appears on this material.</p> <p>The European Diploma encourages good practices of production and distribution of products and culture.</p> <p>The logo of the European Diploma is included in the unpublished book "White Mountains-Natural History", which is to be printed in late 2018 in Greek and English.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the positive change regarding the budget of the National Park. - Encourage the authorities to pursue their efforts for extending the boundaries of the area and for adopting the management plan. 	

Name of the awarded area	18. United Kingdom, Minsmere Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)9	<p>1) the control of the invasion of bracken using mechanical means should be continued; if necessary very selective spraying of chemical products should be carried out and careful records of this kept;</p> <p>The planned aerial bracken spraying programme could not proceed due to drought conditions and has been postponed. However, some local bracken spraying was possible early in the season. Bracken litter removal by mechanical means will take place during winter 2018/19.</p> <p>2) a contingency plan to deal with the issue of sea level rise and increased freshwater flooding of the grazing marshes should be drawn up; in the short term, the feasibility of preventing/limiting the risk of saltwater entering the reedbed and lagoon systems by building up existing internal banks should be studied; in the longer term, a strategy for sustainable management of the coast in conjunction with all key stakeholders should be developed; discussions with the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of freshwater flooding through modification of the Minsmere sluice should be continued;</p> <p>The Minsmere Coastal and Climate Change Adaption Plan has identified that there are no immediate risks to the site in the absence of catastrophic storm surge events on the coast. The managing authority continues to liaise with the Environment Agency and the pressure structures are working effectively to prevent unwanted saline incursion and to manage freshwater flooding to achieve target conditions.</p> <p>3) the reserve management plans (2008-2013 and 2013-2018) should be implemented;</p> <p>Fulfilled</p>	

		<p>4) the purchase of land should be continued;</p> <p>There were no land purchases this year.</p> <p>5) vigilance with regard to alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing pirri-pirri bur (<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>), should be maintained, and the control of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>) should be continued;</p> <p>Pirri-pirri bur control continues to prove challenging despite excellent progress on trials. Control has continued through a combination of physical plant removal and spot and boom spraying. This work is helping to contain the further spread of the species on site, but the measures that will enable the plant to be eradicated still remain to be identified. No evidence of mink on the site this year.</p> <p>6) the role of the reserve as a demonstration site for a wide range of audiences, especially formal school parties, and for informal education/awareness-raising activities for children and families should be developed;</p> <p>Educational activities further continued and were strengthened.</p> <p>7) a rotational fallowing regime on the freshwater sections of the coastal lagoons to increase invertebrate biomass for breeding and passage waders should be implemented.</p> <p>Habitat targets were largely achieved although water level and salinity management proved challenging due to winter flooding and summer drought. The planned drying out of the western side of the South Levels whilst keeping the eastern side and the North Levels wet was not realistic given the climatic conditions. The aims of the reedbed restoration project on the North Levels are starting to come to fruition with greater hydrological control and separation between the reedbed and wader pools.</p>
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	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>Slight decrease of visitors due to weather conditions</p> <p>EDF Energy continued with plans to develop the Sizewell C nuclear reactor to the south of the reserve with potential adverse effects on the hydrology of the area, the designated bird populations and the visitor interest in the area.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Monitoring of species and habitats continued	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma for Protected Areas award continues to be a valuable accolade highlighting the value of Minsmere as a nature reserve of national and international importance.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations; - Expresses its concern regarding the possible development of the Nuclear plant south to the Nature Reserve. 	

Name of the awarded area	19. United Kingdom, Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	26.05.1983 / 25.05.2028
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)19	<p>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;</p> <p>The operational habitat management plan was reviewed to bring it up to date.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>This recommendation is due in 2026 and will follow the mid-term assessment in 2020 and the annual reviews of the plan.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the deer usage and herbivore impacts of the Nature Reserve was commissioned and continue into next year. This will inform the habitat management, including the herbivore management without deer fences, on the reserve for the following 5 years. Key species wer monitored.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The visitor centre was visited by a record number</p>	

		<p>of people in the 2018 season with approximately 20,000 visitors, nearly 1,000 more than 2017. Our visitor centre is focused on promoting the Nature Reserve but it also supports wider tourism in Wester Ross, which is vital for the local rural economy. The NNR forms the core of the new UNESCO Wester Ross Biosphere which works to strengthen local economies and connect people with natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p>5) develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly targeting children and youths.</p> <p>This year 11 education visits totaling 122 students took place and the Nature Reserve is working more closely with the local Primary School.</p> <p>604 volunteer days were organised which helped manage the reserve and gain important skills and experiences. Most of the volunteers are under 26 years old.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	The development of the tourism strategy has not begun.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>16 hectares of new woodland was planted with 14000 locally grown trees from our nursery.</p> <p>40 hectares of plantation woodland was improved though woodland restructuring and deadwood creation.</p> <p>226.5 hectares of ground cleared from non-native Rhododendron ponticum.</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 positive start in implementing the recommendations attached to the 2018 renewal of Diploma;- 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	20. United Kingdom, Purbeck Heritage Coast	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.1984 / 20.06.2019
<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)10</p>	<p>1) work should continue on the inventory of natural areas calling for more adequate protection, as should research on these sites, particularly in the marine reserves, where the periodic inventories of fauna and flora should be continued;</p> <p>The Natural Areas inventory has been superseded by the National Character Area profiles managed by Natural England. Data gathering, and sharing is encouraged through the Dorset Environmental Record Centre.</p> <p>2) any progress to reduce intensive arable use on the immediate edge of the cliffs would be welcome;</p> <p>The vast majority of the Purbeck Heritage Coast's clifftop land is in Environmental Stewardship with a focus on extensification. Management agreements include measures such as: conservation headlands, grass field margins, arable reversion to grassland.</p> <p>3) work should continue to restore eroded paths, in particular through finding innovative solutions such as those used at Lulworth Cove;</p> <p>Efforts continue in this regard led by Dorset Countryside and the Lulworth Estate. Innovative use of local stone is evident.</p> <p>4) efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport by visitors (bus, train, bicycle, walking and riding) should be increased;</p> <p>Dorset County Council leads work to develop the potential of the existing park and ride site at Norden near Corfe Castle. As the rail line between Wareham and Swanage is being</p>	

		<p>reconnected to the main line, the Norden site can play an important part in reducing car numbers travelling to Studland.</p> <p>Two non-car routes are being considered from Norden. One is to connect the site more effectively with Corfe Castle village. The other is to connect the site more effectively with an existing off-road cycle route to the coast at Studland.</p> <p>5) measures should continue to be taken to address risks of oil, chemical and other pollution from shipping and marine waste in general;</p> <p>Ship-to-ship transfers in open water are now illegal and the activity is policed. Dorset County Council's Emergency Planning unit runs regular Beach Masters' courses to enable an effective and efficient response to spills.</p> <p>6) new resources should be made available to ensure the integrity in perpetuity of the newly designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and its effective presentation to the public;</p> <p>Management of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site is still financially supported by the local authorities.</p> <p>7) Appropriate management should be exercised and sufficient resourcing for this should be ensured, for the proposed South Purbeck National Nature Reserve.</p> <p>The site is deemed to be in favourable ecological condition. A new Countryside Stewardship agreement has been agreed to continue resourcing this site from ERDF-origin funds to 2026.</p> <p>8) the Heritage Landscape Management Plan for the Lulworth Estate should be implemented;</p> <p>The Lulworth HLMP continues to be implemented.</p>
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		<p>9) co-operation and the establishment of partnerships in management planning, action and exchange of information between all major bodies involved with conservation and management should continue as it is the key method for future management of the coast.</p> <p>The Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Partnership continues to deliver this function.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) the terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and British Petroleum (BP) are being strictly adhered to, and BP should continue to work to the highest standards;</p> <p>The Wytch Farm oilfield is now operated by Perenco which took over from BP in 2013. A new agreement concluded in 2017 ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety in operation and controls to ensure human and environmental health - Environmental management of areas in the estate in direct control of the company. Significant open habitat restoration has taken place; work continues. - A contribution (£1,700,000) towards off-site environmental improvements in the landscape character areas affected, largely within the Purbeck Heritage Coast - Effective decommissioning and site restoration once the operation has ceased <p>2) the extension of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries must 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. their scale and length; ii. their negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities; iii. the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within

		<p>a period of five years following the cessation of work;</p> <p>Dorset County Council adopted a new minerals strategy in May 2014 which sees a strengthening of policy for the conservation of designated areas.</p> <p>A public hearing on a Minerals Sites Plan which describes a potential extension to Swanworth Quarry was carried out in September 2018. The Dorset AONB team have advised that development of this site would impair the character of the Heritage Coast and be in contravention of this condition; there is significant public opinion supporting this position. A final decision is expected in early 2019.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>Public finance is potentially an issue; all conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area.</p> <p>Water quality is a concern in Poole Harbour and its tributaries. Nitrogen and phosphorus contributions to the harbour exceed acceptable limits and are attributable to sewage treatment discharge and intensive farming practices throughout the catchment.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The Diploma award has been used by the Dorset AONB in its work to limit the impact of development activity in the PHC, most recently related to the proposed extension of Swanworth Quarry.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations; - Expresses concern regarding the sustainability of public funding. 	

Name of the awarded area	21. United Kingdom, Fair Isle National Scenic Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)10	<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>Three wind turbine generators comprising transformers, control building and a series of ground mounted photovoltaic panels were installed. The electricity generated is fed into a bank of batteries housed in the control building, which is situated in the centre of the Isle.</p> <p>Advanced proposal for 4g signal provision to the island will improve, emergency response, the viability of business, of communications for islanders and the visitor experience.</p> <p>The Fair Isle Ranger Service included: general and specialist walks for birds and other subjects such as archaeology in conjunction with island expertise; involvement in environmental education activities; talks by staff, islanders, researchers and visitors covering a wide selection of subjects.</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>The annual Voar Redd Up took place on 28-30 April 18. This is a Shetland-wide charity funding event, organised on Fair Isle by the children. This ensures that at least the roadsides and beaches are tidy for the visitor season. The children keep data records and report less rubbish than in 2017. However, the biggest task was cleaning the beaches. This is an annual headache due to a continuous flow of materials derived from the sea.</p>	

	Conditions	<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>Three main activities were undertaken during the year. The first was securing Charitable Status. This was achieved in early autumn and the Marine Protected Area is now officially a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The second was working on funding applications to support a Project Officer and finalising a job description for the post. The third was planning. This involved steering committee meetings and further discussions with stakeholders, all of whom remain supportive of the MPA project.</p>
	Achievements	Strong monitoring of species
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The dog rose Rosa canina shrub unnoticed for 101 years on the Isle was rediscovered.	
To what extend 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 the condition and the recommendations; - 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	22. France, Scandola Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
<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)11</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>This recommendation is completed, the management plan is currently implemented.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No changes</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No changes and no interest from deciding bodies.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Implemented as part of the Mediterranean</p>	

		<p>network of MPAs (MEDPAN) and that of World Heritage MPAs (UNESCO).</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Partly achieved, but the funding is neither sufficient nor adapted to the stakes and the observer role of the adaptation and mitigation of MPAs to the effects of Climate Change that the Reserve could play.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Not complied with.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Nature and Biodiversity of the Scandola Nature Reserve are dramatically and irreversibly impacted by the increasing touristic development.</p> <p>Attempts to alert economic actors are currently unsuccessful and regulatory measures not enforced. The current situation is taking place in a context of growing tensions between local actors.</p>
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	Conditions	<p>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;</p> <p>The project to extend the Scandola reserve and set up Natura 2000 at sea began during 2017.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>An update of the rules is expected to take place in the context of the extension of the Scandola Reserve</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Scientific Committee Regional Natural Park of Corsica (PNRC) has not met for the past two years, without this expertise, the Consultative Committee of the Reserve is not able to make any informed decision about the management of the Reserve (in particular to address the impact of growing frequentation) - Proposals to secure funding and ensure sustainability of the Reserve were formulated (Visitor Tax etc) but are yet to be implemented.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage the authorities of the Reserve to pursue their efforts for securing funding for the management and Scientific work of the Reserve - Encourage the competent authorities to strengthen awareness raising efforts towards economic stakeholders and improve cooperation with all local parties to achieve better control over tourism-related activities. - 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	23. Italy, Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)12</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Cooperation and collaboration with the National Park in research activities is going on.</p> <p>2) the nature reserve should continue to stand out as the reference for nature protection in the region;</p> <p>The Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Pratovecchio has maintained and expanded its relationships with Universities and research institutes to the multidisciplinary study on the Reserve. Through conferences and articles in the press and television the characteristics and significance of the Integral Reserve have been disclosed at regional and national level.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The Sasso Fratino Reserve and surrounding Biogenetic Reserves are managed by the Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Pratovecchio that pays particular attention to their integrated management. In particular, it aims to limit or remove at all interventions even on the bands of the Biogenetic Reserves bordering Sasso Fratino in order to create a buffer zone.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Actions amending the condition of the places or construction of new ski slopes are not expected.</p> <p>5) the necessary funding should be provided in order to maintain the very high standard of scientific research;</p> <p>In the RNI Sasso Fratino and the adjacent Casentinesi Natural Reserves researches are carried out with LIFE</p>	

		<p>funding and with several Universities or in collaboration with Researchers Institutes.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No project to expand the existing sky slopes is expected in the next future. No other changes in the status of sites in the Reserves adjacent to Sasso Fratino were detected.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Visits to the Integral Reserve are restricted and authorised only for reasons closely linked to research and university training aiming to ecosystems conservation.</p> <p>8) the possibility of extending the European Diploma to include the biogenetic reserves should be studied.</p> <p>The opportunity of extending the European Diploma to the biogenetic reserves adjacent to Sasso Fratino is under study.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Several research and monitoring projects are underway.</p> <p>The primeval beech forests of Sasso Fratino were insert in the World Heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe"</p>	
To what extend 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 designation as World Heritage site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe”;- The Group is not able to assess the progress in implementing the recommendations as the 2018 report is almost the same as in 2017.- 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	24. Spain, Doñana National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)13	<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 restauration of the ecological state of the river is monitored within the frame of the Hydrological Plan of the Guadalquivir.</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 area has a self-protection plan against episodes of pollution and is included as a priority area in the plan against forest fires in Andalusia. However, the effort required for the work of restoring the Las Peñuelas fire suffered by an area of the Natural Park, annexed to the Doñana National Park, has impeded the design of a coordination document capable of integrating the sectorial emergency plans in the natural area (fires, oil spills, etc.)</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>Different conservation plans for the most emblematic species of Doñana continue to be developed.</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>The project has been officially rejected by the Spanish authorities.</p> <p>5) the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011;</p> <p>The new management plan of the Doñana Natural Area is in force since September 2016. During 2018, sectoral management programmes related to Public Use, Beekeeping, Pineapple Harvesting and Research have been drafted, which must be approved by the beginning of 2019</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>The Measure Programme of the Guadalquivir Hydrological Plan, approved in January 2016, includes the development of the new Doñana 2021 project, which will favor the recovery of the masses associated with the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ES6150009 Doñana North and West. The aim of Doñana 2021 is to launch new hydrological restoration actions in the estuary, especially on the left bank of the Guadalquivir, as well as to improve the knowledge and management of the water masses in the natural environment of Doñana.</p> <p>These measures have not yet been implemented. Currently, work is being done on the definition and planning of feasible measures to set up a definitive project.</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>A twinning agreement with the Regional Natural Park of the Camargue exists since 2008. Since then, a close relationship has been maintained between the two natural areas. In 2018, a meeting of the commission to monitor the agreement was held. Two main issues were addressed: 1. The joint development of a European sustainable tourism project, for its execution in both territories. 2: Participation in the florid meadow contest organised by the Camargue. The result of the contest has been the obtaining of a prize collected in the month of December by the Natural Area.</p>
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		As for the Danube Delta, the interest of signing a twinning that allows to strengthen the relations between both areas is being assessed.
	Conditions	<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>The plans for the Port of Seville were cancelled.</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 “Special Irrigation Plan” (SIP) is being implemented in a serious, coordinated, gradual and calibrated manner in accordance with the planned schedule. The legal protection of the plan has been reinforced in the light of available court resources. 46 catchments have been shut down, raising the total capped wells since 2015 to 315. The scheduled Extraction Plan resulted in an intense inspection effort, a total of 1831 inspections were carried out in 2017 and 2018, with 1605 of these involving water resources and 226 focused on forestry. As a result, there were 842 denounces, of which 730 were related to water and 112 to forests.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The efforts required for the work of restoring the Las Peñuelas fire suffered has impeded the design of a coordination document capable of integrating the sectorial emergency plans in the natural area (fires, oil spills, etc.)	
To what extend 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 the implementation of the conditions and recommendations;- 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	25. Germany, Bayerischer Wald National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1986 / 18.06.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)4	<p>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;</p> <p>The policy of large-scale non-intervention in the processes of nature with the goal “Leave nature to nature” and the ongoing monitoring of biodiversity and various environmental parameters have been secured on a long-term basis by the statutory regulations covering the Bayerischer Wald National Park and are being consistently implemented by the National Park Administration.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>After extending the non-intervention nature zone in 2017 the nature zone now covers 16,477 hectares (68 %) of the overall national park, 6,986 hectares (66 %) of which are within the extended zone. Subject to the consent of the Communal National Park Committee the plan is to extend the non-intervention nature zone by a further 170 to 200 hectares still within the year 2018.</p> <p>The aim by 2027 is to define 75 % of the National Park as a non-intervention zone.</p> <p>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);</p> <p>Targeted measures to control and combat bark beetle development on the periphery of the</p>	

		<p>National Park, as well as collaboration conducted in a spirit of trust with the authorities entrusted with management of the state forest and care of private woodlands in the vicinity, have reliably prevented infestations from spreading to neighbouring private woodlands.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Dialogue with the National Park local communities and associations could be further intensified and cooperation in the field of tourism development was further enhanced. There is currently a lack of political will to reactivate the biosphere reserve protection category.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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 through joined activities and programmes.</p> <p>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> <p>The continued operation of the "Igelbus" local public transport service is secured by a mixed</p>
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		financing system with participation of the holiday guests via a share of the visitor's tax, the national park communities, the county district and the State of Bavaria. Timetables are coordinated with the local public transport system on the Czech side. Enhanced coordination and a further extension of the scope of the local public transport service timetable on the Bavarian side are currently being worked on.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>To counteract the increase in the amount of waste accumulating in the National Park over recent years, the National Park Administration launched the initiative "Garbage out – Nature in" that is aimed to increase the visitors' awareness of this important nature conservation topic.</p> <p>In 2018 the National Park Administration purchased one of the three mountain lodges in the summit areas of the National Park - the Waldschmidthaus - that is very popular with hikers, and reopened the lodge with a new landlord, following rehabilitation measures on the water supply system and in the restaurant area.</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"> - While the Group welcomes the progress in implementing all the recommendations it would have expected the authorities stepping up efforts for addressing the outstanding issues (recommendation 5 and 6) as well as increasing the visibility of the European Diploma; - 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	26. Spain, Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)6	<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>The Master Plan of the National Parks Network is an ongoing project. The cooperation charter with the Pyrenees National Park (France) is still in force and various joint actions had been carried out.</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>Informative signage has been placed and information is provided in the visitor's centres, information points and buses to the Ordesa Prairie.</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>A study to mitigate the impact of visitors was conducted by July (2018). Within the study, there is the recommendation to promote alternative ways to the park.</p>	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	Recommendation 3	

	Shortcomings	Recommendation 1
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Due to slope movements, the closure of Añisclo canyon road (since April 2017) was necessary. However, the park authorities established a bus system so that visitors could access the northern part of the canyon.</p> <p>A system of visits to the Sierra de las Cutas viewpoint was established.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations. - 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	27. Sweden, Store Mosse National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028
<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)4</p>	<p>1) reduce the dependency upon volunteers for monitoring and regular maintenance work;</p> <p>The good funding during 2018 has made it possible to use contractors instead of volunteers.</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>Research works in the park are on a positive trend, but nothing has been done so far to centralise the results.</p> <p>3) secure the long-term management and restoration of the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön Lakes for increased birdlife;</p> <p>A long-term project started during 2018 with focus on restoring the lakes. The project will run for at least the next 5 years.</p> <p>4) set up a comprehensive but simple monitoring system for the park, to be attached to the management plan; monitor carefully the effectiveness and impact of the lake management and restoration, as well as of the LIFE mire restoration project;</p> <p>No specific actions have been taken, other than the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's national monitoring programme that runs according to plan.</p> <p>5) implement the new national system for information materials, signs and trail marking and, in particular, give appropriate visibility to and communicate more actively on the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p> <p>Almost implemented. All the signs and a lot of trails markings have been changed. During 2019 the information about the European Diploma will be increased.</p>	

	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Recommendation 1
	Shortcomings	Recommendation 2-5
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Increase of staff.</p> <p>A risk of decrease in funding due to the absence of government.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations; - Encourage stepping up efforts for implementing recommendations 2 and 5; - 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; - Request the authorities to secure the budget of the Park. 	

Name of the awarded area	28. Sweden, Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)3	1) pursue the efforts to establish a national park including both reserves as well as surrounding islands and waters; Process will start in 2019.	
		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; Done concerning bird sanctuaries.	
	3) continue providing support to farming activities on the islands, following the objectives of landscape and biodiversity conservation; Done.		
	4) continue the campaign to control the population of minks. More traps had been placed but there is still no substantial improvement.		
	Conditions	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; There is no update of management plan.	
Achievements	Recommendations 2 and 3		
Shortcomings	Recommendations 1 and 4 Condition 1		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Implementation of a new sewage system. Increase of employees.		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations;- Encourage the authorities to pay attention to the need for an update of the Parks' Management Plan.

Name of the awarded area	29. Italy, Montecristo Island Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028
<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)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 its <i>in situ</i> conservation is needed, the ways and means of its integration and conservation within the island’s ecosystems;</p> <p>The park authorities were adopting a management plan (including a LIFE project in accordance with the IUCN species survived commission).</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>The park authorities implemented a management plan for planting-strategies of <i>Quercus ilex</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>Done.</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>Done.</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>As part of the Life project (Resto con Life) a new info point was built. In addition, there was an increase of</p>	

		1,000 visitors per year. Thus, the new quota of visitors per year is 2,000 (75 visitors/group). 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.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Recommendation 3
	Shortcomings	Recommendation 6
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Increase of employees Eradication of Ailanthus	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the start of implementation of the recommendations and encourage the authorities to step up their efforts in 2019.	

Name of the awarded area	30. Germany, Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)4	<p>1) the peat eco-museum in the outlying area of the reserve will constitute a new attraction. It should provide information about protection issues, and appropriate facilities – in particular a tall tower with a panoramic view – should be installed. Funding should preferably be sought on a partnership basis;</p> <p>About 14,000 visitors visited the peat eco-museum. The planning phase for a tall tower with a panoramic view will start in 2019.</p> <p>2) the scale of the projects carried out by a small permanent team is considerable. The special effort made to provide guided tours and cater for school parties deserves support. It is necessary to find means of obtaining such support in consultation with the education authorities;</p> <p>Done, but personal reinforcement is not yet accomplished.</p> <p>3) the B465 trunk road that cuts across the Ried is now less of a problem, thanks to the measures taken. In the medium or longer term, the downgrading of the road should make it possible to eliminate motor vehicle traffic, in favour of pedestrians and cyclists;</p> <p>For most parts implemented.</p> <p>4) the areas cultivated with maize on the slopes surrounding the peat bog should be restricted, for example by buying up land. This would also have a beneficial impact on the quality of the water;</p> <p>The buying of surrounding land is an ongoing process.</p> <p>5) the major effort made to buy up land in the outlying area should continue. The problem concerning the slopes of Albers, where five hectares that have been purchased are still being intensively farmed, needs to be addressed;</p> <p>It is an ongoing process.</p> <p>6) the proliferation of high-voltage power lines over the outlying area is blighting the landscape. Requests that they be buried must continue to be reiterated, even if the costs are high.</p>	

		Not possible to reach an agreement with the energy provider.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Partly recommendations 1, 2, 3
	Shortcomings	Recommendation 6
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Implementation of Natura 2000 management plan by mid-2019</p> <p>Strong commitment of the local farmers (fulfilling the mowing operations)</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>There is an own station of the European Diploma in the permanent exhibition to the information centre.</p> <p>The logo of the European Diploma appears in every relevant PR activity</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	31. Spain, Teide National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)5	<p>1) the areas around the cable car should be restored in line with the Proyecto de restauración de la Rambleta del Teide;</p> <p>It has not been carried out.</p> <p>2) efforts to eradicate populations of moufflons and wild rabbits from inside and outside the park, with special emphasis on removing the invasive animal pressure from areas located outside the park should be continued;</p> <p>The park administration is working together with the Tenerife Island Council to take measures against moufflons and wild rabbits outside of the park. Numbers are decreasing.</p> <p>3) the roadworks cabin near Riachuelo Reserve, close to the TF-21 road should be removed, thus implementing the 12.4.4 provision of the Teide National Park Management Plan (plan rector de uso y gestión);</p> <p>The roadworks cabin is used as a Mountaineer's Refuge. There is an ongoing process to offer the Tenerife Mountaineers Group Sports Club alternative premises for its use as a mountain refuge.</p> <p>4) the remaining buildings near the Sanatorium (el sanatorio) should be demolished and ecological restoration of the area should be undertaken;</p> <p>The project is currently being processed, obtaining the necessary sectoral reports to achieve final approval.</p> <p>5) the monitoring of the effects of global climate change on the park's ecosystems should be improved so as to anticipate potential damage and possibly take adaptation measures;</p> <p>Done.</p> <p>6) genetic and ecological studies on endangered endemic or indigenous plant species should be continued in order to ensure that plans to restore these species are carried out; the extension of</p>	

		<p>these programmes to all endangered species should be considered;</p> <p>Done.</p> <p>7) the access of visitors to the park should be strictly controlled, and the access plan (plan de acceso) adopted as required by the management plan;</p> <p>The control of visitors is highly challenging due to the high number of visitors and existence of three island roads. However, so far the surveillance has been increased and numerous studies and engineering projects have been carried out.</p> <p>8) the public use plan (plan de uso publico) should be adopted and implemented.</p> <p>See 7</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Recommendation 6
	Shortcomings	Recommendations 1-5, 7-8
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Decrease of employees (retirement)	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations; - Encourage the authorities to deploy more efforts for complying with all the recommendations; - 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	32. Germany, Berchtesgaden National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 18.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)7	<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>The implementation of the management plan is an ongoing process.</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>The management plan is not yet implemented; however, the main researches focus on the fields of biodiversity and climate change.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. military activities; ii. recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in co-operation with the mountain guide organisation; providing specific training courses for the guides; iii. visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts; iv. mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply; v. water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities; <p>Ongoing process.</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> <p>Ongoing process.</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>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>The park administration is working together with the authority (Landesamt für Umwelt) which is responsible for wildlife management in Bavaria.</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>Ongoing project “Alpbionet2030” is carried out.</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> <p>Done.</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>Public transportation is highly advertised within the park and the park authorities.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Recommendation 7,8
	Shortcomings	Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Name of the awarded area	33. France, Ecrins national park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 17.07.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)14	<p>1) partnerships with the park's local authorities, intermunicipal bodies and local area plans should be strengthened in order to develop the necessary synergies for implementing a model policy for preserving the heritage with a view to sustainable development;</p> <p>2) the mechanisms for the continuous reporting, cataloguing and dissemination of heritage data should be improved, with particular attention being paid to cultural data and data relating to local know-how, and any expertise developed by the park authorities and its partners under the charter should be reported;</p> <p>3) the park's role as an environmental watchdog should be established, within networks of institutional partners, in response to the need to permanently monitor changes associated with global warming;</p> <p>4) further efforts should be made, in association with local players, to develop partnerships emphasising the methodological support, evaluation and technical support tasks of the national park, with a view to ensuring that activities are environmentally integrated;</p> <p>5) closer partnerships should be forged with the national forestry department, the local forestry authorities and the managers of privatelyowned forests (CRPF) to encourage more effective information sharing and the practice of exemplary multifunctional forestry management;</p> <p>6) efforts should be made to improve existing methods and tools for monitoring the physiognomy of the local area as well as awareness-raising tools, notably with a view to identifying areas of future work and alerting local players to major changes in the landscape;</p> <p>7) close attention should be paid to the</p>	

		<p>development of various forms of leisure and sporting activities, for example through better monitoring of numbers of visitors and by encouraging users to adopt practices that are more respectful of species and habitats;</p> <p>8) efforts should be made to monitor motorised and non-motorised flights over the core section of the park and to control the need for helicopter transport by holding discussions with mountain stockbreeders, owners and operators of mountain huts about the need to reduce the impact on species and the environment in the areas concerned;</p> <p>9) co-operation and solidarity measures geared towards rural communities should be pursued, in connection with the national strategy, in order to better reconcile the return of major predators with stock-keeping activities;</p> <p>10) the charter should be finalised and then the charter itself, as well as the conventions and programmes adopted under it, should be periodically assessed and adjustments made if necessary.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>All the recommendation are being implemented, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almost all the municipalities in the area signed the Park Charter. The related conventions 2017-2019 are implemented. The evaluation methodology has been finalised with the involvement all local stakeholders. A company in charge of this evaluation is being recruited. 2. Innovative tools have been developed for data collection and dissemination as well as for the cooperation with local stakeholders. 3. The Park keeps providing technical expertise and support to local partners. 4. The Park is heavily involved in institutional networks and fully plays his role as environmental watchdog. 5. The PNE has strengthened its partnership with the National forestry department as well as the other institutions for forest management including with the publication of joint guidelines and signed agreements 6. The reference methodology adopted for

		landscape monitoring is being increasingly used by local authorities.
	Shortcomings	The Climate change continues to heavily affect the Park glaciers
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The integration of two National Nature Reserves (Pics du Combeynot, Haute-Vallée du torrent de Saint-Pierre) in the PNE was pre-approved and under consideration by the CIPN - The Park is expected to be listed in the IUCN Green List in 2019. 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The logo and information related to the ED are displayed on the website of the PNE as well as in the PNE activity reports and visitor centres.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	34. Italy, Maremma Nature Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 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	<p>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;</p> <p>The collaboration with the local authorities is an ongoing process. At the moment the ecological condition of the Ombrone river is evaluated.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>3) designate the Trappola (Ombrona Delta) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No change yet, but there is an ongoing process to employ a ranger.</p> <p>5) step up technical support for local enterprises involved in developing integrated agro-environmental activities and promoting local products and services;</p> <p>Developing integrated agro-environmental activities is done by applying for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.</p> <p>6) develop action to promote the protection and enhancement of the Park's anthropological heritage;</p>	

		Partly done (four events during summer and winter). 7) prepare a plan for the management of the wolf population. Monitoring of two reproductive groups.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Recommendation 6
	Shortcomings	Recommendations 1-3
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Successful reintroduction of osprey (1 juvenile). Various activities of beach cleaning events	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations; - 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	35. Portugal, Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 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)4	<p>1) continue to take all precautions to ensure that no non-native species of plants and animals are introduced;</p> <p>No changes.</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>A VSAT phone is available.</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>Ongoing process.</p> <p>4) make efforts to eliminate the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull (L. m. atlantis) on Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora;</p> <p>There is a constant effort to prevent the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull.</p> <p>5) increase the awareness of the importance of the geological heritage;</p> <p>No changes.</p> <p>6) continue the programme of reconstruction of the remaining unrestored rubble walls.</p> <p>Done.</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</p>	

		<p>May 1986.</p> <p>No change in legal status and no changes foreseen in the near future.</p>
	Achievements	Recommendation 5
	Shortcomings	<p>Condition 1</p> <p>Recommendation 1</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The Global Ocean Refuge System (GLORES) has awarded Selvagens Islands as an excellence marine protected area.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>Within the nomination of the GLORES award, there was an increase of awareness. Thus, the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve including the European Diploma logo raised attention.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations; - Welcome the recognition as an excellence marine region. 	

Name of the awarded area	36. France, Mercantour National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.1993 / 03.05.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)17	<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 are in the approval process.</p> <p>3) continue the monitoring of large carnivores and other key species on a regular basis, including in co-operation and networking with neighbouring regions and countries;</p> <p>The Mercantour National Park is a partner in a LIFE project.</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>The reflection is initiated in very positive mood.</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</p>	

		Italy; continue working towards increasing integration. No information provided.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Little information available
	Shortcomings	Difficult to say
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	A new municipality - Barcelonette - joined the Park Charter in 2018.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group welcomes that no particular shortcomings were reported but requests detailed / concrete information on the actions carried out to comply with the recommendations to facilitate a more informed assessment of the progress. - 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	37. Italy, Maritime Alps Nature Park (previously Argentera Nature Park)	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.1993 / 03.05.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)10	<p>1) explore the feasibility of officially recognising the two Maritime and Marguareis Nature Parks as one national park;</p> <p>There is an ongoing process to become one national park.</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>Partly done.</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>Done.</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>Ongoing process.</p>	
	Conditions	<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>No change concerning the annual budget but an increase of employees (three new permanent staff members).</p>	
	Achievements	Recommendation 4	

	Shortcomings	Condition 1
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations and the increase of staff.	

Name of the awarded area	38. Austria, Wachau Protected Landscape	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the existence of the Jauerling protected zone should continue to be guaranteed; 2) the river should be maintained at its present level, guaranteeing the survival of the last alluvial forests; 3) work on restoration of the terraces and integration of the irrigation network should continue; 4) strict standards should be imposed on river tourism traffic, to ensure that it meets appropriate quality requirements for the Wachau; 5) the refurbishment of the Spitz quarry should finally be started; works should be staggered until 2019; 6) the moufflon population should be brought within a limit compatible with natural regeneration of the forest, without systematic recourse to protection fences; 7) efforts should be continued to preserve the apricot orchards; 8) steps should be taken to ensure that consultation on how to protect the Wachau against flooding takes place in co-operation with the local authorities concerned, in order to avoid separating the river from the hinterland by a substantial dyke. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein be abandoned definitively, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma; 	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan of building a dam on the Danube has definitively been abandoned by the respective authorities • Floodplain forest restoration using native/local species continues • High involvement of volunteers in the fieldwork in a very professional way • Efforts to analyse river tourism traffic patterns: a field study in 2018 implemented 	

	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some important issues (namely Recommendations No. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) will have to be continued and carefully monitored in the future
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Appreciation to the visit carried out by the Council of Europe's expert (Dr Peter Skoberne)	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Visibility particularly through the webpages in German which is planned to be translated into English	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of some recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	39. Russian Federation, Oka National Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to continue the efforts made over the last five years to provide the awarded area with sufficient resources to ensure the proper conduct of scientific research; 2) to conserve habitats of the Desman population: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the reserve should be extended south-eastwards in the Lopata zone, as far as the river Pra, in order to include some typical water meadow habitats not yet represented in the reserve, a number of oxbow lakes and a portion of the Oka river bank; ii. the prime Desman habitats, currently located near but outside the diploma-holding area, should also be incorporated into the diploma site; iii. furthermore, efforts should be made to encourage the handover to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section; 3) adequate resources should be provided for the purpose of raising the level of public education and information and developing links with local communities, while making full use of the reserve's assets and the large amount of available scientific data. Additional efforts should be made by the authorities with a view to making suitable educational material available, particularly to a young audience; 4) the measures to regenerate habitats of the Desman in the Oka plain should be continued; 	

		5) management plan for the reserve should be produced and implemented as soon as possible.
	Conditions	1) any regionalisation or privatisation measures must not affect the reserve's current protected status;
	Achievements	The project on wetland restoration is being implemented in the reserve helping to restore natural marsh ecosystems as well as prevent fires.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The EDPA has been promoting the site and the EDPA logo has regularly been used for a huge range of activities, particularly during communication, education and public awareness activities.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to regret the lack of information provided regarding the actions carried out in order to comply with the condition and recommendations attached to the renewal of the Diploma and requests the authorities to deliver a comprehensive report in 2019.	

Name of the awarded area	40. Russian Federation, Teberda National Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the management plan should be finalised and implemented; 2) every effort should be made to provide the reserve with the funding required to maintain and, if possible, improve its functioning; 3) information and education activities should continue to be further developed as far as possible. The new museum in Teberda should serve as a showcase of the reserve's exceptional heritage value; 4) scientific research activities should be pursued and any results that have environmental management purposes should be published. The reserve's management should be given the necessary means to facilitate the access of scientists and foreign visitors to the work of the diploma site in the appropriate languages; 5) co-operation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia should be pursued and stepped up with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area; 6) the authorities should ensure that the Caucasus Polygon, which was officially established in February 2010, becomes effective. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the tourist facilities in the protected area near Dombay will be neither extended nor developed. The co-operation between the reserve manager and the company running the tourist facilities on joint technical projects should be supported; 2) it will continue to be prohibited to drop off skiers by helicopter; 3) any regionalisation or privatisation measures must in no way adversely affect the reserve's current protected status; 	

	Achievements	<p>The Dombai tourist sites are not expanding and the management of the Teberdinsky Reserve closely cooperates with the company managing the tourist infrastructure of Dombai, and also ensures that this infrastructure does not expand.</p> <p>The tourist infrastructure has been developed there, but the attendance is controlled by the administration.</p> <p>Privatisation of land plots on the reserve's territory has been prohibited. Privatisation of land near the Teberda reserve negatively affects the reserve.</p> <p>Over the past 5 years, the reserve's budget has doubled. Information and educational activities are developing. The biosphere polygon of the Teberda Reserve, formed in 2010, is fully functioning. This polygon connected the Teberdinsky Reserve with the Caucasian Reserve became a migration corridor, favourably affecting the ungulate and carnivore populations.</p> <p>The reserve's staff received new field equipment.</p> <p>A special parking lot was created for people with disabilities near the visitor & information centre.</p> <p>Funding for the reserve has increased and the reserve employs 205 people.</p>
	Shortcomings	None
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Each year more than 40 articles and monographs on nature in the reserve are published. Some of them by scientists from abroad, <i>e.g.</i> from the Netherlands, France, China, etc.</p> <p>The continuing co-operation between the reserve administration and local municipalities should be mentioned.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>Since the reserve is visited by 120,000 tourists annually, the appearance of the information on EDPA is quite important.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of all the conditions and recommendations.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	41. Hungary, Ipolytarnóc Protected Area	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)15	<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. 	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are significant efforts by the managers to fulfil the above recommendations and they are quite successful. • The interpretation of palaeontological assets follows the new discoveries. • The EDPA site management provides jobs to local 	

		people.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet the transboundary Geopark's management structure has been excluding the nature conservation agencies in both Hungary and Slovakia. • To control geo-tourism and reduce its environmental impact on the whole territory it would be ideal to relocate the visitor reception facilities to the borderline, between the village and the protected area. These project proposals have failed so far. • The same failure applies to the power line's replacement. Nevertheless a project plan focuses on underground cable laying. The Administration is constantly applying and lobbying for funds to achieve these goals.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	Constant and effective animal husbandry, sheep grazing and hay cutting activities manage the mosaic-like habitat patches structure of open spaces with forested areas at the buffer zone of the Fossils. The meadows have been leased to local farmers.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The current information technology (smartphone app on the geotrial, high-tech animations) and remote sensing ones (drones) have been used for communication, education and public awareness where an attention is given to the EDPA logo.</p> <p>Due to its prestige important meetings are held there, the significance of the European Diploma is well recognized. The EDPA logo is on all the publications, road signs and panels of the Ipolytarnóc Fossils. A flag with the Diploma emblem is in front of the Visitor Centre, the visibility is well maintained.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of most of the recommendations and encourages stepping up efforts for complying with all of them.	

Name of the awarded area	42. Hungary, Szénás Hills Protected Area	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)16	<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 zones; construction in these areas should not be allowed; 	

		<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	N/A
	Achievements	The agreement of cooperation between the Danube -Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company includes, <i>inter alia</i> , measures on Recommendation No. 1, 2 and 3.
	Shortcomings	No changes in some recommendations, namely No. 5, 6 and 7.
Other highlights worth to be Mentioned	Impressive huge range of communication, education and awareness activities on nature conservation among both the general public and target groups have been carried out by the EDPA site managers, particularly for schoolchildren.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information submitted	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome the progress in the implementation of some recommendations; - Encourage the authorities to strengthen their efforts for implementing the remaining recommendations. - 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	43. Belarus, Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve	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 Belorusi (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 is 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 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The professional staff number has increased • Sustainable forestry using the FSC certification
	Shortcomings	None
Other highlights worth to be Mentioned	An impressive research, scientific, monitoring and inventories in various biological diversity levels have been implemented within the Reserve.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve has developed a new official website where the logo and brief information on the European Diploma award is presented, as well as a link to the Council of Europe website. The EDPA holder extensively uses the European Diploma's logo on the various promotion/public relation materials.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and all the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	44. Netherlands, De Weerriben-De Wieden Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 03.06.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2015)2	<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 above condition has been met because the Wieden-Weerribben 2000 Management Plan has been the official Management Plan for the Weerribben-Wieden National Park since 2017. • Thanks to huge efforts of the Park's managers as well as some other stakeholders, most of the above recommendations have been met.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2015, the Dutch government decided to expand the Lelystad Airport to be operational for tourist flights in 2019. The aeroplanes will be flying above Overijssel at an altitude of 6,000 feet (1,500-1,800 metres): one of the routes will fly over the Nature Reserve. In addition, the planes will continue to circle until they receive permission to land at the Lelystad Airport. Many concerned residents have filed a petition with the authorities and are opposed to these low approach routes. At the same time, neighbouring municipalities have also protested. • In 2017, the Natuurmonumenten, the area managing authority, extended the fishing contracts in De Wieden provided that conditions regarding sustainability are met. If not, they will be terminated. The Natuurmonumenten was in the process of terminating the lease agreements with the fishermen fishing for eel in De Wieden. This has led to a situation whereby parties could not reach an agreement. The Natuurmonumenten has lodged an appeal and the case will be heard in 2019.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Park's staff activities in research, monitoring, surveys and inventories really is impressive and provides a perfect example to protected areas not only in Europe, but also all over the world.	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The information panels in De Weerribben have been partly renewed using new modern designs displaying information on the European Diploma. The Diploma logo is commonly used in various promotion/public awareness materials.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and recommendations;- Closely monitor the further development of the Lelystad airport and keep the Group of Specialists informed.

Name of the awarded area	45. Finland, Seitsemien National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)8	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.	
	Conditions	1) implement the new master plan for the Seitsemien National Park and evaluate by 2014 if there is a need of a new updated management plan.	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The above condition has been met, because the master plan for the Seitsemien National Park implementation is going on and the need of an updated management plan has not occurred.• All the above recommendations have been implemented by the Site authority or are under way.	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.		
To what extend the visibility of the	No information provided.		

European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations;- 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	46. Finland, Ekenäs Archipelago National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)7	<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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved; and ii. 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure; ii. further develop customer service and interpretation; and iii. 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. 	
	Conditions	<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. 	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above condition has been met, because the Finnish Ministry of the Environment started the enactment process of the protected areas in the Uusimaa region. The national parks planned enlargement area, Segelskär (appr. 6,200ha to be established by a government statute) next to the national park, was included in the process, thus 	

		<p>ensuring the protection of the area before the enlargement of the national park itself. The process has still been ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the above recommendations have been implemented by the site authority or are under way.
	Shortcomings	None
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The NP Administration has been using the EDPA logo since it was awarded the EDPA.	
Conclusions and action suggested	Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	47. Belarus, Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2028 CM/ResDip(2018)16
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2013)1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) continue the move from economically driven to ecologically driven management by reducing the forestry activities in the regulated zones and special habitats in other parts of the National Park, by excluding parcels with old trees in all zones (including the buffer zones) from logging, and by presenting data on harvested wood volumes in the annual reports; 2) working with the Government of Belarus, ensure that the National Park authorities have the responsibility for the management of a. the zones of special significance for specific habitats outside the strictly protected areas, b. the buffer zones and c. the game zones within the boundaries of the National Park; 3) start discussions between the National Park authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture to compensate an agricultural area of 2 000 ha recently excluded from the National Park, by including abandoned agricultural areas elsewhere – also in the buffer zones – and by promoting a gradual extensification of agricultural activities leading to semi-natural habitats (hayfields and low-intensity, grazed meadows with only moderate or no use of fertilisers); 4) working with the Government of Belarus, increase budgets for both applied ecological research and nature conservation activities in view of the principles of sustainable management either currently present in, or to be included in, the management plan; special attention is needed both within the National Park and its buffer zones for a. hydrological restoration of all wetland (bog and marsh) ecosystems surrounding the forest, b. water 	

		<p>and soil quality in river valleys and c. semi-natural traditionally managed or abandoned farmland;</p> <p>5) reconsider the management of large herbivores with a view to reducing the winter food supply so as to prevent abnormally large population densities (overpopulation), rather than reducing excess numbers by continued or increased hunting practices; this is motivated by aiming to alleviate possible damage to both forestry and agriculture;</p> <p>6) continue research on the genetic aspects of the bison populations, applying the results to further investigate the restoration of a transboundary migration corridor with Poland;</p> <p>7) carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) concerning mass tourism in the heart of the National Park, including a reappraisal of the boundaries, location and zoning of "Father Frost's Manor", and the effects of traffic and pollution, taking into account the increased accessibility of the National Park; in the annual reports state how any concerns demonstrated by the EIA are being addressed in practice;</p> <p>8) monitor and evaluate the ecological side effects of a. the new bypass road, b. the use of fauna tunnels (eco-tunnels) by various species (such as herpetofauna, badgers and large herbivores), c. the expected regional economic investments, d. the increasing agro-tourism developments and e. the additional recreation initiatives around the outskirts of the National Park; and report annually on the results of the monitoring and evaluation;</p> <p>9) intensify the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of actual activities such as agriculture (drainage, water quality, use of chemicals), forestry (logging, removal of dead wood, bark beetle effects) and hunting (introduced species, hunting bag statistics),</p>
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		<p>including neighbouring zones outside the National Park, in order to adjust the management plan or to substantiate environmental impact assessments;</p> <p>10) consider a specific adaptation of the prohibition of all activities in the strictly protected zones so as to control the invasive alien species, thus enabling the control of deer (<i>Dama dama</i>) escaped from hunting enclosures and the felling of old red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) trees and seedlings that disturb the natural forest ecosystems;</p> <p>11) prepare a new detailed topographic map (1/50 000) of the National Park and surroundings, indicating the functional zoning (with the buffer zones, game areas, checkpoints, educational trails, etc., all marked) and including the location of the bypass road (with legends in different languages).</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) the implementation of the new conservation law in the National Park, including the implementation on site of the relevant conservation management plan attached to the new zonation, is completed within a period of three years;</p> <p>2) any development with possible negative effects on the National Park and its integrity, including the buffer zones, should be subject to an environmental impact assessment and the National Park authorities should be duly consulted;</p>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Park's Management Plan was revised in 2015 for 2016-2020 with broad participation of stakeholders and has currently been implemented. The development and approval of the new management plan of the National Park is planned to be carried out in 2019-2020. • Under the current law, conducting any types of infrastructure works inside a national park and its buffer zone, except for construction in

		<p>the settlements should be a subject to the EIA process which the NP Administration participates in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been clear efforts to implement all the recommendation and the Administration has been successful in some of them.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a lot biodiversity/environmental monitoring schemes implemented by various institutions in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, but the outputs should be regularly analysed, not only described or stated, seeking for, inter alia, causalities and implemented in the field by the NP Administration. • The proportion of funds from the Governmental/State Budget should be increased and to become stable.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The outputs of molecular genetics studies on the European Bison are remarkable and can be applied in the species management in practice.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations and conditions; - Request the authorities for more action in order to comply with recommendations 2, 7 and 8; - 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. 	

No annual report was received in 2018

Name of the awarded area	48. France, Port Cros National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022
<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)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; 7) provide visitors with more visible information on 	

		<p>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	N/A
	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>According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.</p> <p>Since no reporting has been sent since 2015, the planned appraisal visit in 2021 might be anticipated in 2020 to rapidly assess the situation on the spot and evaluate whether the area still meets the European Diploma criteria.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	49. Ukraine, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)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 	

		<p>management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, published in 2008 and 2011, giving the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve the capacity to undertake these;</p> <p>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.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Most recommendations have progressively been improved on, and it must be acknowledged that this has continued. It is noted that though nos 1, 4 and 6 haven't moved forward noticeably during 2018, the general feeling is that there is still momentum in these questions.
	Shortcomings	Still, there is a lack of funding for work on the monitoring and conservation of the European Mink, and no mentioning on the situation for the IAS American Mink in the reserve.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	It is not stated specifically how the visibility has improved/changed the last year.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of all the recommendations and acknowledge the cooperation with local communities and neighboring Romanian initiatives. - Request the competent authorities to improve the monitoring of the situation of the European and American Mink populations. - 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	50. Slovak Republic, Poloniny National Park	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)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; 8) continue the dialogue with local communities in order to build confidence and foster involvement 	

		in the diploma-holding area.
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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); 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; 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;
	Achievements	As already noted last year, the park has managed to engage on most recommendations, and is reporting on new landmarks on most of these. Two of the above-mentioned conditions are on their way to being achieved. No 2 will not start yet, of course.
	Shortcomings	None reported the last year.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The EDPA-visibility is hardly mentioned, whether due to not existing or just left out is unclear.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several of the conditions and recommendations; - Request the authorities to pursue their efforts for complying with the conditions (and recommendations) attached to the renewal of the European Diploma especially regarding the development of the forest management strategy. 	

Name of the awarded area	51. Poland, Bieszczady National Park	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)20	<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. 	

	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	There has been further development of the work on the recommendations, and most are followed, or at least started. The situation seems to have improved this last year.
	Shortcomings	Still visitor pressure is an issue which has to be dealt with – last year over 600 000 visitors have visited the park, and there is some work started on managing and controlling these. But this must continue.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	It is visible, in the same way as previously.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the start in the implementation of the recommendations and urge the authorities to handle the visitors' pressure.	

Name of the awarded area	52. Slovak Republic, Dobročský National Nature Reserve	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)12	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 Skalicou cottage to the Forestry Museum.	
	Conditions	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;	
	Achievements	The recommendations are met with, apart from no 3, which has been under discussion, and will probably result in a plan for climate change effects on the forests. The condition has resulted in a report on the location of the proposed road, but since the construction is delayed until some time 2020-2021, the condition will not be fulfilled until that time.	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be	The management plan is now being successfully implemented		

mentioned	<p>The Diploma certification has led to an increase in interest for the PA, and a film has been produced last year.</p> <p>The visit and following report from expert Robert Brunner has led to several action points, since it was presented at the standing committee of the European Council meeting December 2017.</p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>It is evident in the produced film mentioned above</p>
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the start in the implementation of the recommendations.- Encourage the completion of the study on climate change- Remind the authorities that when the suggested road is planned, the condition must be met with.

Name of the awarded area	53. Russian Federation, Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve	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)8	<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 	

		<p>support of the UNESCO MAB (Man 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>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Slight steps have been carried out towards meeting with the recommendations for the Strict Nature Reserve. The inclusion in the MAB of the Metsola biosphere reserve since 2017, has led to some achievements.
	Shortcomings	The reporting is somewhat scant, and should be more exhaustive, to enable a better evaluation.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- The Group to welcome the start in the implementation of most of the recommendations.</p> <p>- Encourage more comprehensive reporting in the future and e.g. declare what the management plan for the Metsola biosphere reserve includes, as well as what the plan for the integration of federal protected areas into the socio-economic development of the Kostomuksha urban district means for the tourism.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	54. Russian Federation, Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve	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; 2) draft and implement a programme to update and renovate the museum; 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; 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. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	
	Achievements	<p>According to the condition, the authorities of the three excluded small units of PA's have been offered an agreement for benefiting from the European Diploma status.</p> <p>International cooperation on steppe biotope preservation has continued.</p>	

	Shortcomings	The relations with regional (oblast) authorities have deteriorated, since these have tried to question the buffer zones for the EDPA, and even issued building permits within these.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The legal cases regarding the conflict with the administration of the Kurskaya oblast have all been won.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The EDPA status of the area has been emphasized in the mentioned conflict, which has been a strong point for the EDPA in the court.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the condition and several recommendations; - Request the authorities to closely monitor their disagreement with the oblast and to report on the issues to the Group in 2019; - Request the authorities to take measures in order to stop the increasing phenomenon of construction in the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve; - 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	55. Netherlands, De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	09.09.1999 / 09.09.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)6	<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"> i. all alternative locations with least disturbing effects on the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve and its surroundings; ii. 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	Strengthening the status of the nature reserve has been going on, and most recommendations are met with, and even surpassed.
	Shortcomings	The only problems still concerning the EDPA, is the not yet settled status of the nearby airport. The other one is the situation of the strong Red Deer population, which creates problems for the administration.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The reflection about the establishment of the Nieuw Land National Park, including the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve will strengthen the possibilities to fund visitors' infrastructure etc.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Not clearly stated	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations though the development of the Lelystad Airport as well as the situation of the red deer must be continuously monitored. - 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. 	

No annual report was received in 2018

Name of the awarded area	56. Czech Republic, Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)1	<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). 	
	Conditions	<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. 	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	According the Regulations of the European Diploma, request the competent authorities to report annually to the Secretariat on the actions carried out in order to comply with the conditions and recommendations set in the Resolution renewing the Diploma.	

Name of the awarded area	57. Czech Republic, Karlstejn National Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)5	<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. 	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	Grazing has been provided, though the long-term	

		<p>management is not guaranteed since funding is only provided on a yearly basis.</p> <p>No alien species introduced, and the restoration of stands with non-native trees continued.</p> <p>The budget for a visitors' centre secured, education started, and budget for personnel secured.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma logo will be visible on at least 10 sign-posts during 2019.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations; - 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	58. Czech Republic, Podyji National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 21.06.2020
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)4	<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. 	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	Most recommendations are being carried out.	
	Shortcomings	The draught during the 2018 summer led to very low water tables, and a subsequent need to let the minimum flow in the river fall short of stated minimums. Due to climatic conditions impossible to counteract.	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
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 and the grazing situation, and to instigate the preparations of a new management plan (current planning period 2012-2020);- 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	59. Romania, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)17	<p>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;</p> <p>The Romanian Parliament initiated the discussions for the establishment of a trilateral biosphere reserve between the three countries, Danube Delta – Lower Prut.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The cooperation with the Camargue National Reserve is continuing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In 2018 the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority purchased a radar to detect the boats that exceed the legal speed on channels inside the reserve.</p> <p>4) potential external threats should be continually monitored, especially the likely</p>	

		<p>adverse transboundary impact on the ecosystem of the whole delta of the works related to the Bystroe canal in the Ukrainian sector;</p> <p>The integrated monitoring programme of the reserve includes the monitoring of the impacts of the transport activities on the Chilia channel.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The hunting activity on the protected area's territory was banned as from 2013. During the year 2018 the hunting was allowed for concerned authorities in view to monitor the spread of the African swine fever.</p> <p>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> <p>Fish resources on the reserve's territory were managed according to the Management Plan and Regulations approved by the Governmental Decision no. 763/2015.</p> <p>7) information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be made readily available to the public;</p> <p>All the necessary information related to the economic activities allowed on the protected area's territory are posted on the web page: www.ddbra.ro</p> <p>8) the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private</p>
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		<p>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>For the financial period 2014-2020 there are several financial programmes supporting different kind of activities and local stakeholders. Local communities are supported in accessing the funds.</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>The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority ensures that the objectives of the Building Regulation in the Reserve are followed.</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>In September 2015 the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve organised an international meeting for an external review and assessment of the Conservation Strategy. As a follow up the authority plans to improve the legal framework and the strategies for the conservation of the Danube Delta's biodiversity and ecosystems.</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</p>
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		<p>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>The legal framework foresees measures for economic-social development of the Danube Delta area. The budget is complemented with funds from taxes, fees, permits and authorisations issuing.</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>Based on the Management Plan, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority proposes every year new legal documents to be adopted by the Government, in view to support its activity for nature conservation and protection and sustainable development in the area.</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> <p>The development of wind farms in the reserve's neighborhood area is carefully monitored.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Most recommendations are fulfilled
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>In 2019 will a new international project between the three Countries, led by Rewilding Europe, a Cambridge Conservation Initiative, under the Endangered Landscape Programme. The Project Restoring the Danube Delta, Europe's largest wetland Ukraine, Romania & Moldova will be implemented during the period 2019-2024.</p>	

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations;- 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	60. Austria, Thayatal National Park	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>Due to the very little precipitation in the year 2018, a generally very dry and hot year in Europe, the water levels in the Thaya river are very low. Also, the water reservoirs are suffering under those conditions, especially the Vranov Dam upstream of the National Park, which didn't fill up over the winter of 2017/2018. The long-term agreement from the year 2016 is still valid, even though in the dry Summer 2017 an exceptional operation of a minimal flow of 2.8m³/s was granted. But because of the drought also in the year 2018, the responsible river agency (Povodí Moravy s.p.) requested to switch to another exceptional operation mode over the winter 2018/2019. Both National Park authorities discussed this matter and compiled statements regarding this situation in collaboration with the commissions and national, regional and local governments. While the Czech National Park Administration Podyjí granted the exceptional handling under their conditions, the National Park Thayatal also gave its statement over to the Austrian-Czech border river commission, only accepting the exceptional operation if 1) monitoring is implemented to evaluate the outcomes of the low water flow (sedimentation, siltation, oxygen content), 2) other water usages from the dam are presented and evaluated and 3) according to natural occurrences high water events are simulated, slow rises to 15m³/s - 30m³/s for a short period of time, in order to prevent siltation and improve the river sole composition.</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</p>	

		<p>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>In the current INTERREG-Project “Dyje 2020/Thaya 2020” the fish population and their behavior is being studied by Czech researchers (Výzkumný ústav vodohospodářský) in close cooperation with both National Park authorities. Some fish were equipped with a transmitter by the scientific researches, in order to proof the usage of dead wood in the water by fish. The monitoring is still ongoing, but first observations indicate positive results regarding the usage of dead wood by fish in the river Thaya. In order to furthermore support the natural reproduction of the strout, one artificial spawning ground was created in the border river in close cooperation with the National Park Podyjí and Povodí Moravy. This artificial spawning ground, consisting of proper sediments which are otherwise hold back by the water dam, is being also monitored in order to evaluate the effects on the natural reproduction of the strout.</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>Due to the draught of the year 2018 and the resulting low water levels, the operators of the Vranov Dam did not create any strong surges in the Thaya river this year. The exceptional operation of the Vranov Dam because of the lack of water, was accepted by the National Park Podyjí under the condition, that the high peaks will not overcome more than 15m³/s, only on very rare occasions 30m³/s.</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>The INTERREG-Project “Dyje2020/Thaya2020” is</p>
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		<p>ongoing at the moment and researches a multitude of river ecological questions, also regarding the fish population, which will provide the National Park authorities with scientific data to properly evaluate necessary future actions. Since some fish are being equipped with a transmitter, the monitoring will provide results about the behavior of the fish in the National Park section of the river Thaya. Based on this data transboundary measures and further research will be implemented. Regarding the fish stocking, data and statistics are being taken about every single In- and Output of fish by the National Park Thayatal. Since the National Park Podyjí is not responsible for the fish stocking in this river section, meetings and discussions will be held in 2019 with the south Moravian fishery association, in order to make fish stocking more coherent. The National Park Thayatal has raised a healthy and regional fish tribe which now only has to be coordinated with the South Moravian fishery association in order to achieve a healthy fish population.</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>The current INTERREG-Projekt “Dyje2020/Thaya2020”, in which the National Park Thayatal is a project partner and the National Park Podyjí a strategic partner, includes a study on the influence of fishing and activities related to fishing on the protection goals of National Parks with the specific focus on the disturbance on protected species from the activities related to fishing. Therefore, the study will work out following research questions: 1. What species, which are found in the fishery areas and around their access routes in the Thayatal and Podyjí National Parks, are sensitive to disturbances caused by the presence of humans? 2. Where are actual or potential localities of those species in the study area? 3. Which activities that are related to fishing have a negative impact on the occurring species and what are the specific disturbances and causes? The final result of the research is a conception of a possible National Park compliant fishery regulation in the National Parks Thayatal – Podyjí, based on scientific research.</p> <p>6) evaluate the existing agreement on co-operation between the Podyjí and Thayatal National Parks in</p>
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		<p>view of a possible twinning agreement.</p> <p>Besides the existing agreements such as the “Statement concerning cooperation between the Nationalpark Thayatal (Republic of Austria) and Národní park Podyjí (Czech Republic)” from the “Agreement on Common Objectives, Sources and Basic Principles of the Management in the NP Podyjí-Thayatal” and the “Agreement on mutual exchange of information from information systems” the National Park administration Thayatal and the National Park administration Podyjí will strengthen and manifest the transboundary cooperation by creating coherent management plans that will be valid for the same time period from 2021-2030. Starting in 2019 the two bordering National Park administrations will begin to work on their management plans in close cooperation and create two management plans that will be very articulated. By including common visions and goals in both management plans the execution of transboundary cooperation will become very present in the daily job of the employees of both National Park administrations. This manifestation will also become very visible for the public, since the management plans will be published on the websites of the National Park administrations.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>The national park was extended with three parcels of land at the periphery of the existing park area. Its total area now stands at 1358,5 ha.</p> <p>The national park administration builds accommodation to house students and youth during project weeks in the vicinity of the existing visitor centre.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Starting in 2016 and now fully under way, the widespread dieback of ash trees (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) due to infestation by the fungus <i>Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbus</i> has reached the national park and has devastated the population of these trees. For safety reasons, large numbers of ash trees along one of the most popular hiking paths had to be cut. It is expected that ashes will be largely diminished in the park for the foreseeable future and a return of this species in significant numbers is entirely uncertain.</p>
	<p>The systematic and planned removal of Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>) and Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) according to the management plans has continued. Of originally 400 ha of spruce and pine stands that were established in the course of commercial forestry before the establishment of the national</p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>park, only 150 ha of this tree species remain that are foreign to the natural forest communities of this region. Completion of this management measure that was already included in the original strategy for the park is planned for 2030.</p> <p>Likewise, the eradication of stands and individual specimen of Black Locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>), technically an invasive species, continues on an annual basis with an improved method to suppress regrowth from the roots.</p>
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma is a source of motivation to continue the efforts towards efficient and effective nature conservation and protection. This Diploma has also contributed to strengthen the cooperative efforts with the nearby Wachau Diploma holding area.</p> <p>Last but not least, the Diploma is a contribution to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between Austria and the Czech Republic.</p>
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations; - 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	61. Estonia, Matsalu National Park	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?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)5	<p>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> <p>There have been several courses for farmers who started the meadow management in Matsalu. On the meetings of stakeholders board there have been reports about the success of meadow management in the park. In 2018 96 farmers participated who have managed 6725,24 ha (345 of land plots). The renovation works have been done on 42,65 ha, 294m of fences have been erected for new pastures. In very dry summer there was shortage of hay in Estonia and all the hay from semi natural grasslands from Matsalu was used or sold. It gave a good socio-economic benefit for the farmers participating in the management.</p> <p>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> <p>There is an informal group of scientists who are involved in scientific research on biodiversity in Matsalu. - Markus Vetemaa (ichthyology), Elle Roosaluuste (botany) and Ave-Liina Helm (botany and management of semi natural grasslands), Riinu Rannap (herpetology), Hannes Pehlak (ornithology), Kalev Sepp University of Life Science – ecosystem services of semi natural grasslands.</p> <p>3) despite the hunting restrictions within the national park, strengthen co-operation with hunters for the management and control of some invasive species;</p> <p>The transportation of hunters was financed with a view to regulate predators on the islands.</p> <p>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> <p>- There have been 2 official web cameras in the nature to</p>	

		<p>detect invasive predators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a monitoring scheme for mammals in the park in two areas which helps recognise alien mammals also. - The works for the eradication of <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> took place in two areas in National Park in 2018 <p>5) prepare a climate change adaptation plan for the national park by 2024;</p> <p>The discussions have started about the climate change plan for the national park</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>New trail along Baltic Sea was established in 2018: https://coastalhiking.eu/et https://www.visitestonia.com/en/where-to-go/west-estonia/matsalu-national-park https://loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/national-parks/matsalu-national-park https://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/sites/default/public/Matsalu_EN.pdf https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g1175490-d3535505-Reviews-Matsalu_National_Park-Lihula_Laane_County.htm</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) 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>There have been no financial problems for the implementation of the management plan.</p>
	Achievements	<p>In 2018, after several courses, 96 farmers participated in the meadow's management plan that interests 6725,24 ha, 294m of fences have been erected for new pastures, and renovation works have been done on 42,65 ha.</p> <p>in 2018, <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> was eradicated in two areas of National Park.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights		

worth to be mentioned	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The scientific research on biodiversity in Matsalu gives great visibility to the EDPA of the National Park at scientific level.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of all the recommendations; - Encourage the authorities to step up their efforts for the implementation of the management plan and for designing the climate change adaptation plan.

Name of the awarded area	62. Hungary, Tihany Peninsula	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2018 / 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)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>As a first step for preparing a new management plan for the European Diploma holding area, the expert group of BfNPD is elaborating the management plan of the Tihany peninsula Natura 2000 (HUBF20006) site.</p> <p>2) together with the municipal authorities, continue to enforce the ban on new buildings on the site;</p> <p>No significant changes have occurred since the last report. 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>That is partly a new recommendation but the work to manage and control visitor pressure is continuous. A revision of the road network from the point of view of nature conservation inside the peninsula is planned and if necessary those for the possible use of agricultural and tourism purposes will be renewed.</p> <p>4) 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>That is partly a new recommendation. It is an important achievement in this regard that the National Park Directorate received from the state the management rights of the vineyard lying on the northern side of the Lake "Külső" at the end of 2017.</p> <p>5) 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</p>	

		<p>land this year.</p> <p>6) take the necessary steps to improve the water quality of the Belső Lake;</p> <p>A project financed by a state-tender (Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme) has been started to improve water quality and restore the natural state of the within the national park. As part of that programme a shallow settling lake to filtrate the rainwater coming from the village will be established. All plans and permits are available for the construction of the settling pond.</p> <p>7) continue to control invasive species such as <i>Ailanthus</i>;</p> <p>The achieved results have been maintained with mechanical and manual activities by the national park. A detailed survey was carried out on the spread of invasive non-native species. The national park participates in the Life4Oakforests project (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000245), which started in 2017, as part of which a large-scale intervention on the peninsula to reduce invasive species is planned. The treatments of invasive tree species in the Life4OakForests project are in progress</p> <p>8) 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 in other parts of the protected area. The project of forcing back invasive weed species involves this area, too.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	The National Park Directorate received from the state the management rights of the vineyard lying on the northern side of the Lake “Külső” at the end of 2017.
	Shortcomings	A project of the Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme has started to improve water quality and restore the natural state of the lake by a settling pond that filtrates the rainwater coming from the village.

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The National Park participates in the Life4Oakforests project (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000245), which started in 2017 and will continue by large scale intervention to reduce invasive alien species.
To what extend 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 the implementation of several recommendations; - Encourage the authorities to finalise the elaboration of the management plan of the Tihany peninsula Natura 2000 site; - Encourage the authorities to finalise the planned revision of the road network from the point of view of nature conservation inside the peninsula; - Encourage the authorities to continue the treatments of invasive tree species in the Life4OakForests project; - Encourage the authorities to elaborate a management plan for the vineyard lying on the northern side of the Lake "Külső"; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of EDPA logo and information about the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	63. Slovenia, Triglav National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2019
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)8	<p>1. ensure that, when the new zoning is in place, any further change of zones should be in favour of increased protection;</p> <p>As mentioned in previous reports the Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zones, 3rd is peripheral zone. There were no changes in zonation in 2018.</p> <p>2. the land-use planning regulations related to new constructions and renovation work should be strictly applied;</p> <p>Spatial planning at local level is exclusively under the jurisdiction of municipalities. Seven of the eight municipalities have adopted the land use plan. The plan of the municipality of Kranjska Gora is still in preparation. The public Institute of the Triglav National Park takes an active role in the drafting process of a municipal spatial development plan and a municipal spatial order.</p> <p>3. work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater should be continued, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human occupation;</p> <p>There are 36 mountain huts in the Triglav National Park and at the end of the year 2018, 16 of them had wastewater treatment plants. For a few years the Slovenian Alpine Association has a consultancy office that helps to solve environmental issues of the mountain huts. Together with the park staff regular consultancy and monitoring of the treated waste water is in place. Alpine clubs and managers accepted these activities in a very positive way and they are stimulated for improvements. A new Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater (Official Gazette RS, 98/15) was passed. According to the new Decree the proper treatment and discharge of the wastewater should be settled by the end of 2021. As a proper treatment of wastewater of the mountain huts are considered: wastewater treatment plants, 3-compartment septic tanks with drain field and dry toilets. In 2018 the Triglav National Park Public Institution co-financed some measures to improve the functioning of wastewater treatment plants and also a seminar for</p>	

		<p>mountain hut managers on managing drinking and waste water, wastes and energy supply. Four out of six mountain huts owned by TNP have wastewater treatment plants.</p> <p>4. schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming and the presence of large carnivores such as bears, wolves and lynx should continue to be developed, to ensure their continuing presence and an increase in their population;</p> <p>In 2013, the TNP Scientific advisory board adopted a strategy for the managing large carnivores within the protected area where the general policy and measures are foreseen. According to the results of comprehensive winter monitoring (snowtracking) within TNP as part of the project LIFE+ WolfAlps (LIFE12 NAT/IT/000807) the wolf presence in TNP was confirmed. Furthermore, we continue with educational and awareness raising activities (e.g. guided school visits, exhibitions, etc) in order to increase the acceptance of large carnivores by the general public and different users of the Triglav National Park area. As a Transboundary pilot region we participate in a project ForAdapt https://peerageofscience.org/conference/eccb2018/107464/ and also in a project AlpBioNet2030 (Alpine Space Programme). Projects are focusing on an issue of human - nature coexistence, including regarding large carnivores.</p> <p>5. the best integration possible of the various activities conducted in the park should be ensured, for example the integration of farming and nature protection;</p> <p>In 2018 Triglav National Park continued to work on launching a brand for local products – ‘Sign of Quality’. It is a certificate that guarantees geographic origin and the high quality of products and services in the area of the Triglav National Park and Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve. So far there are six ecological farms holding the certificate.</p> <p>6. all measures aiming at converting artificial spruce forest to climax mixed forests and at increasing the area of protection forests should be pursued;</p> <p>As mentioned in previous reports forestry management plans require for the artificial regeneration to be carried out with pioneer vegetation only or with other broadleaved tree species occurring naturally in affected</p>
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		<p>area. The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration. However, even artificial, some conifer forests in the Triglav National Park (e.g. high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are important from nature conservation point of view (e.g. glacial relics such as Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) which presents an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in the Triglav National Park.</p> <p>As also mentioned in previous reports, there was an ice storm in 2014. Direct impacts of it in the Triglav National Park were not so severe since the damages were limited to the lowland forest stands, but they caused increased attacks of bark beetles to which also contributed severe damages caused by wind in 2017 (Pokljuka, Mežakla) and 2018 (Soča, Trenta). Due to bark beetle's infestation intensive interventions are required in order to limit further spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands.</p> <p>7. a detailed management plan and practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation should be developed and implemented;</p> <p>A detailed management plan which highlights problems related to traffic and transportation is part of TNP MP where transport and environmentally friendly mobility are on-going tasks.</p> <p>To promote sustainable mobility a Sustainable Mobility Promotion Day in the Vrata Valley was organised by TNP Public Institution together with the Municipality of Kranjska Gora:</p> <p>https://www.kranjska-gora.si/sl/novice/2018/umiranje-prometa</p> <p>Hop on hop off bus continued to operate this summer.</p> <p>https://www.tnp.si/assets/Publikacije/Discover/Odkrivaj-Vodnik-za-obiskovalce-biosfernega-obmocja-Julijske-Alpe-2018.pdf</p> <p>Together with the representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure and municipalities of Kranjska Gora nad Tolmin we worked together to find the best solutions to cope with traffic on the Vršič road (the road through the pass Vršič the highest mountain pass across Julian Alps) which is one of the busiest roads in the park due to picturesque landscape.</p> <p>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 and winter sports events on Pokljuka.</p> <p>8. the extension of existing installations for</p>
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		<p>downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping should be prevented. Renovation and upgrading should be accepted only if they take the protection of nature and the landscape into account. Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national park and ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives;</p> <p>According to the new law on TNP it is forbidden to construct new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing ones in the whole territory of the park. Where in the TNP cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, paragliding and mountain biking is allowed is shown on detailed maps which are part of TNP MP.</p> <p>In order to reduce the impact of winter sport practitioners on wildlife in the Alps TNP experts participate in the project WeWild – We respect Alpine wildlife. A joint communication strategy for the protected areas in the Alps was prepared in 2018.</p> <p>9. the best possible integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings through respecting the traditional local style should be encouraged;</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 municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora are prepared. Expert basis includes also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design.</p> <p>The Public institute TNP is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park.</p> <p>10. the transition of ownership in the park should be followed closely; an active policy of acquisition of land, which is important for the protection of nature and the activities carried out in the park should be developed.</p> <p>The TNP does not have an active role in the denationalisation process but we collaborate closely with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the State Attorney and Administrative Unit Radovljica in order to follow the process as an interested party and to contribute in the decision making process. According to the Denationalisation Act when the state property is part of the denationalisation process state attorney represents the state. First-instance authorities who</p>
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		<p>consider the requests for denationalisation are administrative units, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.</p> <p>According to the Triglav National Park Act, the Public institution Triglav National Park has a public authorisation to exercise pre-emption right on agricultural land, forest land, water areas and urban or built-up land in the name of the state of Slovenia. This year pre-emption right was exercised on 21,14 ha of land.</p>
	Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a new law should provide the adequate legal basis for the conservation of the Triglav National Park as soon as possible; <p>As mentioned in previous reports the new Triglav National Park Act was adopted in 2010. In 2017, an Act Amending Triglav National Park Act was adopted. http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7642</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the management plan should be finalised and formalised as soon as the new law on Triglav National Park is passed; <p>The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Triglav National Park Management Plan for the period 2016 – 2025 in May 2016: http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED6942</p> <p>The Triglav National Park annual programme of work for 2018 was prepared according to the MP as well as the Triglav National Park annual report. All national and international projects which were already approved or are in the process of evaluation were selected and prepared according to the content of the MP.</p>
	Achievements	<p>At the end of 2018, 16 of the 36 mountain huts of the Triglav National Park had wastewater treatment plants. In 2018, in the context of the project WeWild – We respect Alpine wildlife, was prepared a joint communication strategy in order to reduce the impact of winter sport practitioners on wildlife in the Alps.</p> <p>In 2018 Triglav National Park continued to work on launching a brand for local products – ‘Sign of Quality’. so that there are six ecological farms holding the certificate.</p>
	Shortcomings	

<p>Other highlights worth to be mentioned</p>	<p>The Triglav National Park continues working on project LIFE+ WolfAlps so that the wolf presence in the Park was confirmed.</p> <p>The Triglav National Park as a Transboundary pilot region participates in ForAdapt project and also in a project AlpBioNet2030 of the Alpine Space Programme.</p> <p>The Triglav National Park entered to the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism and gained the Slovenian Green sign.</p>
<p>To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?</p>	<p>The European Diploma for Protected Areas is mentioned as a milestone in the history of the Triglav National Park and the Diploma logo is included into the presentations to the general and specialised public.</p> <p>The Diploma logo is also on the publications produced by the Triglav National Park such as Svet pod Triglavom. The Diploma logo and a short description of the meaning and importance of Diploma are also on our new web site. The European Diploma was mentioned, and its logo was used in all important events of the Park.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations.</p>

Name of the awarded area	64. Netherlands, Naardermeer Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)7	<p>1) the efforts to improve the hydrological conditions of the reserve must be continued by focusing on reducing the pumping out of drinking water in the Gooi hills and completing municipal sewerage plans in order to increase the quality of infiltrated water;</p> <p>The winning of drinking water is at a sustainable level and is not affecting the water level of the Reserve. One possible threat was the recently planned development of small-scale groundwater winning by the Gooische Hockey Club (GHC) to irrigate their hockey fields, which could affect the grasslands of the Laegieskamp. The plans were revealed in November 2017. Natuurmonumenten has targeted this potential impact in good cooperation with GHC which resulted in a solution which has no impact on the Laegieskamp's natural values. A monitoring plan is included in the solution.</p> <p>2) the decreasing area and quality of reedbeds (phragmites and other pioneer vegetation) should be subject to specific research and increased management efforts;</p> <p>Research on a more flexible water level is developed by the Regional Water Authority (Waternet) in cooperation with Natuurmonumenten. Additionally, an expert meeting took place to discuss the subject. One of the outcomes of this meeting was the decision to raise the upper limit of the water level by 10 cm in winter time. According to the information provided by the Regional Water Authority (Waternet), this change will soon be reflected in a new water level agreement. The decision to raise the water level has to be formalized via a so-called Water Plan, which is a legal document. The procedure for the Water Plan will start in 2019.</p> <p>3) nature restoration and development around the Naardermeer core area is to be fully completed; to that end missing lands (notably in polders south of the lake) should be made available to Natuurmonumenten, mainly in view of the long-term maintenance of optimal water level management and the restoration of biodiversity. The province and the Dutch Government Service</p>	

		<p>for Land and Water Use are urged to make greater efforts to finalise the Naardermeer recovery plan (1993);</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. Next to that, Natuurmonumenten has a fair chance to buy and trade several properties on the north side of the Naardermeer, in the Overscheensepolder. When both projects are finished (estimation 2020) the Naardermeer Nature Reserve will be almost totally surrounded by nature restoration areas.</p> <p>4) regional planning processes should avoid further habitat fragmentation in the corridor landscapes towards the IJmeer, the IJsselmeer, the Vecht River, the Ankeveense Plassen and the Gooi hills. The realisation of the Dutch ecological main structure, its “wet axis” and “robust connections” with the Naardermeer as a core area must be given high priority.</p> <p>The landscape concept of a wet axis crossing the Netherlands was somehow revoked by a past government. Some important measures were nevertheless implemented aiming at reducing the barrier effect caused by the major roads that delimit the Reserve. Next to that, the railroad will be reconstructed including 8 eco-tunnels (see 3).</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) the authorities concerned are urged to respect the integrity of the open polder area surrounding the Naardermeer and to abandon all projects related to the motorway connection (A6-A9) which would have negative effects on the diploma area;</p> <p>The A6-A9 project has been cancelled. In 2006 the decision was made to widen the current A1 motorway instead of connecting A6-A9 with a new motorway. Nevertheless, attention will be paid to any eventual revival of these plans. We also continue monitoring possible threats caused by planned large infrastructural projects in the surroundings of the Naardermeer, even in the earliest stage.</p>
	Achievements	<p>The project of connecting A6-A9 with a new motorway</p>

		<p>has been definitely abandoned and was made the decision to widen the current A1 motorway.</p> <p>In 2019 the approval procedure of a new Water Plan will officially start but the Regional Water Authority, in cooperation with the Nature Reserve, already decided to raise the upper limit of the water level by 10 cm in winter time, even if, this decision, has to be formalised by the mentioned Water Plan.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Several projects of acquisition of lands (both in the south-western part and on the north side) are expected to finish in 2020 so that the Naardermeer Nature Reserve will be almost totally surrounded by nature restoration areas.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations; - Recommend continuing and speeding up the acquisition of lands so that the Naardermeer Nature Reserve, by 2020, will be almost totally surrounded by nature restoration areas. - Recommend continuing the cooperation with the Water Authority to secure that the new Water Plan will get the best environmental quality and avoid any negative impact on the nature of the Reserve; - Recommend monitoring the implementation of the project of a small-scale groundwater pumping proposed by the Gooische Hockey Club (GHC) to irrigate their hockey fields, which must have not any impact on the Laegieskamp's natural values as envisaged by the agreed project solution; - Recommend monitoring the reconstruction of the railroad so to begin with the realisation of the 8 eco-tunnels; - Recommend monitoring the widening of the A1 motorway to secure that it will minimize any environmental negative impact on the surrounding. - 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	65. Italy, Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore e Massaciuccoli	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.06.2005 / 15.06.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)3	1) care should be taken to ensure that new activities or developments do not harm either the natural or landscape heritage; 2) the deer- and boar-culling measures should be continued; 3) consideration should be given to nature conservation in water management, especially when implementing hydrological measures; 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; 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; 6) the measures to better protect coastal dunes and to raise awareness of their importance should be continued and strengthened; 7) the efforts to combat invasive exotic species should be continued; 8) use should be made of every opportunity to improve wildlife crossing corridors under or over roads and railways; 9) noise pollution in recreation areas should be minimised; 10) the process of relocating craft activities to the area around Massaciuccoli Lake should be completed.	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	Recommendation 4,7,8,9,10: no changes reported. - Following the validation of the budget reports by the Tuscany Region, the park adopted a new plan 2018/2020 which foresees new investments to	

		<p>manage actively the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human resources are expected to increase in 2019. A full time Director (previously part-time) and 3 new posts are expected to be filled.
	Shortcomings	<p>Recommendations 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 2016 an external company has been entrusted for the deer and bear culling methods on the territory of a military base located within the boundaries of the Diploma holding area. This method proved to be successful. The initiative was therefore replicated on the rest of the site. Although in some sectors the objectives of capture are not met yet, the results have improved and the organisation is more efficient. <p>Recommendations 3 and 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An ambitious Programme was approved in 2018 co-financed by Tuscany Region aimed to fight against hydrogeological degradation (in Monti Pisani, east of the Park plain) and improve lowland agriculture in qualitative terms. It brings together local agricultural companies, public institutions etc. around a set of 75 projects. <p>Recommendation 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the previous year, good management practices for coastal dunes, including cleaning up continue. The trend reversal compared to desertification effects due to trampling continues to be observed. Dune cleaning activities with tourists, schools and volunteers continue.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The American Military base requested the construction of a railroad for munition transportation within the site, including the Natura 2000 area. A project of contingency and mitigation measures was presented by the Army to comply with the requirement of the EU rules and transmitted to the EU. The Park will monitor the work to ensure that the proposed measures are implemented.</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 progress in the implementation of several recommendations and in particular the securing of funds for the management and sustainability of the site. - Recommend monitoring closely the implementation of the mitigation measures in the context of the construction work on the military base. - 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	66. Italy, Gran Paradiso National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 18.03.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3	<p>1) ensure that funding is chiefly provided by the state, the regions and the provinces, and that it is properly integrated with other resources;</p> <p>The final amount of the State's regular annual contribution in 2018 was € 5.927.983,95.</p> <p>A specific and special contribution of about 100,000 euros was assured by the Italian Ministry of Environment for specific actions of monitoring and conservation of biodiversity. The ordinary annual contribution of the Ministry showed a slight decrease of 8% since 2013. However, this reduction did not have any negative effect on the Park management, nor on conservation actions. This contribution, in a period of economic crisis and widespread reduction in public spending, nevertheless remains satisfactory.</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>Two recent Italian laws (L.n. 148/2011 and L.n. 138/2012) imposed important staff reductions in the public administration. The Park was able to maintain its staff at the current level (about 88 people). This is the reason why, at the moment, it is impossible to obtain an increase of a staff mainly regarding executive staff. In 2018 the Park asked to the Ministry to replace some employees, both Park rangers (about 4) and technicians, including one biologist.</p> <p>3) actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town planning proposals and decisions;</p> <p>The landscape territorial regional plans of both Valle d'Aosta e Piedmont were approved respectively in 1998 and 2017. The management plan adopted on 17.12.2018 includes Technical Rules of Implementation about: Art. 18 Historical, cultural and landscape heritage, Art. 19 Agglomerations of historical, artistic, documentary or environmental interest, Art. 20 Isolated assets of specific historical, artistic, cultural, anthropological or documentary and royal hunting houses, Art. 21 Mayen and mountain pasture structures, Art. 22 Routes and historical road network,</p>	

		<p>Art. 23 Visual cones and panoramic points, Art. 24 Areas of specific landscape interest, Art. 25 Areas of requalification and environmental recovery.</p> <p>4) integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;</p> <p>The park plan, already in application, contains the forest conservation plan, for improving their stability. The goal of this plan was to integrate the interests of local communities with forest conservation. As all the Park surface is included in the Natura 2000 site (SIC / ZPS IT1201000) the Management plan contains and regulates any possible exploitation actions within these habitats with the main goal to preserve the forest biodiversity. The plan includes conservation measures for each habitat. These management indications were applied in case of cutting demands for silvicultural needs.</p> <p>5) continue to encourage farming activities that are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation;</p> <p>In 2016, a project for implementing active conservation measures in semi-natural grasslands with goats started to measure the level of biodiversity in different conditions of exploitation of the pastures. In particular, the research programme aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evaluate the effects of good pastoral management on plant and animal biodiversity; - compare the development of managed and unmanaged areas to quantify loss or gain in biodiversity under different micro-climatic and land-use conditions. <p>Measurement of animal and plant diversity was carried out in absence of domestic pasture (year 0, 2016) and subsequently in the presence of regulated grazing (year 1, 2017), with different species of domestic herbivores (year 2, 2018).</p> <p>These controlled management actions - and the connected research - derive from the need to reduce the loss of open habitats, caused to the dramatic decrease of domestic pasture, and therefore of endemic and important species.</p> <p>6) avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydro power plants duly authorised by the national park;</p>
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	Conditions	<p>1) the park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.</p> <p>The park management plan (PMP) was formally approved by the Park Management Board on 17.12.2018. The Ministry of Environment has to express an opinion on the approval decision, so the plan will have to be approved by the two Regions by March 2018.</p> <p>Till now (December 2018), the Park is waiting for the critical reviews by local communities, public institutions and citizens, than the plan should be finally</p>

		<p>approved by the two regions and finally it will be applicable. This document (PMP) also contains action and management plan regarding the Site of Community Interest (in Italian named SIC : IT1201000), which was extracted, after the specific request of the Italian Ministry of the Environment, for speeding up the time of the approval procedure for this special conservation zone.</p> <p>In 2009 a slight modification of the Park borders was implemented, which led to a slight increase in the surface of the protected area, mainly in the south side of the Park (Piedmont Region, Torino).</p>
	Achievements	The Park Management Plan (PMP) was formally approved by the Park Management Board on 17.12.2018 and its fully integrated with Management Plan of Natura 2000 sites.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>In the last years in the park were recorded new species never before described, included in the annexes of the EC Habitat Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bearded vulture <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>; - Grey wolf <i>Canis lupus</i>; - Hazel dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>; - Presence of nesting raptors (Owlet owl (<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>), Tengmalm's Owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>), Long-eared Owl (<i>Asio otus</i>) and Tawny Owl (<i>Strix aluco</i>), Eagle Owl (<i>Bubo Bubo</i>) peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>); - Invertebrates (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>, <i>Stephanopachys substriatus</i>) 	
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 and the adoption of the Park Management Plan that is effectively integrated both with the Landscape territorial regional plans and the management plan of the Natura 2000 site (IT1201000). - 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	67. Romania, Piatra Craiului National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 27.09.2021
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)2	<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>There is an administration contract with the National Forest Administration (RNP Romsilva) that secures 90% of the national park budget. The remaining 10% come from the national park administration efforts (visitor fee, selling products at the Visitor Centre, guiding fees, approval documentation taxes etc). The total budget is 1.2 mil. lei and the staff salaries 851000 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 was opened in April 2016 and has received until now over 17000 visitors. The budget for construction works came from a SOP project implemented between 2012-2015. During this project an information point at Curmatura and 4 information kiosks were also built. The tourist facilities were improved with a cycling network (42 routes with over 200 km) and new marked trails.</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>The management plan of Piatra Craiului National Park establishes several principles for the sustainable development of human settlements to preserve the local architecture and traditions: 1. Keep the existing parcels in the historical format; 2. Encourage the preservation and reconversion of the existing constructed parcels; 3. Encourage the use of historical architecture, adapted to the modern needs; 4. Fit the new buildings into the local landscape and climate; 5.</p>	

		<p>Keep the existing vegetation; 6. Use of local materials and traditional crafts.</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 consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;</p> <p>There are several monitoring protocols, approved by the Forest and Environment Ministry in 2010, targeting especially the species and habitats of European importance. 11 monitoring protocols, including <i>Ligularia sibirica</i>, bats species from caves and bats species of European interest, capercaillie, chamois, birds of prey of European interest, forest habitats, bushes with <i>Pinus mugo</i> and <i>Rhododendron myrtifolium</i>, alluvial forest with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, were established during one of the last projects implemented whose goal was the improvement of the conservation status for the biodiversity in Piatra Craiului National Park. The scientific work was also important during another implemented project, aiming for the revision of the management plan of the National Park and ROSCI0194 site. On this occasion there were identified new species in the southern part of the protected area. In 2016 there was established another Natura 2000 site (ROSPA0165 Piatra Craiului) that covers the National Park territory whose main objective is the protection of bird species. For the large carnivores species there is also a collaboration protocol with Conservation Carpathia Foundation to collect samples for genetical analyses that will help to assess the population and the status of these species inside Piatra Craiului National Park. Since 2018, the Park Administration is one of the partners in the Connect Green project, whose main objective is to maintain, respectively improve the ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially between Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion.</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</p>
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		<p>reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;</p> <p>In 2018 the Park Administration organised 119 control actions to enforce the forest law, 103 of them with the help of authorities. The result was 29 contravention fees for a total of 8.800 lei. 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>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 2018 the Park Administration organised 9 garbage collection campaigns, with the help of volunteers, along the 33 km touristic trails. The local authorities in Dambovicioara are regularly collecting the garbage, and they also set up some resting areas along the road with garbage bins for the tourists.</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 December 2013 through the Governmental Decision No. 1057/2013. The Park Administration implemented a Sector Operational Programme Pillar 4 project, «The revision of Piatra Craiului National Park's Management Plan». Based on the results of field studies some activities in order to maintain or bring the species and habitats of European interest in a favorable conservation status were included in the park's management plan. The revised management plan was approved by the Scientific Council of Piatra Craiului National Park and it was sent in October 2015 to be approved by the National Environmental Protection Agency. By the end of 2015 the revised plan was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest and is still pending the final approval.</p>
	Achievements	<p>Since 2018, the Park Administration is one of the partners in the Connect Green project, whose main objective is to maintain, respectively improve the</p>

		ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially between Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion.
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma logo was broader used on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons for awarding the European Diploma. All the 3 logos (National Park, European Diploma and National Forest Administration) can be seen on the park official papers and inside the visitor center, on the indoor glass wall.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group is not able to measure the progress in implementing the recommendations and the condition as the 2018 report is almost the same as in 2017.	

Name of the awarded area	68. Romania, Retezat National Park	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 if the central public authority for environment didn't finance at all the park's activity, the National Forest Administration has ensured, at the beginning of the year, a reasonable financial support so 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>Last year has arisen a problem related to the international designation of Retezat National Park as Biosphere Reserve: we have received a recommendation letter from the MAB Secretary General to finalize the implementation process of the conditions listed in Madrid Action Plan, or to propose a plan in order achieve those conditions. Practically it's very difficult to harmonize the purpose(s) and the objectives of a real National Park (protected area category II by IUCN classification) with those of a Biosphere Reserve (categ. VI). However, in collaboration with the Romanian National MAB Committee and the Ministry of Environment we have elaborated that planning document, and it has been submitted to the International MAB Committee for analysis; at the moment we are waiting for an answer.</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>At the beginning of the year 2018 we have started the implementation of a project whose main outcome is the elaboration of the second edition of park's management plan; the project has a budget of 4,234,584 Euros and it will last until 31 of Dec. 2020. The project foresees the following main activities: inventorying and mapping important flora and fauna species and habitats, elaboration of monitoring protocols for important flora and fauna species and habitats, studies on the abiotic factors, studies on the alpine pastures and ecosystem services of the habitats, creation of a data base for both specialists and tourists, publicity and information activities, awareness and education activities in schools and local communities, acquisition of different equipment and training courses for RNPA staff.</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 about 90 information and guiding panels placed on the park's territory, as well at the entrance points. RNPA rangers have renovated the dry toilets built in 2017 near the remote parking place at Gura Bucurei and have built a shelter at the same location.</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;</p> <p>As we have explained earlier, the current legislation is very strict regarding the possibility of building new construction in the park, so we don't have such problems. According to the law, the competence of RNPA is strictly limited to the park territory, so it's enough difficult to influence the building process in the surrounding areas.</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</p>
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		<p>grazing.</p> <p>The approved project for reviewing the management plan (see explanation no. 3) includes a series of studies on habitats and species that will be mapped and evaluated from the conservation point of view, and conservation measures will be issued for each of them. The existing monitoring plan will also be reviewed in order to include the new conservation measures. The project will be implemented in a period of three years (2018 – 2020).</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Beginning of the implementation of a project whose main outcome is the elaboration of the second edition of park's management plan;
	Shortcomings	The harmonisation of the National Park with the requirements of the Biosphere Reserve seems to be challenging.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	RNPA rangers have renovated the dry toilets built in 2017 near the remote parking place at Gura Bucurei and have built a shelter at the same location.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information is provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome the implementation of the project whose main outcome is the elaboration of the second edition of park's management plan; - Encourage the International MAB Committee to collaborate with the Park with the aim to reach the objectives of a Biosphere Reserve; - 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	69. Bulgaria, Central Balkan National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.10.2009 / 21.10.2028
<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)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>The second management plan of Central Balkan National Park (CBNP) came into force on the 5 April 2016 and will be valid until 2025. The main part of the work of the Park Directorate is focused on the observance of the regimes and norms of the protected territory. "Control and Guard" is the largest department in the Directorate - 50 employees (out of 71 in the whole administration). This department is directly committed to observing the regimes and field norms. The majority of these park rangers are responsible for the physical security of up to 1500 hectares of the park (the total area of the park is 72021,07 ha). Several park rangers make up a mobile unit carrying out sudden control over the entire park territory. The Expert Department at the Park Directorate also performs unannounced inspections of compliance with regulations and norms and assists park rangers in their control functions. 2016 and will be valid until 2025 (according to the Ordinance for the development of protected areas' management plans they are</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>Prevention of poaching has always been and is one of the main priorities in the daily job of park employees. The strategic guidelines for the development of guarding and control in the Central Balkan National Park is a document developed within the framework of a project financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Operational Program Environment (OPE) (programming period 2007 – 2013). Much of the recommendations and guidelines in it are carried out by the Ranger Department. The</p>	

		<p>ones, related to the technical provision of the work of the park rangers, have been partially fulfilled – 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. Under a new project financed by the ERDF through OPE (programming period 2014 – 2020) specialised equipment (monitoring equipment, night vision devices, drones, new generation radio, specialised vehicles) will be purchased to help the park rangers to perform their duties. 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>Every year, the Park Directorate spends enormous administrative and human capacity to control the most significant use of natural resources in the park – the livestock grazing. In the last four years, the Annual plan for grazing and hay using in Central Balkan NP has not changed significantly. The framework of the administrative procedure for applying, permitting, distributing and controlling the use of the pastures in the park is preserved. 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 the necessary protocols in time. In 2017 the last agri-environmental commitments of horse owners which had started in the previous programming period 2007 – 2013 expired. Therefore, since 2018, there are no longer any horse owners supported by an agri-environmental measure. As a result, the number of horses according to grazing permits issued in 2018 decreased by 33% compared to 2017. By decision of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria of September 2018 the Park Directorate is a beneficiary under a project financed by the ERDF under the OPE. Within this project over the next 5 years, measures will be implemented to protect and restore habitats throughout the park. Some of these measures provide for the restoration of old water sources and the creation of new watering facilities in the pasture areas of the park. This will reduce the negative pressure on</p>
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		<p>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>One of the activities in the above mentioned ERDF-funded project is to establish a methodology for the annual assessment of natural habitats subject to livestock grazing. This methodology will assess the productivity of pastures according to the types of natural habitats in them and the specific conditions of the environment. In addition, the status of natural habitats in pastureland will be monitored in relation to the intensity and duration of their use by livestock. The application of the methodology will allow assessment of the overall condition of habitats used for livestock grazing. It will contribute to the precision in making management decisions on the ways and times of resource use. The activity also provides for a pilot implementation of the methodology and training of staff of the CBNP Directorate. Pilot application of the methodology will allow testing of the product and elimination of identified deficiencies.</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>The Park Directorate is looking for solutions to the problems of domestication of pastures – offering legal and at the same time aesthetic variants of shelters for livestock and the herdsmen, creating conditions for primary processing of milk. The status of the park – a protected area of second category according to the Bulgarian legislation and the IUCN, as well as exclusive state property, does not allow the creation of new infrastructure. Variants and funding are sought to give a new look and functions to existing buildings and remains of buildings. During the previous programming period (2007 – 2013), as part of a project financed by the ERDF through OPE, an activity for the development of a model for 11 pastures from the pasture areas of the park has been carried out. Physical implementation of the model is yet to be funded. This programming period (2014 – 2020) does not provide for such activities to be implemented in protected areas and the</p>
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		<p>OPE is not a financing option at least until 2020.</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>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 (the owner of almost all high-mountain accommodation base in Bulgaria), 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> <p>With decision of 29th session of the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (June 2017) CBNP became part of Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve (CBBR). The nine reserves into the park are the core zone of the BR. The remaining part of the park is the buffer zone of the BR. Five of the municipalities around the national park are forming the transition area of the new BR. Central Balkan BR became one of the first four Bulgarian post-Seville type biosphere reserves. Biosphere Reserve is not a category of protected area under Bulgarian law, and so far it has not been difficult to manage the areas with such designation because they had fallen entirely within the scope of strict nature reserves. With the announcement of the first 4 post-Seville biosphere reserves in front the administrations responsible for the respective territories and the other stakeholders raised a new challenge. This is the organization of a common management body to function at the level of partner relations between the cooperating parties in the framework of the MAB designation. At the end of 2017, the Park Directorate initiated the first meeting of the partner administrations within the largest and most</p>
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		<p>complexly organized biosphere reserve in Bulgaria – the CBBR. The partner administrations are the Park Directorate, five municipal administrations and the Executive Forest Agency. After a series of meetings between partners and consultations with lawyers, a model for formalizing cooperation has been developed. It is the Coordination Board of the Biosphere Reserve, which will represent each of the seven administrations, including through a civilian quota. The Coordinating Council's draft statutes have already been developed, working groups on the issues of the biosphere reserve have been established (in which the partners' expertise is currently attracted), and registration of the organization under Bulgarian law is ongoing. Meanwhile, the first international partnership was carried out – with the Thuringian Forest Biosphere Reserve, Germany. As a result of the newly established partnership, an application procedure under the Horizon 2020 programme is underway for a joint scientific project on forest ecosystems in the two biosphere reserves.</p> <p>8) as soon as possible, prepare and adopt management plans for the Natura 2000 areas adjacent to the park.</p> <p>In 2018, a new concept was developed at the national level for the management of Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria. According to the concept the management of the sites is assumed by the regional inspectorates for environment and water – the regional bodies (subdivisions) of the Ministry of Environment and Water. In this connection, legal changes are under preparation. Funding from the ERDF through OPE is provided to develop management plans for all Natura 2000 sites over the next 5 years. The process is expected to begin immediately after the legal changes that will allow this to happen. The Park Directorate will participate in the work of the expert units developing the management plans for the sites that have a territorial overlap with the park.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Representative old and primary beech forest in the nine strict nature reserves, located in the Central Balkan National Park are part of serial UNESCO's World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (Extension in 2017 of an existing serial object – a</p>

		decision 41 COM 8B.7 of the World Heritage Committee).
	Shortcomings	The development of management plans for the adjacent Natura 2000 sites has not started.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Despite the creation of two new visitor centres and the investment in new information boards, no information is provided regarding the advertisement and the use of the European Diploma.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome the progress in implementing several recommendations; - Welcome the integration of primary beech forests of the nine nature reserves in UNESCO's World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"; - Encourage stepping up efforts for the design of the management plans of the Natura 2000 sites; - Encourage providing rangers with adequate equipment for their monitoring and control action; - 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	70. Armenia, Khosrov Forest State Reserve	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>Khosrov Forest State Reserve SNCO has contracts with the relevant service providers for the purpose of garbage disposal. The programme is included in the new management plan of the reserve which is still in the discussion phase.</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 proper management of the State Reserve is funded by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and international donors. At present work is underway to cooperate with new donor organisations.</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>According to the Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Armenia, the processes of natural environment development are carried out without direct human intervention. Therefore in the territory of Khosrov Forest State Reserve, it is prohibited to hunt not only the wolf but also any animal species. Since 2013 wolves monitoring programmes have been carried out.</p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;">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 the reserve is still in the discussion phase, in which all the conditions will be included. The draft management plan will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption.</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 will include 2602 hectares in the reserve territory, from which;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 358 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Dvin Community, • About 59 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Narek Community, • About 755 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Qaghcrashen Community, • About 1460 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Urtsadzor Community. <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</p>
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		<p>nature currently under discussion in the parliament;</p> <p>The draft Law has been sent back to the Ministry of Nature Protection and it is in the discussion phase now.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>On the 23rd of January in 2018 for the first time in the past 18 years a leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) has been shot by trap cameras in Khosrov Forest State Reserve. The species is qualified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the Red Data Book of Armenia. The leopard's presence in Khosrov Forest State Reserve has an important environmental significance as its protection is currently one of the most important environmental challenges not only in Armenia but also for the entire region. By protecting the leopard we also protect its prey species.</p>	
To what extend 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 Group notes a shy start in the implementation of the recommendations attached to the renewal of the Diploma in July 2018 and encourage the authorities to step up their 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. Ireland, The Burren region		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2028
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)13	1) prepare an overarching management framework document for the Burren Region diploma-holding area, outlining the various management initiatives and their inter-relationships; 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; 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; 4) consider the development of further walking trails throughout the Burren Region.		
	Conditions	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;		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Efforts are undertaken to maintain the BP on the Agenda of deciding bodies (meetings with EU, Specialised Minister etc.)- An “Entity relationship diagram” for the Burren Programme was presented- A plan has been drafted as part of the Tourism Management Strategy for the region.		
	Shortcomings			
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The most noteworthy development with regard to site management has been the continued expansion of the number of farmers, and area under management, in the Burren Programme.			
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma	No information provided.			

has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Group to welcome the initiation of the implementation of the recommendations attached to the renewal of the Diploma in July 2018.- 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	72. Portugal, Desertas Islands Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2014 / 01.07.2019
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2014)1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) take all necessary precautions to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve; 2) improve the existing monitoring system for the fauna and flora populations of the Desertas; 3) analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna on Bugio, following the total eradication of alien species; 4) increase the efforts to combat soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio; 5) eradicate the goat population from Deserta Grande or at least to keep the population very low and subject to a strict monitoring scheme; 6) promote the training of nature guides to accompany tourists in this area; 7) investigate if the increasing colony of yellow-legged gull (<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>) on Ilhéu Chão is having a negative impact on the breeding seabird populations on Deserta Grande and Bugio. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Desertas Islands and to unequivocally support the Regional Government of Madeira in all matters concerning the nature reserve; <p>No perspective of change</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) that the responsible regional authority updates the management plan of the Desertas Nature Reserve by the end of 2016: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. taking into consideration the enlargement of the strictly protected area; ii. improving conservation efforts in terms of personnel, logistics and budget necessary for the proper management of the Desertas Nature Reserve; <p>No changes reported</p>	

	Achievements	The authorities of the Reserve continued the actions already detailed in the past reporting exercise, in order to comply with the recommendations
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species, land, habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands has been extended until 2019. - Internal regulation on human activities at Desertas Islands Nature Reserve were updated - During 2018, the Reserve had the official visit of the Regional Secretary for the Environment and Natural Resources 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma logo is displayed on all visibility materials of the Reserve.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group is not able to measure the progress in implementing the recommendations and the condition as the 2018 report is almost the same as in 2017. - The Group requests again the competent authorities to provide a summary of the content of the management plan in English cause all documentation is in Portuguese. Particular focus should be given on the two aspects identified in the Recommendation (budget table and enlargement of the protected area). 	

Name of the awarded area	73. Georgia, Vashlovani protected areas	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.2015 / 03.06.2020
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2015)1	<p>1) develop and fund an operational and comprehensive monitoring programme of the Diploma area; this programme should be focused on the specific natural and landscape features of the Diploma area and the anthropogenic pressures on it;</p> <p>Following the adoption of a Management Plan, an Operational plan for Vashlovani Protected Areas has been prepared. A comprehensive Monitoring Programme is also in place in particular for the monitoring on the “Red Listed” species spread on the given area. The database is being updated permanently, at this stage information of the last two years is already available on the website.</p> <p>2) prepare and implement a programme to maintain and renovate field equipment and the infrastructure for tourists and visitors;</p> <p>An annual action plan is being developed which covers the programmes and activities from the Management Plan. For maintaining and renovating field equipment and infrastructure a 3-year project is implemented</p> <p>3) pursue, update and complement inventories and mapping of species and habitats (distribution, abundance, state of conservation and tendencies), taking into account the Emerald Network’s standards and requirements;</p> <p>The inventory of the species is carried out permanently. However, the monitoring of endemic and relict species, Gazelle and other “Red List” species that are spread on the European Diploma area should be renewed and strengthened, as well as collecting climate monitoring data.</p> <p>4) secure the Vashlovani Protected Areas core budget, from internal sources preferably, and provide funding to ensure that the 2013-19 management plan is fully implemented;</p> <p>2016-2019 management plan activities are funded by state budget and funds from Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF) and WWF (TJS programme).</p>	

		<p>5) start the process of drafting the next management plan in a timely manner, so that the whole award period of the European Diploma for the Vashlovani Protected Areas is covered;</p> <p>A 6-year Management Plan is already implemented and is valid until 2020. A Tourism Development Strategy in Vashlovani Protected Areas is being developed.</p> <p>6) improve further the expertise and skills of the staff members, especially in the field of ecology and the knowledge and monitoring of species;</p> <p>The Agency as well as CNF and TJS programmes include capacity building activities for the administration staff.</p> <p>7) continue and develop cross-border co-operation for the protection of large carnivores.</p> <p>Experience sharing activities with partner international organisations is carried out regularly. For instance, cooperation with Azerbaijan referring to Gazelle reintroduction is in the process currently. Developing further steps is under way together with WWF.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) by the end of 2015, remove the shelters located on the immediate border of the Vashlovani Strict Nature Reserve, and rigorously enforce the existing regulation for grazing in the reserve;</p> <p>The Agency of Protected Areas has discussed the above-mentioned topic, the area was excluded from the Strict Nature Reserve and was granted the status of National Park – Category II.</p> <p>2) accelerate the drafting process of a comprehensive sustainable grazing management plan, taking into account the socio-economic context and the effects of grazing, positive and negative, on the long-term conservation of the features of the Vashlovani Protected Areas; this plan will have clear objectives, a time frame for implementation and indicators of progress, and will address the matter of dismantlement and relocation of grazing equipment and activities outside the strict nature protection areas and the restoration of degraded zones of the Vashlovani National Park. A draft will be submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma by the end of 2016, with alternative grazing areas located at a reasonable</p>

		<p>distance from the borders of the zones where these activities are forbidden; the State Party is also urged to enforce the existing regulation on grazing in the whole Diploma area, without delay, and to limit grazing activities to the carrying capacity for the Vashlovani Protected Areas (to be determined);</p> <p>A Pasture management plan for Vashlovani Protected Areas elaborated in 2016 is in place. As reported last year, in the framework the Project “Sustainable management of pastures in Georgia to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities” 4,064 ha of degraded pastures were rehabilitated, about 300 ha of migratory route was introduced, as well as sustainable pasture management practices among farmers and sheep-breeders in the Vashlovani Protected Areas were implemented.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The number of visitors at Vashlovani Protected Areas is increasing permanently.	
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"> - Welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and the recommendations; - 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. 	