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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

18-19 March 2020

**COMPILATION OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE
2019 ANNUAL REPORTS**

*Document prepared by the Directorate
of Democratic Participation*

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<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>1. Belgium - Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve</p> <p>No annual report received for 2019.</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>29.03.66/ 28.03.2021</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)9</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end. 	

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
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)5</p>	<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	1) guarantee the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2016.
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful control of visitors of the beach and of the visitor’s capacity. • Good links with the gendarmerie. • Closure to wheel vehicles of some beaches since 2015. • Adaptive management scheme adopted along with issues related with climate change monitoring of the coastline.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget has been a declared limitation to achieving the objectives set up in the current management plan. Budget has not increased since a long time ago. • There seems not to have been advancements so far in the brotherhood with Doñana NP or Danube Delta BR. • The perimetral area of protection has not been set up yet due to the budgetary constraints. • Pollution by organic and chemical pollutants derived from the agricultural activities continues to be a problem with levels of many contaminants well over the threshold levels. 100% of wastewaters from the Fumemorte channel are evacuated directly in the heart of the reserve, at l’Etang des Vaccarès, disrupting additionally the seasonal rhythm of flooding.
Other highlights worth mentioning	The sincerity of the 2019 report and of their responsible authorities is remarkable.	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	They have accomplished the compromise to publicise conveniently the European Diploma at the visitor’s centres.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.	

Name of the awarded area	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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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 maximize its contribution to nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives; 	

		<p>7) carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach;</p> <p>8) implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner organizations, 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 authorize 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keeping or improving the work on safeguarding or restoring sensible, endangered or priority habitats, like moorland and bogs. • Adequate monitoring of bird species with specific efforts on species dependant on particular habitats for breeding and/or feeding. Species new to the site, or recently recovered as breeding species, such as the Hen

		<p>Harrier indicators of good managerial capabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing the relationship with the farming community, particularly through the initiative Future Farmscapes. • Improving the control of man-induced fires. • Data on CO2 balance available and used to showing environmental services provision. • Good maintenance of the cultural heritage, including paths and buildings. Implementation of the Cultural heritage Strategy at the NP. Heritage at Risk List is a good tool to draw the attention on the recovery of these sites. • Development of an integral area –based managerial approach embracing the local community of owners and resident population, through grants and volunteer work. • Champion to the Environmental Quality Mark of local products. • Future application to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. • Disposal and relinquishment of small properties, with modest but good results.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Black Grouse is not naturally rewilding the area, and no plans for a reintroduction programme are scheduled. • Although prosecuted, birds of prey killings are not being halted. • Fires in the moorland continue to happen, although numbers and burned surface have nearly disappeared. • Ash dieback jeopardizing the local population of <i>Fraxinus</i> species.
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	4. Austria - Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)7</p>	<p>1) review and, where necessary, improve the regulations of the protected area in order to strengthen the protection status; and devote a part of the management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park to the Krimml Waterfalls;</p> <p>For the time being, no information concerning the framework of management of the waterfalls has been integrated or not in the Hohe Tauern NP management plan. The measures to improve the regulations in the protected area are referred to an ongoing document, not in our hands.</p> <p>2) continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural monument for future generations;</p> <p>No “appropriate measures” reported</p> <p>3) avoid impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, especially in the areas around “Wasserfallboden” and “Schönangerl”;</p> <p>The “avoidance of impacts” to keep the aesthetic values of the waterfalls has gone about paradoxically through an enlargement of the existing parking place.</p> <p>4) maintain great vigilance regarding the development close to the falls, e.g. installations or extension of shops, as well as medical care and new touristic activities (e.g. ice-climbing);</p> <p>No information provided.</p> <p>5) avoid as far as possible increasing light pollution;</p> <p>Apparently, no actions adopted.</p>	

		<p>6) continue to pay close attention to the problem of path erosion; and ensure that visitors only use the existing paths;</p> <p>See achievements.</p> <p>7) pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on regional birdlife, fungi (including lichens) and bryophytes, as a contribution to protect the area's typical biodiversity;</p> <p>8) strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially land owners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations.</p> <p>No comments on 7 and 8.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Attention has been paid apparently to the problem of path maintenance.
	Shortcomings	In general, the information on the managerial actions is rather poor, and do not allow to carry out a proper evaluation.
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No new visibility actions have been implemented so far.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS urges better information on ongoing progress of the recommendations for future reports; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>5. Germany - Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>27.10.1967 / 25.10.2022</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)5</p>	<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; 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5) develop a concept for connecting the large heathlands areas east and west of Wilsede by an ecological corridor; 6) pursue restoration of streams, their associated wetland biotopes and their buffer strips; 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; 8) continue ecological forest management and convert mono-croppings of spruce into mixed forests including oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.); 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; 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; 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; 12)realise the concept of buffer zone areas with a high protection status in the neighbouring areas of the nature reserve; 13)establish a corps of rangers (Naturwacht).
	Conditions	N/A

	<p style="text-align: center;">Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a corridor scheme connecting the east and west heathlands. • Several projects have been set in place. • Forest management, restoring open areas by a strong reduction of the area covered by old tree plantations. And managerial action to favour the black grouse. • New monitoring projects affecting several species of bats, insects, reptiles and birds addressed by the Reserve on their own, with no participation of public authorities and the regional government.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the time being, financing seems to be still the main problem for the managers, particularly the long time needed between the application and receiving the money, especially public funds or grants. • There are problems with local authorities concerning the consideration of the heathland as arable land susceptible of financing under the EU scheme. See application of the 100 tree rule. • Energy crops have clear advantage over agri-environmental crops in terms of subsidizing rate. The problem prevails. • The species database seems to show no new achievements. • No serious advances in establishing a buffer zone • No advances in surveillance staff (rangers) • It is clear that the main problem to be addressed by the reserve managers is financing. There were some restoration of habitats programmes and some recognition –and also financing- of local races of sheep and horse. • Since 2015 heathland cultivation and restoration is considered a kind of crop, but the limitations to financing by local authorities (Lower Saxony Gov.) are still in place. • The call for action against wolves like the downgrading of their protection status in the EU seems out of the question. Studies addressed to the issue of reducing attacks and/or promoting protection measures of livestock should be proposed and gone about ASAP.
<p style="text-align: center;">Other highlights worth mentioning</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent has the visibility of the European</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	

Diploma been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- It suggests some capacity-building actions addressed to the managers; they partially at least seem to need advice and even help to addressing some of the managerial problems they are facing;- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	6. Sweden - Muddus National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)2</p>	<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>1) Laponiatjuottjudus is the managerial body in charge of the management of the Muddus NP until 2022, with the possibility to extend the period well beyond that. Staff consists in eight employees. This gives in its own words “enhanced competence” in the management of the area. There is a management board apparently acting under the provisions of a Board of directors and/or participation, as it’s been said that “all parties attend, and all their decisions are made (taken) in consensus. This gives a guarantee that the work performed by the management employees is established from the joint cooperative effort of the board”</p> <p>2) No news on that.</p> <p>3) They have developed a basic GIS service for internal use and depends on the centralised system used by the SEPA to provide layers and a viewer with basic public use information (trails, cabins, bridges, etc) as well as management actions which have been developed.</p> <p>4) No news on this recommendation, apart from the on-going eradication of Pinus contorta as an invasive species.</p> <p>5) A new visitor entrance operational in 2019, seems to have improved the capacity to control numbers and flows of visitors, but also has increased the number of them. New map of the site published during 2019.</p> <p>6) No progress on this.</p> <p>7) No progress on this.</p>
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of trails seems to have suffered from financial constrains this year. • Uncertainty in future funding. • No monitoring of peregrine falcon population.
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new entrance opened in 2019 will display the Diploma logo (in progress). 	

of the European Diploma been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cabins include the logo already.
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.

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 style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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 Lapponia 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 Lapponia World Heritage site and provide specific information on the different National Parks; establish a network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks and 	

		<p>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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,2,3 identical to Muddus National park file. • 4: no information or progress on this point. • 5: five visitors counters in the park in 2019 (work in progress). Capacity building work in progress with the tour operators working in the area, including the preparation of ethical guidelines and the celebration of educational days with them, promoting a cooperative action between the reindeer herding Lapponian communities and the tourist companies operating in the area with the goal of sustainability in mind. • 6, 7 8: no progress on these points.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection on the historical cabins of the park took place in 2019, conducted by the Central Board of national Antiquities. • Monitoring of flagship species (gyrfalcon, lynx, Golden eagle, Wolverine) carried out in 2019. 	

To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new entrance opened in 2019 will display the Diploma logo (in progress).• Cabins include the logo already.
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>8. Switzerland - Swiss National Park</p> <p>No annual report received for 2019.</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) take all necessary measures to fulfil the UNESCO condition that the national park, which is the core zone of the “Biosfera Val Müstair/Parc Naziunal” biosphere reserve, be entirely surrounded by a buffer zone; 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. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)10	<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. 	
	Conditions	<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: 	

		<ul 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 latest, the 2013-2014 hunting season; 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; 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the management board has set new goals for bears in the period 2019-2021, including priority actions, which seem to be comprehensive and being reinforced (security, protection measures, GPS tracking of problematic individuals, rapid compensation measures adopted by the park to livestock breeders and owners affected by bear attacks or activities; genetic characterization of the local population) 2) No information 3) No information 4) 2019 budget has scheduled investments for research and biodiversity management more than 600.000 euros. 5) No information 6) Deer and wild goat monitoring scheme set in place. 7) Several activities of promotion of rural and nature tourism in the area of influence of the park. 8) No information

		<p>9) The management and monitoring of the <i>Ursus arctos</i> population seems to be comprehensive and appropriate. There is a full knowledge of the size of the population, its breeding success, behaviour and fast and positive managerial actions adopted just after a problem is detected.</p> <p>10) The otter seems to be rewilding the park, which is an outstanding achievement and a good indicator of managerial effectiveness.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>PNALM National Park management has not been adopted; seven years after the deadline scheduled (2013). This is strongly limiting the managerial capacity and legal backing of the park authorities.</p>
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that the PNALM National Park management has still not been adopted seven years after the deadline scheduled (2013). This is strongly limiting the managerial capacity and legal backing of the park authorities; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	10. Germany - Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	29.11.1968 / 28.11.2029
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) in co-operation with the Swiss authorities, assess the possibilities to harmonise the regulations for the protection of nature on both shores and to extend the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to the State border in order to enlarge the water zone, which is especially important during low water periods in winter; 2) pursue the efforts to improve the connections between protected sites in the hinterland and the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve in connection with the extension of the trunk road B33, including the enlargement and/or adaptation of the nature reserve's boundaries; compensation measures should be continued, and the construction has to be carried out with the least impact for the protected area; 3) end fishery in the most sensitive areas, mainly Schläuche and southern Hegne Bay, under the provisions of the bilateral treaty between Germany and Switzerland, with the aim to improve the quality of this area as a breeding ground, wintering place and moulting area; 4) abandon the still existing cycle path between the B33 road and the protected area boundaries, which is only used by a limited number of cyclists, and include the path into the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to enable more efficient control of the visitors by bike; 5) reduce or stop disturbances to the protected area caused by leisure activities and sports through awareness raising and dissemination of information to boat rental companies, and to hot-air balloon and Zeppelin tour operators; 6) strictly consider the boundaries of the protected area, their potential for extension and the need for sufficient buffer zones to meet the objectives of the protected areas when examining the further extension of building areas in the communities concerned. 		
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) prepare a study on the legal possibilities of enlarging the strict core zones of the 		

		<p>Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve and report to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention by 2024;</p> <p>Since the condition was set (September 4, 2019), no relevant steps have yet been taken to implement it.</p> <p>2) reject any proposals or plans aiming to eliminate naturally formed barriers such as the <i>Schneggλισand</i> and silting areas and to enable undisturbed natural processes without human intervention in a larger area, except in cases of public interest, for example flood protection;</p> <p>No dredging of the estuaries took place during the reporting period. The management body of the area has alleged “No legal possibility to intervene in these processes”, whatever that means.</p> <p>3) draft and adopt a management plan meeting the provisions and objectives of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and addressing the recommendations attached to the renewal of the diploma by 2022;</p> <p>Since the condition was decided (September 4 2019), no relevant steps have yet been taken to implement it.</p>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 2: The compensatory measures included in the zoning decision for the B33 are being consistently implemented. The inclusion of the remaining properties between the NSG (nature reserve) border and the B33 in the nature reserve is being addressed by the road construction administration. • Rec. 5: Advances in reaching agreements with the canoeing companies operating in the area.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 1: No contacts with the Swiss authorities on this issue were established during the reporting period. • Rec. 2: For the section between the Constance wastewater treatment plant and the Kindlebild intersection, this goal is being further pursued by the nature conservation authorities on the basis of the new recommendation. • Rec. 3: The “Round Table on Fishing in the Nature Conservation Areas at Lake Constance-Untersee” has been suspended. No further talks were held during the reporting period.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 4: no closing has been achieved of the cycling path between the reserve and the road 33. The Council of Reichenau is in favour of the maintenance of the path open to cyclists. • Rec. 5: no advancements in reaching agreements with the hot balloons and zeppelin flying companies. • Rec. 6: no advances achieved with the Constance municipality in the adoption of a horizontal environmental-friendly policy concerning urban development in the vicinity of the Reserve.
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 4 September until 28 November 2029. • Wintering waterfowl was also confirmed this year. The highest daily total was 40,000 individuals in January 2019. • The black-necked diver brooded successfully again after a two-year break. • The information boards on the “Gottlieber Weg” and the Reichenauer Damm were renewed. The accompanying flyer has also been reprinted. 	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No new information available.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	11. Netherlands - Boschplaat Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.1970 / 30.06.2020
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 1: The financial resources for public relations and communication proved to be sufficient in 2019. • Rec. 2: Linked to the N2000 new management plan, a seemingly successful participatory procedure has been set up. That means that there is "extensive support" by local residents and participating organisations on Terschelling 	

		<p>of The “Boschplaat 2050” future vision, which includes the management actions to be adopted: among other things, the vision contains two measures in relation to the recovery of the natural dynamics and the “Stuifdijk” with a vision for “more dynamics through sand and wind” (encouraging shifting sands) and possibilities for “more dynamics through sand and sea” (introduction of wash-over) and to determine specific locations. A sand replenishment pilot project has been carried out, with results currently being monitored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 3: Between April and August, the bird wardens at the two guard’s posts welcomed more than 4,100 visitors and provided them with information about the Boschplaat. • Rec. 4: actions adopted in relation with the maritime disaster with the MSC Zoe container vessel on 02 January 2019, an additional memorandum was sent to the Secretariat. 299 containers have been recovered and two empty ones have been found. A “Clear Up & Clean” action plan has been implemented with a cost estimated at € 35 million. The search and clear-up processes at sea have continued to date. After the major clear-up process on Terschelling, which involved more than four hundred volunteers, no large quantities of bulky waste have washed up on the beach or the salt marshes. The need to use the so-called deepwater route is currently being discussed. Oil Prevention Implementation Plan seems to be in development.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 1: The 2020 annual plan requires a 40% budgetary reduction of management activities for the entire Terschelling management unit. • Rec. 5: No reduction in motorised vehicles on the beach.
Other highlights worth mentioning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in 2018. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; • Bird warden training course: with the participation of residents in the area. A participatory procedure to strengthen bonds with local residents and stakeholders. • English edition of the “Boschplaat 2050” future vision sent to the Secretariat.
To what extent has the visibility		No information provided.

of the European Diploma been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020;- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>12. Germany - Siebengebirge Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>22.09.1971 / 21.09.2021</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)10</p>	<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. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<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 seems to be properly implemented, with several projects underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife crossings, particularly for toads • recovery of rock outcrops, important for thermophilic species like lizards, which were suffering from feral vegetation overgrowing • digging of artificial ponds for amphibians • Restoration of heath habitat 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project for maintaining the meadow orchards, a typical landscape of the area combining grass and trees, with value for biodiversity
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rec. 1: the leading role of the VVS seems to be safely kept in the new management scheme, particularly as the owner of one core area extending over 850 ha. • Rec. 3: No financial constrains during this year. There is a steady financial support of Regional government of NR Westphalia to the Reserve. Huge investments in maintenance tasks affecting historical heritage sites. • Rec. 4. No new roads planned in the area so far. • Rec. 5: The provision by regional authorities of two official agents of authority has been fundamental for improving surveillance of public use activities.
	Shortcomings	Rec. 5: no advances in the extension of the protected area
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bark beetle crisis (5.1) might mean a chance to diversify old fir plantations with a more natural and diverse arrangement of trees, improving resilience of the wood to pests. • The 150 anniversary of the VVs would undoubtedly be a date to remember and celebrate. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	13. Germany/Luxembourg - Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	26.10.73/ 25.10.2018
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)14</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) maintain and step-up consultation and collaboration between the parties concerned by the Our and Sûre basins, focusing on relations between the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the Rhineland-Palatinate Land; 2) pursue public awareness-raising and information activities; 3) encourage the swift creation of the Müllerthal-Kleine Luxemburger Schweiz Nature Park and incorporate it as far as possible in the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park; 4) find a solution allowing aquatic fauna to pass or circumnavigate the obstacle of the Vianden hydroelectric dam; 5) maintain vigilance with regard to leisure and sporting pursuits (camping, rock-climbing, canoeing, etc.). 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) at the initiative of the States concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible; 2) engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park; 3) define specifications and a road map for the drawing-up of a global management plan for the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park incorporating those of the nature parks on its territory; prepare the management plan before the next renewal of the European Diploma falls due and ensure the funding required for its implementation; 	

	Achievements	The administration of Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park has a good bases, motivation, finances and equipment for the implementation these recommendations: progress is visible.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the conditions and recommendation 2) the information is bit old, I can't to see a progress in last year. Transboundary cooperation means regular contacts and active collaboration. • For every recommendation it would be better if more information would be reported because the condition of the PA is only a review of the situation and for the assessment it isn't enough. • I hope the administration has more information about other aspects. It is recommended to write for every aspect a short text (1 or 2 sentences). • Recommendation 4 isn't implemented because this problem isn't solved physically and technically. Maybe the recommendation can be cancelled or changed. • The report needs some improvement and development in the future to provide other important information, for example some tables or diagrams that give us a good picture of progress.
Other highlights worth mentioning	With the possible renewal of the Diploma in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019- the conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years, backdated to begin from 2018;	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	The administration needs to use all means for better promoting the success of the management of the Natural Park after the award of the European Diploma for example number of scientific researches, number of children, students involved in eco-education activities.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions / recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It recommends that the Administration invite more people in the process of preparing the report, who can add more detailed information; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>14. France - Vanoise National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.03.1976 / 18.03.2021</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Building on previous programmes, as part of a POIA programme, the Park will deploy as from 2020 an action plan designed in collaboration with the ski areas to create and improve the defences necessary for the preservation of the Tetra and Ptarmigan. It has also put in place specific regulations for the practice of fishing in the heart of the park, operational since January 2019. In addition, the Park provides a landscape observatory tool to raise awareness and offer elements of reflection.</p> <p>2) co-ordinate the park’s “core” and “optimal buffer zone” objectives with the “green and blue infrastructure objectives”;</p> <p>Building on previous programmes, the Park launched an ALCOTRA Ibex programme, aimed at assessing the conservation status of the Ibex species, and monitoring the population movements between massifs.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>No developments since last year.</p> <p>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;</p>	

		<p>Building on previous programmes, the Park is involved in the "Sentinel mountain pastures" programme, so breeders adapt their practices due to climate change. 3 more altitude cabins were built. Several further programmes with municipalities were launched such as a bee house and the launch of an atlas of municipal biodiversity (ABC) aimed at making an inventory of biodiversity.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>"La Maison du Parc à Pralognan la Vanoise" welcomed more than 40,000 visitors in 2019. It also retained its "Tourism & Handicap" certificate. In July 2019, work began on energy self-sufficiency at the Plan du Lac refuge. The contract with EDF was able to be terminated and the High voltage line which crossed the Park will be dismantled in 2020. A refuge is the subject of a complete restoration and will be reopened in 2020.</p> <p>6) supervise and strictly regulate air sports so as to reduce their adverse impact on fauna.</p> <p>No developments since last year.</p> <p>7) consider submitting a joint annual report with Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy).</p> <p>No information provided.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) define a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park.</p> <p>No developments since last year.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	

<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The November 2019 Board of Directors validated the action plan for built heritage for three years; • The ALCOTRA IBEX programme will result in a translocation of ibex from the Vanoise to the Mercantour in April 2019; • In 2019, the wolf's presence was estimated about 7 packs within the Park. Predations were stable in the heart of the park but increasing in the rest of the department.
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - However, it notes a lack of progress in the achievement of the condition, and calls for proactive efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	15. Turkey - Kuşçenneti National Park		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	15.03.1976 / 14.03.2021
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement; 2) ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer; 3) set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area. 		
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein; 2) submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe; 3) regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Siğirci Delta and Koçocay Delta 4) continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it. 		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 WCs, 1 disabled WC, 1 lactation Room and 2 prayer 		

		rooms have been started in the National Park and will be completed in 2019.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the report it reads that “monitoring of water level and water quality is done and natural fluctuation is observed”. It is recommended to continue a regular monitoring of the lake because the administration has appropriate specialists and for this monitoring new specialists need relevant training. • It is recommended to continue the implementation of new social-economic projects for local communities and ensure the financial sustainability. The number of projects will be a good indicator for the assessment of the management of the National Park. • It is recommended to add statistics on scientific researches, eco-tourists, eco-education activities, to survey the satisfaction of visitors and local communities. These data would be a good assessment mechanism.
Other highlights worth mentioning	A project for a major renovation of the Administration and Visitor Promotion Center is in preparation.	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	Establishment and renovation of infrastructure is one-step towards the development of eco-touristic services.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;</p> <p>- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA.</p>	

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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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 study concerning special protected species, such as the Danube freshwater snail was carried out. 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 - 49 - T-PVS/DE (2019) 12 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</p>	

		<p>information signs (e.g. flags with the corresponding information printed on them). 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 mountainbike routes; To date, there are no official mountain bike routes in the area.</p> <p>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.</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 T-PVS/DE (2019) 12 - 50 - desirable; however, this can only be implemented together with the landowners and with the forestry management. 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>
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		<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>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. 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> <p>2) extend, wherever ecologically and touristically worthwhile and as soon as possible, the stricter regulations of the decree on the Nature Reserve Hirschberg und Altmuehlleiten to the area of the Nature Reserve Weltenburger Enge to make the rules more comprehensible for visitors and supervision more effective, and to underline the unity of both sites as an ecological entity;</p> <p>3) take more responsibility for the preservation of the archaeological monument Keltenwall (Celtic wall) and stop further damage and erosion through visitor management or appropriate installations to limit hiking and mountain-biking on the monument, in co-operation with the government agency for monument conservation;</p>

	Achievements	The administration starts to implement the recommendations.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.
Other highlights worth mentioning	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 extent has the visibility of the European Diploma 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 EDPA GoS welcomes the positive start in the implementation of the conditions and recommendations attached to the 2018 renewal of the Diploma; - It expresses concern regarding the requests of the shipping companies for changing the navigation rules and removing a gravel bank; - It is recommended to add more information and diagrams for better identification of change and progress; - It is recommended that the administration continues the implementation of all actions especially the renovation of the water condition and bank. 	

Name of the awarded area	<p>17. Greece - Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria)</p> <p>No annual report received for 2019.</p>	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 12.09.2029
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proceed as quickly as possible to the signing of the pending presidential decree recognising the new boundaries of the Samaria National Park; adapt accordingly the funding of the management board and the implementation of the management plan; continue the monitoring of species and ecosystems, including in particular the phenomenon of drying pine trees; 2. open a certain number of side trails along the main trail for several purposes: a. for mountaineering, b. for scientific research, c. to make some historical buildings or ruins accessible for rehabilitation, and d. to create new emergency paths for rescuing people or combating fires. The access to these newly reopened trails should be prohibited for visitors and strictly regulated; 3. design and apply measures to reverse the observed invasion of old olive groves by pine trees next to the village of Samaria; 4. preserve the current extent and quality of wilderness, excluding any new roads within the limits of the Samaria National Park, and retain a similar situation as far as possible in the surrounding areas; 5. take appropriate measures to facilitate the accessibility of the national park for disabled people up to 2.5 km from the south entrance of the park. 	
	Conditions	N/A	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>18. United Kingdom - Minsmere Nature Reserve</p> <p>No annual report received for 2019.</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.09.1979 / 13.09.2029</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)5</p>	<p>1. control, wherever possible, the invasion of bracken with mechanical means, as opposed to the use of herbicides; in cases of restoration of big areas, the use of chemical products should be limited to the minimum possible extent and a careful record of this practice should be kept in order to assess and cope with possible undesirable side effects; specific scientific research on this issue should be carried out;</p> <p>2. pursue efforts to mitigate the effect of the rise in the sea level; explore the possibility of restoring the lost habitats in other parts of the reserve; envisage compensatory measures; carefully monitor indicative plant and fauna species and duly register and scientifically characterise the changes observed;</p> <p>3. continue the land purchase policy; in the absence of opportunities to acquire new plots, establish long-term agreements with the land owners of selected areas to improve their contribution to biodiversity conservation and/or restoration;</p> <p>4. maintain the surveillance of alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing the pirri-pirri bur (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>) and pursue the control of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>).</p>	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1. with regard to the project for a third reactor at the Sizewell nuclear power plant (project Sizewell C), carry out a proper Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment according to international standards; the results of these assessments should ensure that the construction of the new reactor will not be to the detriment of the Minsmere Nature Reserve;</p>	

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 have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) make a comprehensive mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2015-2026) in 2020 and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate; 2) prepare a revised management plan, taking an appropriately long-term view based on adaptation to the effects of climate change, by the end of 2026; 3) ensure the continuance of monitoring of, and research on, the flora and fauna for the conservation of the native species, to derive appropriate performance and conservation indicators, and to assess the effects of climate change; 4) devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national nature reserve and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area; 5) develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly targeting children and youths. 	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	Scientific researches and conservation projects are underway in particular in favour of forest and planting actions meaning that administration cares about conservation some wood plants and habitats.	

	<p style="text-align: center;">Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the tourism strategy has not begun. • First two recommendations will be implemented in 2020. • In report it would be effective to add some graphs or numbers of actions, visitors, scientific researches, or some pictures that give us a chance for doing a good analysis and identification of progress or regress.
<p style="text-align: center;">Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 hectares of new woodland was planted with 14000 locally grown trees from our nursery. • 40 hectares of plantation woodland was improved though woodland restructuring and deadwood creation. • 226.5 hectares of ground cleared from non-native <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>Several actions and implementation successes partly depend on the European Diploma status because this status is increasing the responsibility of the administration. The administration seriously implemented a strategy and management actions for plants. Number of eco-education actions, volunteers' contributions in the development process of eco-education sector and collaboration with local communities are good indicators of good works of administration.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the positive start in implementing the recommendations attached to the 2018 renewal of the Diploma; - The whole picture of the situation in the Protected Area is good, but the next report needs to add some more information. The administration has made good progress and the GoS encourage the pursuance of all management actions; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	20. United Kingdom - Purbeck Heritage Coast	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.1984 / 20.06.2029
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Secure appropriate funding incentives for continuing environment-friendly management of the landscape. 2) Promote and improve public transportation and other more sustainable methods of transport, particularly near the most visited sites. 3) Monitor the number of visitors in order to determine its impact on the environment. A visitor management strategy should be prepared for the areas with the largest number of visitors in order to avoid any negative impact either on the quality of recreational experience or on the natural resources of the Purbeck Heritage Coast. 4) Consider further investments towards the improvement of the habitat and landscape connectivity within the Purbeck Heritage Coast. 5) Promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area and encourage partners to coordinate efforts and produce good quality data for the whole Diploma holding area. 6) Initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien species occurring in the Purbeck Heritage Coast, particularly the Canada goose and the sika deer, and if deemed necessary, prepare a strategic plan for their control. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and Perenco are being strictly adhered to, and Perenco should continue to work to the highest standards; 	

		<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"> • their scale and length; • their negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities; • the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work.
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Efforts continue in this regard led by Dorset Countryside and the Lulworth Estate. Innovative use of local stone is evident. • 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 reconnected to the main line, the Norden site can play an important part in reducing car numbers travelling to Studland. • 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. • Management of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site is still financially supported by the local authorities. • 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.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lulworth HLMP continues to be implemented. • The Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Partnership continues to deliver this function. • Dorset County Council adopted a new minerals strategy in May 2014 which sees a strengthening of policy for the conservation of designated areas. • Strong monitoring of species and implementation of some actions are financed by the oil company.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport by visitors (bus, train, bicycle, walking and riding) should be increased; • 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. • 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. • 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.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog rose Rosa canina shrub unnoticed for 101 years on the Isle was rediscovered. • The EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 4 September until 20 June 2029. 	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	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.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It expresses its concern regarding the sustainability of public funding; - The report is very short, maybe informative. More information is requested for ensuring an effective analysis and identify progress in the management of the Protected Area. 	

	<p>- Finally, the GoS invites the administration to seek for funding from the oil company for training courses in monitoring for the staff of the protected area.</p>
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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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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>2) all efforts should be made to solve the problem of the disposal of plastic in general and agricultural baling plastic in particular.</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		

<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog rose Rosa canina shrub unnoticed for 101 years on the Isle was rediscovered; • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years.
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions / recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. - Overall, the report covered many issues with detailed information and for this small part of Natural Heritage management it is very active. Fire had significant negative influence on the territory. The Administration needs appropriate support from national authorities to rebuild the observation tower and continue scientific research.

Name of the awarded area	<p>22. France - Scandola Nature Reserve</p> <p>No annual report received for 2019.</p>	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	<p>23.09.85 / 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>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) complete, by the end of 2011 at the latest, and implement as soon as possible, the new management plan and include recommendations and objectives for effective monitoring of new, emerging and existing activities; 2) continue the efforts already made in order to provide the manager with the necessary funds to manage the site in an ambitious manner commensurate with its reputation and outstanding character; increase the operating budget and the scientific research budget; 3) move towards an increase of the Barnier tax (the revenues from which are used to finance the management of protected marine sites) through a review of the tax which could include extending it to everyone who visits the site, increasing the amount of the tax, changing the way it is collected and/or monitoring the number of visitors carried by boat trip operators; 4) continue to draw on the work of the scientific committee, in order to manage the site in a effective way; continue to ensure that the reserve serves as a reference point by including it in international programmes; 5) deepen and widen research, especially on climate change which has an impact on animal communities and ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial; publish the methods and findings in order to contribute to providing solutions to environmental problems in the Mediterranean; 6) allow only fishing with highly selective gear and introduce medium- or long-term bans 	

		<p>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>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>Conditions</p>	<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 <i>Posidonia</i> beds;</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>

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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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. This recommendation is completed, the management plan is currently implemented.</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>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 Integral Nature Reserve and adjacent Reserves, research activities were carried out</p>	

		<p>linked to the loans received with the LIFE projects in progress; in collaboration with research institutions and universities and a specific funding was assigned by Carabinieri for the containment of alien species (<i>Procyon lotor</i>) in the area of biogenetic reserves.</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>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>8) the possibility of extending the European Diploma to include the biogenetic reserves should be studied.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is visible that the administration is on the right track. • Collaboration with Scientists and implementation a scientific research is on-going.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<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. • buffer zones were not added yet but the administration has started to work on this.
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several research and monitoring projects are underway. The primeval beech forests of Sasso Fratino were inserted in the World Heritage site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe”; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years.
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>Several actions carried out are directly related to the recommendations attached to the European Diploma.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS was not able to effectively assess the progress in the implementation of the recommendations as the 2019 report is almost the same as in 2018. It looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions / recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It welcomes the designation of the area as World Heritage site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe”; - It is recommended to continue an implementation of all actions ensuring a consistent approach with the recommendations attached to the World Heritage property designation. - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	24. Spain - Doñana National Park		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)13</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 2) a specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be drawn up; 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; 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; 5) the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011; 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; 	

		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.
	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>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>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More conservation plans of species and active monitoring of biodiversity; • Implementation of most of the recommendations; • Increased of monitoring of illegal actions.
	Shortcomings	The report is too informative and should provide more concrete information on the progress achieved.
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sectorial emergency plans in the natural area (fires, oil spills, etc.) was designed; • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	Several actions carried out are directly related to the recommendations attached to the European Diploma.	

Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions / recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020. Nevertheless, the report should be more detailed.- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo;
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Name of the awarded area	25. Germany - Bayerischer Wald National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.86 / 18.06.2021
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)4</p>	<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>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>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>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</p>	

		<p>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 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.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Park Administration has already implemented and planned a large number of projects and measures in preparation for the 50th anniversary in 2020. • More projects, eco-education and eco-tourisms activities are implemented.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collaboration with the Šumava National Park isn’t continuing and needs renovation because a change of experience with neighbor National Park can start to more new projects and continue old projects for change of experience. One of the causes this problem is a different law about management of forest in two countries; • The report needs some data or graphs.

<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • 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 has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>The status of the European Diploma is a prerequisite for policy changes. It is a responsibility for the improvement of management, development of every sector. All actions have a long-term vision for future development and cooperation with neighbourhood parks.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While the EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing all the recommendations, it would have expected the authorities to step up efforts in addressing the outstanding issues (recommendation 5 and 6) as well as increasing the visibility of the European Diploma; - It is recommended to start monitoring of features such as the Bark beetle across both the Bayerischer Wald National Park and the Šumava National Park. - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the 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
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)6</p>	<p>1) pursue the management of the park in accordance with the Land Use and Management Plan (PRUG) approved in 2015, the Law No. 30/2014 of 3 December 2014 on National Parks and the Royal Decree No. 389/2016 of 22 October 2016 which adopted the Master Plan of the National Parks Network. Follow up on the foreseen creation of a visitor-access point at Pineta Valley and the new visitors centre at Escalona and strengthen collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France);</p> <p>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 have been carried out. The Cooperation Charter remains in force, and it is expected to be renewed in 2020.</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>The Parc National des Pyrénées have sent 4 big and 6 small informative signs in Spanish about this prohibition. They are similar panels to that used in the French National Park. The big ones have been placed in Pineta (2), Ordesa and Bujaruelo. The small ones have been placed in information points and visitor centers (Bielsa, Pineta and Torla), refuges (Ronatiza and Góriz) and the GR 11 path (Ordiso).</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>	

		Nothing to report as the recommendation was adopted in July 2018, and there have been no major developments.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the closure of the Añisclo canyon road in April 2017 due to the slope movements that caused serious structural damage in the second tunnel of the road, work was carried out in 2019 to stabilise the rock mass by means of anchors and bolts, and the road reopened. This method of repair was considered to have the least environmental impact (as opposed to blasting, or creating a new tunnel) • In the Añisclo Canyon it is planned to perform a widening, improvement and conditioning of the HU-M-22107A road, in the municipality of Fanlo, Huesca, to expand the parking spaces. The Project is pending an environmental impact report at the Aragonese Institute of Environmental Management (INAGA). 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that cooperation with the Parc National des Pyrénées is healthy, the Cooperation Charter is expected to be renewed in 2020, and urges both parks to continue this strong collaboration; - Regarding the planned widening of the road in Añisclo Canyon, it urges the Park authorities to monitor closely the proceedings, especially the EIA, and to involve itself in the planning and decision-making, where possible; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>27. Sweden - Store Mosse National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)4</p>	<p>1) reduce the dependency upon volunteers for monitoring and regular maintenance work;</p> <p>2019 was a very turbulent financial year for Swedish nature conservation because of the uncertain political situation and thus budget cuts. During the year the park kept cooperation with volunteers, as it maintains good relationships with the local community. But with the eventual restored funding, external assistance such as contractors was increased. The staff also increased with a national park manager on part time (50%).</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>There is continued support and work with different scientists from different universities, both in Sweden and abroad. A continuing problem is to keep track of all the scientific work and a database of some kind is still desirable.</p> <p>3) secure the long-term management and restoration of the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön Lakes for increased birdlife;</p> <p>The long-time project has during 2019 focused on hiring the experts needed for the project. The process of planning actions in detail and applying for the necessary permits has also begun. During 2020 more physical actions will take place. The restoration of the lakes is finally on its way.</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>The project of the new national system has been about 95% implemented in 2019. Some minor trail markings will be done during 2020. The County Governor inaugurated the result of the project in the European day of parks in May 2019. During 2020 the Park will increase the information about the European Diploma on its website.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new national system for information materials, signs and trail marking has been about 95% implemented in 2019; • The recruitment of an additional part-time park manager.
	Shortcomings	The budget cuts were concerning, but hopefully only related to the exceptional political situation, and nothing more.
Other highlights worth mentioning	N/A	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	During 2020 the Park will increase the information about the European Diploma on its website.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that during 2020 more physical actions will take place for the restoration of the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön Lakes for increased birdlife- it urges concrete action and looks forward to next year's reporting; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It notes the budget cuts of 2018/2019, and suggests the Park authorities enter discussions with the Government on more reliable funding;- It notes that during 2020 the Park will increase information on the European Diploma on its website- it looks forward to next year's reporting and visual images to that end.
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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
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)3</p>	<p>1) pursue the efforts to establish a national park including both reserves as well as surrounding islands and waters;</p> <p>The process of establishing the area as a national park has not yet begun. But preparations and discussions have begun to initiate the process in the near future.</p> <p>2) continue to monitor the activities which are potential sources of disturbances, and enforce the regulations regarding in particular the access to closed areas and make the monitoring results easily accessible to managers and visitors;</p> <p>The bird sanctuaries have been regarded during this period by enforcing the areas with authority personnel supervising the areas. The proliferation of toxic algae in the archipelago is being assessed on a regular basis. The monitoring results of toxic algae have been easily accessible to visitors.</p> <p>3) continue providing support to farming activities on the islands, following the objectives of landscape and biodiversity conservation;</p> <p>The grazing has continued. Efforts have been done in accordance with the management plan to restore and increase the available grazing land on Bullerö, which also follows the objectives of landscape and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>4) continue the campaign to control the population of minks.</p> <p>During the year the number of traps in use have been about 50. 15 minks have been trapped in Bullerö nature reserve, and 8 minks in Långviksskär nature reserve. Despite the efforts the population of minks continue to increase.</p>	

	Conditions	<p>1) prepare and adopt by 2020 a new management plan for the Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves, including a simple but comprehensive monitoring system including birds, fish, environmental parameters and visitors;</p> <p>The management plans for the two nature reserves have not yet been updated.</p>
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<p>The management plans for the two nature reserves have still not been updated.</p>
Other highlights worth mentioning	<p>A pilot study of an implementation of a new sewage system has been finished, and the work of installing a new sewage system will begin in 2020.</p>	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	<p>No information provided.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes however that there appears to be no progress on the Condition to update the management plans for the two nature reserves, due by 2020. It urges the competent authorities to prioritise this process during 2020, and to report back at the end of the year; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	29. Italy - Montecristo Island Nature Reserve No annual report received for 2019.	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 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; 3) continue ecological surveillance of the island in order to detect undesirable alien species early enough to ensure their eradication; 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; 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; 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	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>30. Germany - Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>19.06.1989 / 18.06.2029</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)2</p>	<p>1) investigate the possible technical methods to connect the aquatic system of the Haidgauer high moor, separated by the trunk road B465, through water channels or other technical measures in order to enable more water flow towards the eastern part of the moor and to ensure water exchange, especially in the Randlagg;</p> <p>The road section of the B465 leading through the Wurzacher Ried was ranked number 5 in the list of the most important re-networking sections nationwide by the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Transport in 2015. Against this background, a feasibility study was commissioned to examine possible nature conservation improvements on this road section. In recent years, a wide variety of surveys and site investigations have been carried out to this end and relevant technical solutions have been examined. The final feasibility study with corresponding technical solutions is expected to be available for further discussion next year.</p> <p>2) draw up a prevention plan to manage invasive species, to be prepared in case of their appearance, according to EU Regulation 1143/2014;</p> <p>For years, the presence of invasive species has been observed, and individual species such as the Canadian goldenrod, glandular balsam, Japanese knotweed and the giant hogweed have been systematically managed by means of appropriate preventive measures. Thanks to this continuous observation, new occurrences can be quickly and specifically repressed or controlled. The distribution of neobiota (i.e. neophytes) in the area has so far been limited by the measures taken and its further spread has been largely controlled.</p> <p>3) pursue the efforts to create an observation tower next to the Torfmuseum to provide an additional attraction in the area without disturbing the ecosystem;</p> <p>Further progress was made to build an observation tower as part of the visitor guidance system at the Haidgauer Torfwerk. There is a general consensus among all participants that this project makes sense, and various financing options are currently being examined. The intention is to bring the project to a concrete planning phase in 2020.</p>	

		<p>4) in co-operation with the aeronautical authority, stop any unnecessary acrobatic flights over the Ried due to their negative impact on the site and especially birdlife;</p> <p>The contacts initiated with the aviation authority on the part of the nature conservation administration appear to have had initial positive effects. This year, there was a significant decline in the number of aerobatic flights.</p> <p>5) resume negotiations with landowners in order to acquire land in the outlying areas – mainly near the village of Albers – to limit and eventually stop the deposition of substances harmful to this sensitive environment, such as livestock effluents or chemical fertilisers. In case of inconclusive results, long-term agreements should be negotiated to reduce this;</p> <p>Land acquisition continue in accordance with the financial possibilities of Baden-Wuerttemberg State and the existing offers of private landowners. At present there are concrete negotiations and coordination talks regarding the purchase of properties in the town of Bad Wurzach, with an area of about 50 hectares as well as the hillside areas near Albers with about 17 hectares. The financial means for this are available in principle, so a positive conclusion of the long-standing efforts to take over these marginal areas – which are important for the protected area – could be realised in the near future.</p> <p>6) preserve the integrity of the landscape around the basin of Bad Wurzach and avoid the construction of technical infrastructure on the hills and hilltops in the visual range of the Wurzacher Ried.</p> <p>All previous plans in this regard have been successfully averted; no current planning projects are known at present.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) By 2021, revise the 2007 management plan or draft a new management framework meeting the provisions and objectives of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and complementary to the Natura 2000 management plan in preparation;</p> <p>The new management plan (MaP) for the FFH and bird sanctuary “Wurzacher Ried und Rohrsee” was completed with effect from 1st November 2019. It presents occurrences of the habitat types and species of the Habitats Directive on a plot-by-plot basis and specifies the objectives and measures that must be taken to conserve these habitats and species and, where appropriate, to improve their condition</p>

		<p>and their development. All previous maintenance and development measures in the Wurzacher Ried will be adjusted and further developed in line with the new findings.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition to draft a new management plan was completed with effect from 1st November 2019; • There was a significant decline in the number of acrobatic flights during the year.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further measures defined in the maintenance and development plan (primarily mowing work in the moor meadows and rewetting procedures) were implemented; • An increase in peat moss growth can be seen in the rewetting areas, which indicates a corresponding regeneration of the body of peat; • The beaver population in the fen is still stable with 8-10 families; • The third breeding success of the crane, as well as renewed breeding success of the black stork underlines the positive development of the biotope structures in the rewetting areas; • Faunistic and floristic surveys were completed and the recording of the FFH habitat types for the development of a new “Natura 2000 management plan”, was finished and published in November 2019; • Progress and research continued on the renaturation of regenerative high moors and adaptation of land use to low moorland in terms of climate protection and the preservation of biological diversity. Data on various animal groups relevant to nature conservation was also collected, and this should serve as a basis for further planning; • The Nature Conservation Centre Wurzacher Ried in 2019 hosted 350 events, received 47,000 visitors and undertook 120 projects targeting school children and young people as part of nature education programmes- approximately 2,000 people took part in these projects. 	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>The logo of the European Diploma appears in every relevant PR activity.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the rapid progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that the recommendation to create an observation tower next to the Torfmuseum is progressing and the intention is to bring the project to a concrete planning phase in 2020-thus it looks forward to next year’s reporting on that project. 	

Name of the awarded area	31. Spain - Teide National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2029
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)7</p>	<p>1) undertake further research on the ecology and genetics of endangered and vulnerable species of the national park's fauna and flora so as to assist in their conservation in a rapidly changing climate;</p> <p>Studies have been conducted on the ecology of two threatened species: <i>Bencomia extipulata</i> (endangered) and <i>Juniperus cedrus</i> (vulnerable). A specimen more than a thousand years old has also been located and its growth rings are being analysed to investigate the climate history of the high-altitude mountain area. Work has also been done on the advancing tree line of the pine forests, which are encroaching into the national park. A novel remote sensing technique is being developed to identify plant species from aerial photographs- findings show a 17% reduction in populations of retama del Teide but increase of more than 200% in populations of rosalillo de cumbre.</p> <p>2) establish (and annually update) a register of all non-native species which are found within the national park, and either continue, enhance or commence control measures so as to ensure that these non-native species that have become invasive have a minimal effect on the park's native flora and fauna;</p> <p>Staff of the Park keenly monitor and provide early warnings of non-native taxa, thus the database is constantly updated. In the last 5 years 17 new taxa have been detected, and during 2019 a single taxon has been added. An on-line platform is also being prepared for mobile devices to facilitate the transfer of real-time updating of the inventory. Each taxon has a risk assessment of its invasive potential-leading to possible eradications or control campaigns.</p> <p>3) prepare and implement an action plan for beekeeping within the national park which aims to reduce the impact of honey bees on</p>	

		<p>both the native flora and the native species of pollinators; and undertake research on the guild of native pollinators to determine its species composition and the conservation status (endemic to the Canary Islands, endemic to Tenerife, native, and whether endangered or vulnerable) of the species concerned;</p> <p>Work is being carried out to divide the national park into three zones in order to free one of them annually from beekeeping to allow recovery from productivity losses associated with the presence of hives. The aim also is to greatly limit the number of hives based on research.</p> <p>4) maintain and expand (as appropriate) the targeted programmes for monitoring the climate and both the biological and geological resources of the national park;</p> <p>The TNP's ecological monitoring programme is being developed around four categories: species, vegetation, ecological processes and climate change.</p> <p>5) identify and include within the new Master Plan for Use and Management (PRUG) actions which have either not been undertaken or have not been completed;</p> <p>13/16 objectives are complete. On "Improve the survival capacity of threatened plant and animal species...", the actions continue over time. On "Establish a progressive plan to control the mouflon...", the actions are mostly complete- but lack of an island-wide strategy hinders completion. On "Take the necessary steps to incorporate the private lands...", it has proven impossible due to lack of a purchase agreement with the private landholders.</p> <p>6) ensure that the new PRUG contains both appropriate management indicators and targets and supports the European Diploma for Protected Areas; management must inform the Council of Europe when the new PRUG has been completed and formally adopted by the Canary Islands Government;</p>
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		<p>The new PRUG will contain a section on monitoring, evaluation, review and validity of the plan. Once it is approved, the CoE will be notified, and the Park will prepare annual reports. Recommendation of the EDPA and UNESCO will be taken into account.</p> <p>7) demolish all buildings (and other non-natural structures) within the national park which are no longer in use, and restore these areas and their surroundings to as natural a condition as is possible;</p> <p>The demolition process is moving along, and the process is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.</p> <p>8) prepare and begin to implement guidelines for public use and mobility within the national park within one year of the new PRUG being adopted.</p> <p>A sustainable mobility system will be defined in accordance with the current and future needs of the national park; different proposals will be put forward and studied, and three service areas will be established at the park access points. Once the public service and island remit has been defined and substantiated, these service areas will be developed through an island or regional project that will include structural planning and the design plans.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	A specimen of <i>Juniperus cedrus</i> more than a thousand years old has also been located and its growth rings are being analysed.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should be noted that currently, day-to-day management of the TNP has been delegated to the Tenerife Island Council (Environment and Safety Department); • In recent years the number of contract workers has fallen from 19 to 16. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the Park authorities to elaborate on the new foreseen PRUG, and on its expected date of approval; 	

	<p>- Requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>
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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 have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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 new management plan has progressed and will be finished in 2020.</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. The cooperation of national parks in Bavaria has been intensified over the past two years. The process is ongoing and new topics and initiatives are developed in close exchange of shared methods and networks. Since November 2019 Professor Rupert Seidl of the TUM has taken over research management in Berchtesgaden National Park which is funded with an amount of 150,000 euro per year.</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; <i>No changes</i>. ii. recreation and the promotion of nature tourism, in co-operation with the mountain guide organisation; providing specific training courses for the guides; 	

		<p>In 2019 a meeting took place with mountain guides from Berchtesgaden including discussion on trail conditions and demands. There were no further major developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">iii. visitor infrastructures, trail marking, usage and maintenance of mountain huts; <i>No changes.</i>iv. mountain grazing during the summer, including water supply; <i>No changes.</i>v. water resources management, taking into account the needs of the surrounding communities; <p>The rehabilitation of the flood dam in the Klausbach valley was continued, thereby ensuring the drinking water supply of Ramsau as well as a flood protection.</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>The integration of the temporary management zone into the core area is completed, but the transformation of spruce forests into near-natural mixed mountain forests will continue in the management zone.</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>In 2019, 4.700 m³ of timber was cut in the National Park. It was mainly spruce from bark beetle infestation and windthrow, classified as potential breeding material for the bark beetle whereof approx 4.000 m³ was debarked and left on forest site. The high proportion of debarked wood, left on the poor sites, is necessary due to sustainable site fertility and for deadwood restricted organisms.</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,</p>
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		<p>including cattle protection measures and the training of shepherds; No changes.</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>On the initiative of the national park administration, a cross-border networking group was founded with representatives of the nature conservation administration of the district of Berchtesgadener Land, the landcare association and the administration of the MAB biosphere region Berchtesgadener Land on the German side as well as representatives of the environmental administration of the province of Salzburg.</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>The number of visitors and events increased slightly. A second information is planned for the park for May 2022.</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>No changes.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	14 workshops were organised in different configurations, to bring together different disciplines and opinions on the new Management Plan
	Shortcomings	Higher numbers of visitors are increasingly stressing the environment.

<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019- the conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; • Because of climate change there are changes in the traditional mountain pasture management; • BNP plans to increase its efforts in social media in order to improve visitor guidance and information from 2020; • Behaviour of visitors is changing: People use drones, leave their rubbish, stay in tents overnight and make campfires 	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It notes the deteriorating behaviour of visitors, and calls for Park authorities to increase awareness and impose penalties; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	33. France - Ecrins National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 17.07.2020
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)14</p>	<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>A mid-term evaluation was carried out in 2019 based on a quantitative analysis of the actions implemented by the NP and its partners, and on a qualitative analysis based on surveys of the Park's partners and staff, as well as on 3 multi-partner workshops aimed at sharing the results. A briefing note was presented to the Board of Directors on November 6, 2019. This assessment makes concrete recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the partnerships and make them even more strategic. Thirty-four co-funded programs are scheduled for 2020 and demonstrate the significant integration of the park's public establishment activities into territorial public policies.</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>In 2019, the Park continues to modernise its database tools. It organised also in 2019 the 3rd meeting of Geotrek in Nîmes.</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>The Park continues to play its role as environmental watchdog, including surveillance and monitoring on glaciers, a sentinel of the Alps, sanitary strategy, the LEMED-IBEX Programme and the CclimaT 2017-2020 programme, among others.</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>The Park continues to provide technical expertise and support to local partners.</p> <p>5) closer partnerships should be forged with the national forestry department, the local forestry authorities and the managers of privately owned forests (CRPF) to encourage more effective information sharing and the practice of exemplary multifunctional forestry management;</p> <p>The Park continues to work with the CRPF including on the revision of 2 documents on afforestation, as well as becoming part of a new Network « Forêts sentinelles », organised by the « Fédération Réserves naturelles de France »</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>No developments since last year.</p> <p>7) close attention should be paid to the 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>
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		<p>Three new important hiking trails were completed in 2019. In 2019, a total of 22 areas of tranquillity were identified via Biodiv'Sports, and other projects were completed or initiated during the year.</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>There was stability in the number of flights in 2019.</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>In 2019, many actions took place including conferences for the general public and placement of cabins, radios, etc.</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> <p>A mid-term evaluation was carried out in 2019 by analysis of the 2014-2016 and 2017-2019 action programmes. The final evaluation will come in 2027.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	Thirty-four co-funded programmes are scheduled for 2020.
	Shortcomings	

Other highlights worth mentioning	As the Ecrins National Park administration have expressed their decision not to request the renewal of the EDPA in 2020, it is likely that the Diploma will be retracted after 17 July 2020.
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations but expresses its deep regret that the Park Administration have made the decision not to request the renewal of the Diploma in 2020.

Name of the awarded area	34. Italy - Maremma Nature Park No annual report received for 2019.	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.92 / 18.05.2022
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) develop, in collaboration with the local authorities concerned, an approach to the management of the Ombrone by river basin, pursuant to the EU Water Framework Directive, with a view to attaining good ecological status for the watercourse within the meaning of that directive; 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; 3) designate the Trappola (Ombrona Delta) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; 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; 5) step up technical support for local enterprises involved in developing integrated agro-environmental activities and promoting local products and services; 6) develop action to promote the protection and enhancement of the Park's anthropological heritage; 7) prepare a plan for the management of the wolf population. 	
	Conditions	N/A	

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
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)4</p>	<p>1) continue to take all precautions to ensure that no non-native species of plants and animals are introduced;</p> <p>No changes or deterioration of the environment occurred, and the policies presented on the earlier annual reports still apply.</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>This has been done in previous years- no major developments.</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>The studies continue. In 2019, local and foreign scientists developed various research projects in the fields of flora and fauna in Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora.</p> <p>4) make efforts to eliminate the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull (<i>L. m. atlantis</i>) on Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora;</p> <p>There is a continuous 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 occurred and the policies presented on the earlier annual reports still apply.</p> <p>6) continue the programme of reconstruction of the remaining unrestored rubble walls.</p>	

		Most of the remaining unrestored rubble walls of the plateau are now well preserved and maintenance efforts are considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Island.
	Conditions	1) that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Selvagens Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 15/86 of 21 May 1986. The legal status of the Reserve has not been changed and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur, even considering a far future.
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	N/A	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	All events and lectures addressed to the public in general and target groups, as well as the website, Facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels used to raise awareness about the importance of the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It also notes the increased use of the EDPA logo on visibility materials and media. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>36. France - Mercantour National Park</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>03.05.93 / 03.05.2028</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)17</p>	<p>1) continue to work towards a full commitment and inclusion of the remaining municipalities that have not yet adopted the charter of the park;</p> <p>Confidence building actions targeting outstanding municipalities are on-going.</p> <p>2) pursue all possible efforts and explore ways and means to secure the funding to ensure that the management of the park and activities and projects in the field of scientific research, monitoring, education and awareness raising of the public and partnership projects with the municipalities, all equally important, can be achieved in a harmonious way;</p> <p>Several projects have been implemented on PITER ALPIMED, CclimaTT, BIODIVALP, IBEX, PITER Terres Mont Viso, Plan national loup 2018-2022, LIFE WOLFAlps, etc.</p> <p>3) continue the monitoring of large carnivores and other key species on a regular basis, including in co-operation and networking with neighbouring regions and countries;</p> <p>This is being taken care of within the LIFE WOLFAlps project and National Plan for the Wolf.</p> <p>4) seek the best possible solution in the special case of the road of the Bonette pass (“piste de la Moutière” or “route de la Bonette”, the so-called “Requalification Bonette”) so as to allow the road and the part of the core zone of the park it crosses to remain an experience, especially for motorists, while at the same time diminishing the negative impact on nature</p>	

		<p>to the lowest possible level and aiming to make motorists aware of the objectives of the national park;</p> <p>This is ongoing with an excellent collaboration.</p> <p>5) pursue the co-operation and the trans-boundary work with the Maritime Alps Nature Park and further explore the setting-up of an Alpi Marittime-Mercantour International Park, to be agreed between the authorities of France and Italy; continue working towards increasing integration.</p> <p>Reflection is ongoing on this cooperation.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	N/A
	Shortcomings	N/A
Other highlights worth mentioning	N/A	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It notes that cooperation with Maritime Alps NP is healthy, calls for continued joint projects, and urges both Parks to continue working with UNESCO and IUCN towards a possible cross-border Park; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	37. Italy - Maritime Alps Nature Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.93/03.05.2028
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)10</p>	<p>1) explore the feasibility of officially recognising the two Maritime and Marguareis Nature Parks as one national park;</p> <p>In 2019, both parks were managed by the ‘Ente di gestione Aree Protette Alpi Marittime’. In the National Framework Law on Protected Areas, the Alpi Marittime - Marguareis area is listed to be a future National Park. By the end of the year, the Parks’ Authority will have a new administration following elections in Piedmont that have changed the regional administration. It will be essential to establish strong contacts with the Ministry of the Environment to assess the possibility of establishing a single national park. It would seem that there are no technical obstacles to date and the principal problem seems to be of a political nature and in particular Italy’s economic resources.</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>No major developments since last year- the new Administration will pursue this with the new local Government.</p> <p>3) ascertain that the amendment of the Law L.R.19 29/06/2009 does not jeopardise any of the park conservation regulations;</p> <p>The law was not modified in 2019.</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</p>	

		<p>and France; continue working towards increasing integration.</p> <p>Good cooperation has continued this year through very projects. Concerning a joint-park, work continues with UNESCO and IUCN. The dossier has for now been withdrawn in order to be reworked.</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>in 2019, the budget was cut by about 11%. There was no possibility to hire more staff, except seasonal workers. The regional administration has changed, as has the Park's since December 2019. It is important to bring this lack of resources for ordinary management of Park activities to the attention of the new Piedmont Regional government. However, financing was sourced for several projects including on the wolf, tourism and sustainable mobility, fauna, climate change and cultural aspects.</p>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing was sourced for several projects including on the wolf, tourism and sustainable mobility, fauna, climate change and cultural aspects; • Good cooperation has continued this year with Mercantour NP through various projects; • The EC awarded the LIFE WOLFALPS Project, with the Life Award for Nature. This important result demonstrates the management capacity of a small institution.
	Shortcomings	<p>In a continuing trend, the budget was cut by about 11%. There was no possibility to hire more staff.</p>
Other highlights worth mentioning	<p>A general concern of the Park is that, as they rely mostly on EC funding, and such funding is transferred after expenditures, they and other Bodies in a similar position must incur heavy bank loans, which is not always possible, and can lead to debt. They call for a change in the structure of EC funding.</p>	
To what extent has the visibility of the European	<p>No information provided.</p>	

Diploma been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- It notes the trend of budget cuts, and urges the new park administration to form a healthy relationship with the new regional government, in order to guarantee the budget, and be able to hire more staff;- It supports the Park's will to establish strong contacts with the Ministry of Environment to assess the possibility of establishing a single national park;- It notes that cooperation with Mercantour NP is healthy, calls for continued joint projects, and urges both Parks to continue working with UNESCO and IUCN towards a possible cross-border Park;- It notes the concern of the Park regarding the structure of EC funding, and will bring this up at the GoS meeting;- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	38. Austria - Wachau Protected Landscape	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) guarantee a sustainable budget for the managing authorities to ensure that the management plan can be fully implemented without relying on financial resources from projects; 2) encourage the setting up of a long-term institutional management framework for the Wachau Protected Landscape and Jauerling-Wachau Naturpark; 3) ensure the implementation and updating of the management plan in a participatory way; 4) continue the good practice of a global approach to forestry and wild-game management (including co-operation with managing authorities in bordering administrative entities); 5) continue the good practice of maintenance and reconstruction of terrace vineyards; 6) continue efforts to preserve the apricot orchards; 7) develop an integral approach to tourist management; 8) explore optimal solutions for preserving the appearance of the landscape (colours of the protection nets and barriers against rockslides, light pollution and Christmas tree plantations); 9) use the European Diploma logo more regularly on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) abandon definitively the scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma; 	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition is fulfilled, and all the recommendations have been either fulfilled or there have been efforts to do it. • The 25th anniversary of the award the European Diploma to the Wachau Protected Landscape was 	

		celebrated at the Dünereinstein Monastery September 5, 2019.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ceremony of the 25th anniversary of the award of the European Diploma to the Wachau Protected Landscape became really a national-wide event and a lot of stakeholders were present there. • The EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 4 September until 5 September 2029. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	<p>During celebrating the 25th anniversary of the award of the European Diploma to the Wachau Protected Landscape the ED was extensively promoted among the general public and the target groups.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, as the Wachau Protected Landscape has been doing well to be a real European Diploma holder. It urges continued and increased efforts;</p>	

Name of the awarded area	39. Russian Federation - Oka National Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations <u>CM/ResDip(2010)2</u></p>	<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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; - the prime Desman habitats, currently located near but outside the diploma-holding area, should also be incorporated into the diploma site; - 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) a 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition has been fulfilled. • Most recommendations have been fulfilled or are underway. • Communication with, education and public awareness of both the general public and the target groups, namely schoolchildren, were well implemented by the Reserve's administration.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management plan has been elaborated, but it should be approved and as soon as possible implemented.
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poaching and fishery by-catches on the Russian desman (<i>Desmana moschata</i>) should be eliminated and at least significantly reduced also outside the Oka National Biosphere Reserve. • The EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November until 5 September 2029. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. - Meanwhile, the EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November until 5 September 2029. The GoS looks forward to following the progress in implementation of the new conditions / recommendations: CM/ResDip(2019)11 	

Name of the awarded area	40. Russian Federation - Teberda National Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)1</p>	<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. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the three conditions have been fulfilled. • All the recommendations have been met or are being implemented. • Funds available for the Teberda National Reserve has recently doubled: the Reserve administration currently employs 204 staff. • More than 40 scientific articles and several monographs on the Teberda Nature Reserve's nature were published in 2019. • The number of the Caucasian European bison has increased from 5 to 40 since 2012 when the large herbivore was reintroduced into the reserve.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although co-operation with Georgian environmental authorities has been continuing, establishing a bilateral protected areas is not feasible due to political reasons.
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of the Russian Federation decided to transfer the Teberda National Reserve into the Teberda National Park. The strict protection regime will remain there as before. In this regard, the management plan shall be developed in 2020. • The EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November until 5 September 2029. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - Moreover, it should be monitored whether the change in protected area category will not change the protection regime across the ED holder's area; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo; - Meanwhile, the EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November until 5 September 2029. The GoS looks forward to following the progress in implementation of the new conditions / recommendations: CM/ResDip(2019)10 	

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 have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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	

	<p style="text-align: center;">Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the recommendations have been fulfilled or have been underway. • For interpreting the new discoveries of the Miocene habitat at the site new animations were elaborated, having been used in the high-tech interpretation as 4DX time travel simulation movie at the Visitor Centre and holographic projection at the Great Conservation Hall of the geological trail. • The GUIDE@HAND smartphone application got expanded and available in Slovak and English languages as well in offline format on the site's geotrail • Special attention is paid for using renewable energy at the site.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management structure of the trans-boundary Novohrad-Nograd UNESCO Global Geopark has been excluding the nature conservation agencies both in Hungary and Slovakia.
<p style="text-align: center;">Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efforts would be useful to extend field research by involving international expertise, the site has the potential for it. • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>The European Diploma label has been used for various purposes, it has contributed, <i>inter alia</i>, to the success, when the site managers applied for funds to accomplish the last decade's new developments. The logo of the European Diploma 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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<p>- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions / recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020.</p>	

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

		<p>be designated so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area;</p> <p>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> <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019 agreement on cooperation between the Danube -Ipoly National Park Directorate, the Pilis Forest Company and the Local Government of Pilisszentiván resulted in, inter alia, valuable habitat management and restoration, invasive alien species (e.g. Austrian/black pine <i>Pinus nigra</i>) control/eradication or big game/large herbivore browsers. • Visitors are kept outside the most valuable ecosystems within the Szénás Hills Protected Area • One of the educational trails/natural paths presents also an archaeological site. • Permanent and well implemented cooperation with local stakeholders.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A really huge range of communication, education and awareness of nature conservation among both the general public and the target group activities have been carried out by the EDPA site managers, particularly for schoolchildren incl. kindergarten children, supported also by the local government. • Special attention to be paid to horse riding paths & mountain bike trails. • The annual report is elaborated in detail and based on the facts/numbers. • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years. 	

To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions and/or recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020;- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>43. Belarus - Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)6</p>	<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. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the protection regime and ownership of the land should be kept unchanged; 	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<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 • Sustainable forestry using the FSC certification 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs of impressive research. surveys and monitoring within the area are regularly published (23 articles in 2019) • The staff increased in 2019, thus totaling 425 staff members, 262 of them are financed from the state budget. From January to October 2019, 21 young specialists have been recruited to the Reserve Administration after graduation. • Development of a comprehensive ten-year management plan for the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve has been started, including the detailed part for 2021-2025 • The Administration carries out a huge range of communication, education and public awareness actions among the general public and the target groups, particularly the youth and visitors.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is data-based, factual and detailed – this should be appreciated; • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve extensively uses the logo of the European Diploma, e.g. on web page, in the Museum of Nature Conservation History, presentations at international conferences, seminars or workshops and on the various promotion/public relation materials.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve is a perfect example of the model European Diploma's holder. Thus, the ED should definitely be renewed for the site. Therefore, the EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions and/or recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020.	

Name of the awarded area	44. Netherlands - National Park Weerribben Wieden	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 03.06.2020
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2015)2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) implement a monitoring programme to evaluate the effects of the new connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden, the construction of which was finished by the end of 2014, at least on important and/or endangered species, considering the exemplary role of the project; 2) monitor the further development of fish stocks, with an emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements; 3) limit the impact of fishing by defining a maximum number of licenses or limiting the catch; define methods to avoid secondary catches of otter or other species; and ensure the further development of a management plan for fish stocks covering all species, as requested in the previous resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma; 4) carefully observe the development of boating on the Kalenberger Gracht and set limits (for example a maximum number and/or size of boats) or provide for measures in case of increasing numbers of larger boats; 5) continue with the designation of adjoining areas as extensions of, or buffer zones to, the protected areas, especially to the north (Rottige Meente) and south-east (Staphorster Veld), and create a connection between the two separate parts of De Wieden Nature Reserve between the Zuideindiger Wiede and the Bovenwiede; 6) review contracts with business owners and landowners with regard to habitat management, and especially the duration of 	

		<p>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;</p> <p>7) observe possible threats which may occur due to the intensification of agriculture, changes in water management or construction of wind farms;</p> <p>8) secure adequate funds to convert the Ossenzijl information centre, at least in part, into an educational centre geared towards young people.</p>
	Conditions	<p>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;</p>
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to huge efforts of the Park's managers as well as some other stakeholders, most of the above recommendations have been met. • 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, was implemented in 2019. • No increase in larger boats in the Kalenbergergracht (the nationwide trend that there is a decrease in large pleasure craft is clearly noticeable in De Weerribben) occurred in 2019. The number of moorings for larger vessels along the Kalenbergergracht and the Heuvengracht has been reduced.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For financial reasons, Staatsbosbeheer-National (its Department of Outdoor Affairs namely) has decided to close the Ossenzijl Information Centre as of December 2019.
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the recommendations remain to be kept in focus, given their long-term goals. These concern persevered monitoring, sustainable use, and cooperative management of several habitats in the NP (e.g. reedbed ecosystems); • The issue of the postponement of the opening of the Lelystad Airport for tourist flights or any other flights in relation to the Weerribben Wieden National Park is not mentioned in the report; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in 2018. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years;
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new conditions and/or recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020;- However, it urges Park authorities to keep it updated on any new developments concerning the Lelystadt Airport project;- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	45. Finland - Seitsemien National Park		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular five-year intervals; 2) continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity; 3) Metsähallitus should continue to bring together people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster the transfer and exchange of knowledge; scientific research should actively continue; 4) deepen co-operation with local stakeholders, especially in the nature tourism sector; 5) provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed. 		
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Finnish Ministry of the Environment started the enactment process of protected areas in the Uusimaa region. The national parks planned enlargement area, Segelskär (approximately 6,200 hectares to be established by a government statute) next to the national park, was included in the process, thus ensuring the protection of the area before the enlargement of the national park itself. The process has still been ongoing. • Management effectiveness indicators (e.g. habitat management impacts, condition of visitor 		

		<p>facilities and trends in visitor numbers, <i>etc.</i>) were followed in 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five hectares of forest ecosystem have been restored by controlled burning in 2019 • Two projects on improving visitor facility infrastructure within the Seitseminen National Park were implemented in 2019
	Shortcomings	None
Other highlights worth mentioning	The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	46. Finland - Ekenäs Archipelago National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan; 2) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals; 3) continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to <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"> iii. improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure; iv. further develop customer service and interpretation; and v. raise the public's awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park; 5) review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years; 6) deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators. 	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) within one year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan 	

		(master plan), which itself will include plans to enlarge the national park.
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The invasive alien species control, namely the Raccoon Dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>) and the American Mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>), has been continuing within the National Park. • The new visitor infrastructure has been under construction at the Jussarö.
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inventory of marine habitats, the important part of the National Park's area, was not carried out in 2019.
Other highlights worth mentioning	The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	The text on and logo of the European Diploma is exhibited at the Ekenäs Visitor Centre, the logo is also a part of the National Park's information boards, National Park leaflets/brochures and webpages in Finnish, Swedish and English.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - Meeting the condition and recommendations shall be checked during the on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park in 2020. 	

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

		<p>9) create an overall database including performance indicators, covering both natural resources and socio-economic uses and activities in order to ensure the continuous monitoring of the European significance of the diploma-holding area;</p> <p>10) adopt a clear and sustainable tourism strategy and engage a more active sustainable development policy together with local stakeholders, and if possible with the authorities of Poland, promoting and supporting extensive farming, manufacture and marketing of green products and services, and the preservation and renovation of cultural heritage; include in the forthcoming management plan a specific programme of activities aiming to preserve or restore local cultural heritage, including architecture, local breeds, traditional uses and activities, as well as all other cultural assets of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park and its buffer zone, so as to strengthen sustainable development in the diploma-holding area;</p> <p>11) ban hunting in the whole Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park territory and minimise hunting pressure in its buffer zone; with reference to the moratorium on wolf hunting established in 2015, and as foreseen in the current management plan, forbid wolf hunting by law on the territory of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, as well as in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;</p> <p>12) develop a long-term vision for the European bison population and strengthen scientific and technical co-operation with the authorities of Poland in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;</p> <p>13) consult with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Large Herbivores</p>
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		Commission in order to assess whether the European bison in the diploma-holding area require specific conservation measures.
	Conditions	1) by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should meet international standards and take into consideration the recommendations attached to the renewal of the European Diploma; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradication of the most important invasive alien species, namely the Sosnowsky's hogweed (<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>) and the Canadian goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>), have been carried out in 2019 • Wetland restoration has been continuing, e.g. making the Solomenka River flow really natural or recovering the Dikoye swamps
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Park Administration budget has not been increased in 2019.
Other highlights worth mentioning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many recommendations as well as other conservation and management issues, e.g. reducing the red deer population (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>), removing all winter-feeding places from the diploma-holding area or additional measures to protect the moose (<i>Alces alces</i>), to be included into the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park Management Plan.
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?		No information provided.
Conclusions and action suggested		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>48. France - Port Cros National Park</p> <p>No annual report received for 2019.</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>30.09.1997/ 30.09.2022</p>
<p>To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)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 	

		<p>order to ensure sustainable use of this local resource; assess the impact of angling and tailor the regulations if necessary;</p> <p>7) provide visitors with more visible information on the fact that they are entering a natural protected area at the ports of entry and by displaying notices in the shuttle boats, and place greater emphasis on the European Diploma;</p> <p>8) continue to monitor and control invasive alien species such as <i>Carpobrotus</i> spp., <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>, black rats and feral cats, and actively participate in the Mediterranean alarm network on new high-risk species;</p> <p>9) involve the Park more actively and visibly in measures concerning sustainable development and moderate use of such resources as fresh water and energy;</p> <p>10) clarify the formal and actual responsibilities and tasks of the National Park and those of the other local players such as the municipal, departmental and maritime authorities;</p> <p>11) promote local reappropriation of the Park by developing partnerships with local political, economic and voluntary players.</p>
	Conditions	N/A

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
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)1</p>	<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 coordinated 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 	

		<p>the reports on inventory and monitoring, and on the challenges and solutions for the management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, published in 2008 and 2011, giving the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve the capacity to undertake these;</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	<p>Most recommendations have progressively been improved on, and it must be acknowledged that it is a continuous process. Major achievements are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) An annual increase of budget (2) Progress on the establishment of a transboundary biosphere reserve. (3) Signing of the Memorandum on Cooperation in Preservation and Sustainable Use of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's Natural Complexes. (4) Approving a new state programme envisaging the construction of the International Capacity-Building Center for Primeval Beech Forests Protection, Ecoeducation and Sustainable Development at the CBR. (5) Preparation and approval by the Ministry of the new Management Plan for the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for the next 10-year period.
	Shortcomings	<p>The lack of funding for monitoring and conservation of the European Mink is continuing but no individual of the IAS American Mink has ever been observed in the entire history of observations in the reserve.</p>

Other highlights worth mentioning	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- It acknowledges the cooperation with local communities and neighbouring Romanian initiatives;- It requests the competent authorities to improve the monitoring of the situation of the European and American Mink populations;- It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	50. Slovak Republic - Poloniny National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)11</p>	<p>6) 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);</p> <p>7) 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;</p> <p>8) 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;</p> <p>9) 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;</p> <p>10) develop effective research and monitoring programmes which provide data helpful to the management of the national park's resources;</p> <p>11) 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;</p> <p>12) 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</p>	

		<p>Bieszczadi National Park in Poland, the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the two neighbouring Landscape Protected Areas – Východné Karpaty and Vihorlat;</p> <p>13) continue the dialogue with local communities in order to build confidence and foster involvement in the diploma-holding area.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) by 31 December 2021, submit to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe a detailed report, covering the implementation of each of the 52 actions in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan (Appendix 6.6.17 of the Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026);</p> <p>2) by 31 December 2023, initiate the revision of management and action plans for the Poloniny National Park so that they can be approved (by government resolution, if necessary) before they are due to be implemented on 1 January 2028;</p> <p>3) deploy adequate resources, both financial and human, in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome of the actions detailed in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan;</p>
	Achievements	<p>The park has managed to engage on most recommendations and is reporting on new landmarks on most of these. Major achievements include:</p> <p>(1) All forests within the NP are reclassified either as level 4 or as 5 ones. A proposal for World Heritage property boundary modification was prepared that could start the process toward designation of new nature reserves.</p> <p>(2) Data from research and monitoring programmes has been published in scientific journals or edited collections.</p> <p>(3) A study on current situation in tourism development in the NP has been conducted and measurements which would be taken to stimulate tourism in this region has been proposed.</p>

		<p>Two of the above-mentioned conditions are on their way to being achieved. More specifically:</p> <p>(1) Amendments to the legal documents (Acts) have been adopted towards regulation on sanitary logging in protected areas and assessment of forest management plans.</p> <p>(2) Condition No 2 will not start yet, of course.</p> <p>(3) Additional financial allocation to implement international commitments (including EDPA) has been approved by the Slovak government.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	N/A	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing several of the conditions and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - The application of newly adopted legal amendments towards only close to nature forestry in national parks should be a priority; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	51. Poland - Bieszczady National Park		Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)20</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) draw up and implement three-year action plans, within the framework of the management plan (2011-2031), and set up a monitoring mechanism based on performance and conservation indicators; 2) pursue the efforts to include the beech forests of the Bieszczady National Park on the World Natural Heritage list; aim to harmonise the management of the contiguous beech forests and upland meadows with the similar forests and meadows across the border in the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic); 3) manage and control visitor pressure; devise and implement with local stakeholders a sustainable tourism strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed in line with conservation objectives of the area; 4) strengthen co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and municipalities, with a view to forging a common vision and designing common objectives for regional planning and development, taking the biological and landscape interests, and sensitive nature of the site, into account; 5) develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services targeting children and youths; 	

		6) continue the monitoring of the flora, fauna and vegetation units, and evaluate the management activities that are necessary for the conservation of species and the restoration of native vegetation.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>There has been further development of the work on the recommendations, and most are followed, or started. Major achievements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the implementation of nature protection tasks for the years 2019-2021 has started; (2) efforts to include the most valuable fragments of beech forests, on the list of World Natural Heritage were continued from the last year; (3) the Park continued to work on the improvement of marked trails and tourist routes; (4) The opening of a new field station of Ecological Education.
	Shortcomings	The adoption of a strategy to manage and control visitor pressure should be a priority. Some progress has been done but this must continue.
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing several of the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It urges the authorities to prioritise the handling of visitors' pressure; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

<p>Name of the awarded area</p>	<p>52. Slovak Republic - Dobročský National Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma</p>	<p>18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028</p>
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)12</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>2) develop, according the precautionary principle, a strategy on how to deal with invasive alien species, in case of their appearance;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>4) explore the possibility of moving the exhibition from the Skalickou cottage to the Forestry Museum.</p>	
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) conduct a study involving all stakeholders to verify the necessity of a new forest road into the buffer zone and identify measures guaranteeing a least-intervention solution to minimise the impact of the road, provided that the construction is not carried out during the vegetation period and in the breeding season, and that the felling itself does not include heavy machinery; a natural re-cultivation of the road should be foreseen once the forestry work has been carried out; report to the Council of Europe before starting the road works;</p>	
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The majority of the recommendations are met. Major achievements include:</p> <p>(1) Research activities were conducted in line with the Management Plan of the National Nature Reserve</p>	

		<p>(2) Confirmation of no presence of invasive alien species within the Park as a result of monitoring.</p> <p>(3) New legislation on prevention and management of introduction and spreading of IAS came into force.</p> <p>(4) Relocation of the exhibition from the Pred Skalickou cottage to the open-air museum was approved.</p> <p>Regarding recommendation No 3, some meetings and discussions have been done for the preparation of a study on the climate and global warming effects that will probably result in a plan for climate change effects on the forests.</p> <p>Condition: The road construction is delayed and therefore the condition will not be fulfilled until the time of its construction.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The study on effects of climate and global warming should be a priority. Some progress has been already done but this must continue.</p>
Other highlights worth mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local management in the reserve was realized in accordance with the Management Plan of the National Nature Reserve. • Amendments on current Acts is expecting to harmonise issues related to sanitary logging and forest management plans. 	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	<p>It has been improved. Details on the European diploma were provided on the website of the Poľana PLA/BR.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It encourages the completion of the study on climate change; - It reminds the authorities that when the suggested road is planned, the condition must be met with; - It requests to the authorities to organise an Open Day event in the Dobročský prales NNR as proposed. 	

Name of the awarded area	53. Russian Federation - Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.98 / 18.09.2028
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) in co-operation with the Finnish authorities, remove security equipment (wire fences, electric fencing and other devices) on the border between the two countries to optimise links between the two sides of the border and to foster ecological processes; 2) implement individual training plans for field staff in the conservation/management of natural environments and in natural sciences in general so as to broaden the scope and raise the level of skills of such staff in matters which are central to their work; 3) consider the renewal of the management plan for the diploma-holding area for a period that is consistent with the duration of the renewal of the European Diploma and with a view to its updating in the context of the integration of the diploma-holding area in the Kostomuksha Nature Reserve since 2015; 4) finalise by 2022 the project for the establishment of the biosphere reserve including the diploma-holding area. Ensure the strong commitment of local authorities and socio-economic stakeholders to help the authorities of the diploma-holding area to preserve it. This should also help adapt the composition of the diploma-holding area and in particular its buffer zone and if possible extend them, so as to confirm its European significance and the preservation of the diploma-holding area; it is referred in particular to the central area of the Kalevala National Park; 	

		<p>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;</p> <p>6) develop a regional vision for the development of scientific, and/or nature-based tourism so as to optimise the potential of the diploma-holding area and of the Kostomuksha Nature Reserve as a whole; this should (1) be considered with the support of the UNESCO MAB (Man 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some progress has been carried out towards complying 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. • One of the most important achievement of this period is that the strategy of tourism development in the territory of Kalevalsky national park was approved.
	Shortcomings	<p>(a) The cleaning of the territory of metal fences is under way</p> <p>(b) the creation of the Coordinating Council for working on the creation of a common</p>

		<p>development plan should be a priority (Rec No. 3)</p> <p>The reporting is somewhat scant, and should be more exhaustive, to enable a better evaluation.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>		
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the start in the implementation of most of the recommendations; - It encourages more comprehensive reporting in the future. (a) Declare what the management plan for the Metsola biosphere reserve includes, (b) what the plan for the integration of federal protected areas into the socio-economic development of the Kostomuksha urban district means for the tourism, (c) how the approved strategy of tourism development in the territory of Kalevalsky national park is expected to affect the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	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 have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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>The majority of the recommendations are met. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the current repair of the Museum of Nature of the Reserve was completed 	

		<p>- International cooperation on steppe biotope preservation has continued.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<p>All court decisions in 2019 regarding the conflict with the administration of the Kurskaya oblast were in favour of the biosphere reserve.</p>	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>The EDPA status of the area has been emphasised in the mentioned conflict, which has been a strong point for the EDPA in the court.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests the authorities to closely monitor their disagreement with the Oblast and to report on the issues to the Group in 2020; - The Administration of Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve should take the initiative in 2020 to offer to the Administration of Reserve «Belogorye» an agreement about maintaining the European Diploma status of the three excluded units of the PA; - It requests the authorities to take the necessary measures to obtain borders of the proposed protected areas in a new format (Rec. 3) and to submit them to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia; - It recommends strengthening the international co-operation efforts of the Reserve by means of projects that meet the major interests of steppe environments in this part of Europe. 	

Name of the awarded area	55. Netherlands - De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve No annual report received for 2019.	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 	

		<p>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.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<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;

Name of the awarded area	56. Czech Republic - Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.00 / 20.06.2020
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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 	

		<p>finally refrain from building any new facilities (e.g. hunting lodge);</p> <p>2) Amend agri-environmental funding rules in accordance with the protected area's management plan in order to secure financing of management needed to attain objectives set.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The majority of the recommendations are met. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current funding regimes secure financing of management needed to attain conservation objectives set. • Current forest management reverts to natural regeneration of broadleaved trees. • According to the Conditions: visitors will have access to the Radejov hunting reserve based on the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<p>With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years.</p>	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>The ED award is presented in some NCA CR's web pages.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It requests the continuous reassessment and security of the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan; - It requests the authorities to strengthen the co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved to arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management as well as to eliminate non-indigenous species; - It requests the authorities to continue the current forestry policy; - The negotiations with Radejov hunting reserve manager should result in minimalising the non-native game species numbers to facilitate forest regeneration. 	

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 have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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	<p>The majority of the recommendations are met. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing management has been provided on dry calcareous grasslands and forest steppe localities though the long-term management is not guaranteed since funding is only provided on a yearly basis. • No non-native game species has been introduced. • Removal of non-native conifer tree species has been continued. • Land-use plans have been drawn for all communities. • Regular consultation procedures with relevant local and regional authorities and scientists has been established. • The budget for a visitors' centre provided, education started, and budget for personnel secured.
	Shortcomings	The special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation has not been reinforced
Other highlights worth mentioning	With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years;	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	The European Diploma logo has been visible on 8 locations during 2019. It will also be on the new educational panels on wetlands and bats whose development started in 2019.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020;</p> <p>- It requests the authorities to explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	58. Czech Republic - Podyji National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 21.06.2020
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ensure, in collaboration with the operator of the hydroelectric power station at Vranov, that the negative amplitudes in the flow regime from the dam sluices are reduced and that a minimum residual flow rate is guaranteed; 2) secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019; 3) control the development of leisure activities, and in particular avoid the use of the River Dyje for water sports; 4) intensify co-operation with the Thayatal National Park to harmonise the fishing regulations within the two parks and reduce the negative effects of fishing in the core zones; 5) develop relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park, in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan; 6) pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones; 7) grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter; 8) undertake research on the influence of the artificial barriers on the ecosystem of the Dyje River. Mitigation measures on the riparian ecosystems should be adopted. 	

	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Most recommendations are being carried out. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved handling regulations ensure minimum residual flow rate. • There seems to be a good cooperation between the operator of the hydroelectric power and Podyji National Park Administration that is effective in emergency situations. • The next period management plan has been prepared and submitted for approval. • Research on the fish stock levels, the extent to which they are affected by sporting fishing, as well as the potential sport fishing risks for terrestrial biota has been conducted. • In buffer zones of the National Park, efforts to diversify the structure of the landscape have been done.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>The draught during the 2018/2019 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.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; • In the framework of the amendment to the Nature Protection Act, the boundary of the National Park is stated accurately and without doubt in maps and verbal description of the Act. 	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>EDPA makes stronger the position of the Park in the negotiations on the water regime management in the Dyje river and increases its prestige at the international level.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It requests the authorities to monitor the water level; - It requests the authorities to evaluate the implementation of the management plan that was adopted in 2012; - It requests the authorities to evaluate the results of the research on fish stock levels and the effects of fishing in core zones of the National Park and to formulate recommendations for fishing regimes; - It requests the authorities to analyse and evaluate the results of the project studying influence of the artificial barriers on the ecosystem of the Dyje River, and to formulate recommendations. 	

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

		<p>Biosphere Reserve, especially in the most sensitive areas, should be studied;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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;7) information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be made readily available to the public;8) the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private operators in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment) and assist with information on organising and developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve, such as ecotourism, bird watching and handicrafts;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;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;
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		<p>11) the necessary funding should be provided in order to improve the capacities/performance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority; a feasibility study on the creation of a financial mechanism should be undertaken so that all commercial activities and uses (not only tourist activities) contribute to the financing of the reserve;</p> <p>12) the adoption of the legal framework (master plan, Law on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Law on the Protected Areas) should be accelerated;</p> <p>13) noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is in operation, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to analyse carefully the requests for new wind farms in the neighbourhood of the reserve.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Most of the recommendations are fulfilled. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Romanian Parliament initiated the discussions for the establishment of a trilateral biosphere reserve between the three countries, Danube Delta – Lower Prut. • The cooperation with the Camargue National Reserve is continuing. • Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority supports local communities in accessing the funds. • The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority ensures that the objectives of the Building Regulation in the Reserve are followed.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; 	

<p>mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019 a new international project started 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 has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing most of the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It requests the authorities to explore the cooperation with Doñana National Park (Spain) in line with the Camargue National Reserve; - It requests the authorities to improve its legal framework and the strategies for the conservation of the Danube Delta’s biodiversity and ecosystems (Rec. 10); - It requests the authorities to continue to carefully monitor the development of wind farms in the reserve’s neighborhood areas; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.

Name of the awarded area	60. Austria - Thayatal National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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>Although the minimum flow levels agreed in 2016 are still valid, due to the very dry summers of 2018 and 2019, the level was temporarily reduced by the responsible river agency, following discussions with all relevant stakeholders, but in spite of the disagreement of Thayatal NP.</p> <p>2) pursue efforts to bring the river into “good ecological potential” according to the EU’s Water Framework Directive; in achieving this aim the fish population needs to be improved and the presence of dead wood (coarse woody debris) in the river should continue to be encouraged and monitored;</p> <p>Research and monitoring of the dead wood in the Thaya river is being studied but all project partners agreed to prolong the project, so information will be available after 2020. The fish population and their behavior is being studied by Czech researchers in close cooperation with both NP authorities, including the use of transmitters to prove the usage of dead wood in the water by fish. The monitoring of the artificial spawning ground of the brown trout from 2018 continues.</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 dry summers in the last years and the resulting low water levels, the operators of the Vranov Dam did not create less strong surges in the Thaya river. Any exceptional operation of the Vranov Dam because of the lack of water, is accepted by Podyjí NP on 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>Results of the monitoring of fish stocks should be published in 2020, also providing information on the behavior of fish in the NP section of the river Thaya. Data is being taken about every single In-and Output of fish. Coordination continues and will be elaborated further with Podyji NP in 2020.</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>A study on the influence of fishing and related activities on the protection goals of NPs with a specific focus on the disturbance on protected species is ongoing. It will provide authorities with scientific data to argue new fishery regulations in the new management plan in 2021. The study is being carried out by a team of experts from Austria</p>
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		<p>and the Czech Republic, who will provide one single report about the influence and consequence of fishery regarding both NPs as one unit together. It is expected to be completed in February 2020.</p> <p>6) evaluate the existing agreement on cooperation between the Podyjí and Thayatal National Parks in view of a possible twinning agreement.</p> <p>Both NPs are working together on new management plans, which will be valid from 2021. Since legislative requirements limit the NP authorities, one common binding document will arise additionally from those management plans, stating the common goals and measures which both NPs will pursue together. This document will be published on the websites and demonstrates the transboundary cooperation and the will to cooperate to the public. This new document will add to the existing agreements and strengthen the cooperation of NP administration Thayatal and the NP administration Podyjí.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<p>Thayatal celebrated “30 years open borders” together with Podyjí in 2019. The transboundary cooperation was once more increased by organising and hosting many transboundary events, such as Concerts, Exhibitions, Themenights and a City Festival. A reward for those efforts occurred on 29 November 2019, as both National Parks were chosen to host a meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs, federal governors and the ambassadors of both countries. It was a privilege to be the hosting location of the only ministers meeting between Austria and the Czech Republic in celebration of 30 years after the fall of the iron curtain.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Collaboration with the river management authority seemed poor in relation to the decision to reduce the agreed minimum river flow during the summer.</p>
Other highlights worth mentioning		

To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- Collaboration with Podyji NP seems healthy, and to be progressing;- Regarding Recommendation 1 above, collaboration should be improved between the NP and river management authority;- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.

Name of the awarded area	61. Estonia - Matsalu National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)5</p>	<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 two courses for Matsalu farmers who have started the meadow management. During meetings of stakeholders, there have been reports on the success of meadow management in the park. 72 farmers and 27 private landowners have managed 6769,32 ha of meadow in 2019. The renovation works have been done on 366,41 ha; 5363,08 m of fences have been erected for new pastures and 10 farms have participated in renovation works.</p> <p>3) 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 of biodiversity in Matsalu. Discussions are ongoing about restoration plans of Kasari delta fish spawning areas.</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>Cooperation with hunters' invasive predators' control on islands has been organised, including management of transport to the isles.</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</p>	

		<p>which could threaten the biodiversity of the national park;</p> <p>2 official webcams have been placed in the nature to recognise invasive predators. There is a monitoring scheme for mammals in the park in two areas which also helps recognise alien mammals. Eradication measures of Heracleum Sosnowskyi took place in two areas in 2019.</p> <p>5) prepare a climate change adaptation plan for the national park by 2024;</p> <p>Discussions have begun about a 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>The informational board at Salevere visitor trail was renewed. Some additional boards were erected in frames of the Coastal Hiking Trail.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<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 major financial problems in implementation of the management plan basic activities</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The success of meadow farming and cooperation with farmers; • The steps towards monitoring and eradication of IAS.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>There is no information on translation of printed guides into major European languages.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of merging the Environmental Board and Environmental Inspection has been initiated; • No changes in boundaries but the change of regulation is in process where the parks borders will be enlarged; • The process to renew the sustainable tourism certificate of the EUROPARC Federation has begun. 	

To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.- Encourage the authorities to step up their efforts in designing the climate change adaptation plan.- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.

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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)15</p>	<p>1) by 2020, prepare an overarching management document integrating the relevant planning instruments currently applicable to the site; define management objectives for the five main zones;</p> <p>The management plan of the Tihany peninsula Natura 2000 (HUBF20006) site is done by the expert group of BfNPD. This plan is currently being approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. The European Diploma management plan is under progress.</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>No significant changes have occurred since the last report but work to manage and control visitor pressure is continuous. There are plans to revise the road network from the point of view of nature conservation inside the peninsula and if necessary, renew those to the possible use of agricultural and touristic purposes. Work has begun on the modernisation of the study trail network that introduces the peninsula. Repainting of the signs for the entire tourist road network has been completed, as well as the renovation of the stairs on one section next to the Csúcs hill.</p> <p>4) keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas (open meadows, meadows with hedges and bushes, lavender fields with oaks and almonds);</p>	

		<p>The results achieved until now have been maintained by the national park. The development of our machine park for area management has begun. Special lawn and forestry machinery were procured. It was financed by two projects. A complete rebuilding of the sheepfold on Csúcs hill has begun. This facility is extremely important for grassland maintenance. The renovation is a part of the Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme.</p> <p>5) encourage farming and wine-growing practices consistent with the conservation of natural and landscape assets and establish a functional buffer zone between the vineyards and the wetland zone;</p> <p>No significant changes since the last report.</p> <p>6) pursue the policy of acquisition of private land;</p> <p>Despite very high property prices, they managed to buy a piece of land in a strategically important part of the peninsula. There have been many attempts to inbuild the panoramic piece of lands here in recent times. With approximately €23,000 worth of purchases, they have significantly increased ownership in this vulnerable area. A further private piece of land was transferred to the state by exchanging land, on which the national park got the management rights. The area of the state ownership has increased by about 2 hectares. This procurement and transfer are also significant in fulfilling Recommendation 2.</p> <p>7) take the necessary steps to improve the water quality of the Belsö Lake;</p> <p>A project financed by a state-tender was started to improve water quality and restore the natural state of the lake. A shallow settling lake to filtrate the rainwater coming from the village will be established. Construction has begun and the sedimentation pond is expected to be completed by February 15, 2020.</p> <p>8) continue to control invasive species such as <i>Ailanthus</i>;</p> <p>No significant changes have occurred since the last report. The achieved results have been maintained by the NP. A detailed survey was carried out on the spread of invasive non-native species. The NP participates in the</p>
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		<p>Life4Oakforests project which was started in 2017, as part of which will again be a large scale intervention on the peninsula to reduce invasive species. The treatments of invasive tree species in the Life4OakForests project are in progress.</p> <p>9) pursue the co-ordinated management with nearby protected areas such as the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Külső and Felső marshes.</p> <p>No significant changes have occurred since the last report. The NP has managed the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and Lake Külső and Felső marches with the same method as other parts of the protected area. The project of forcing back invasive weed species involves this area too.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	The acquisition of private land in line with recommendation 6 and in the pursuit of recommendation 2 is encouraging.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	N/A	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - It requests more information on the overarching management document of Recommendation 1, and of possible linkages with the Natura 2000 Management Plan; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	63. Slovenia - Triglav National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2029
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)3	<p>1) strengthen the inter-ministerial co-ordination regarding the management of the Triglav National Park;</p> <p>Different ministries and local communities have an important role in the implementation of management tasks and activities. As leading or cooperating partners they are involved in the management of the protected area, therefore, some work and financial obligations should be included in their annual programmes, staffing and financial plans. Most of the expert work has been done in the field of implementing measures for sustainable traffic mobility, preparation of the building typology and tenders by the agricultural sector to co-finance individual environmental measures. In general, the realisation of sectors is lagging behind the planned indicators. The Government or competent ministry should strengthen the coordination of activities of other sectors in the management plan implementation and co-financing of tasks, especially in the field of sustainable development and protection of cultural heritage.</p> <p>2) continue to follow up closely on the transition of land ownership in the park (denationalisation); pursue the active policy of acquisition of land important for nature protection and other park activities;</p> <p>TNP does not have an active role in the denationalisation process but collaborates closely with the Ministry and other institutions to follow the process and contribute to decision-making. According to the Denationalization Act, when the state property is part of the denationalization process the state attorney represents the state. First-instance authorities who consider the requests for denationalization are administrative units. According to the Triglav National Park Act, Triglav National Park Public institution is authorised to exercise a pre-emption right on agricultural land, forest land, water areas and urban or built-up land</p>	

		<p>in the name of the state of Slovenia. This year, a pre-emption right was exercised on 9,97 ha of land.</p> <p>3) pursue the efforts aimed at transforming the zoning towards the first zone (wilderness) and keep the third zone for sustainable use, provided that the central part of the national park does not decrease in size;</p> <p>Triglav National Park Act defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zones, 3rd is peripheral zone. There were no changes in zonation in 2019.</p> <p>4) continue the good collaboration with municipal authorities responsible for land-use planning when preparing land-use plans and implementing them; strictly apply the regulations related to new construction and renovation works;</p> <p>The TNP Authority is running expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. So far, the typology for the municipalities of Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora have been prepared. Expert basis contents also guidelines and recommendations for placement and architectural design. TNP Public Institution is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the NP. In 2019, a digital investment guide was prepared with guidelines for maintenance and restoration of pasture objects in Bohinj and the preparation of building typology for the Primorska area of the park began.</p> <p>5) continue to work on solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human use;</p> <p>By the end of 2019, 16 of 36 mountain huts had wastewater treatment plants. Slovenian Alpine Association and park staff regularly monitoring the treated wastewater. A new Decree on the discharge and treatment of urban wastewater was passed, underlining that the proper treatment and discharge of wastewater should be settled by the end of 2021. 4 of 6 TNP-owned mountain huts have</p>
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		<p>wastewater treatment plants. In 2019 TNP experts, mountain hut owners and experts from different fields discussed the most suitable solutions to treat wastewater and minimise the impact on the environment.</p> <p>6) develop a funding mechanism to support local development projects of the national park and municipalities within the biosphere reserve;</p> <p>The Government is preparing a decree for the support and co-financing of local development projects in the field of climate change, environmental protection, nature conservation, protection of cultural heritage, development of social activities, with the aim of encouraging environmental protection and sustainable development. Important sources of co-financing are also European development projects. The TNP Public Institution received 8.000€ from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport for the implementation of the UNESCO MaB program in the Julian Alps Biosphere reserve. This amount is insufficient. In addition to the coordination of the biosphere reserve, most of the work focused on the network of elementary schools in the Julian Alps area, development of sustainable tourism, cooperation with the local population and joint activities in all four biosphere areas of Slovenia.</p> <p>7) together with local communities, prepare favourable conditions for social acceptance of increased populations of large carnivores such as brown bear, wolf and lynx; further develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming with carnivores in the park;</p> <p>The bear, lynx and wolf are regularly observed. Bear-human conflicts are decreasing (although one conflict bear was removed) but wolf-human conflicts are rising. The question of proper effective management of large carnivores will become a priority issue in the next years. TNP Public Institution collaborates closely with competent institutions, and issues preventative tools to farmers. Discussions with farmers, and awareness-raising took place in 2019 to increase social acceptance of these animals.</p>
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		<p>8) strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificially regenerated spruce forests to climax mixed forests and increase the area of protected forests; apply appropriate mitigation measures specifically adapted to the national park status after natural disasters;</p> <p>The main principle of today's forest management is to encourage natural regeneration. However, some conifer forests in TNP (e.g. high karst plateaus Pokljuka and Mežakla) are important from a nature conservation point of view (e.g. glacial relics such as Western Capercaillie and Three-toed Woodpecker) presenting an additional challenge for the proper management of forests in TNP. Due to bark beetle's infestation, intensive interventions are required in order to limit further spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands. The TNP Public Institution is in regular contact with relevant stakeholders to agree on these interventions. In 2019, the project VrH Julijcev was approved and some actions focus on the improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka plateau by planting different broadleaved trees.</p> <p>9) in liaison with relevant partners, implement the tourism strategy and continue developing practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation, the development of new technologies and new forms of tourism, especially in seasonal hot-spot areas;</p> <p>A detailed management plan highlights problems related to traffic and transportation. Several Sustainable Mobility Promotion Days were organised such as 8 days of free P+R system during August weekends. The Hop-on hop-off bus also continued to operate this summer in several municipalities. Along with Ministry and municipality representatives, work continues to find solutions to cope with traffic on the Vršiš road. Sustainable mobility is promoted in publications for visitors. A working group on Traffic Management on Pokljuka high plateau continues to work on finding solutions on how to cope with increased stationary traffic during winter, based on reducing speed and traffic monitoring. At the same time more frequent bus-schedules were introduced throughout high-summer and –winter season.</p>
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		<p>10) prevent the extension of installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as ski jumping; the renovation and upgrading of existing installations should be accepted only if the protection of nature and the landscape are duly taken into account; continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national park, with special attention to the development of new sports (electric biking, for example), and ensure that they remain compatible with conservation objectives;</p> <p>According to the Triglav NP act it is forbidden to construct new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing ones in the whole territory of the park. Detailed maps show where cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, paragliding and mountain biking is allowed. In 2019 the preparation of an Action plan for recreational activities and visitation began.</p> <p>11) encourage the best possible integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings while respecting the traditional local style; support the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices and their related infrastructure (shepherds, hay racks, mountain shelters for animals, etc.); further develop the park or regional branding system for goods and services;</p> <p>The TNP Authority continues to run expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock (including alpine pastures) in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. So far, the typology for the Bohinj, Gorje and part of Kranjska Gora municipalities have been prepared. The Public institute TNP is also involved in the consultative and licensing process for all building cases in the national park. In 2019 work continued on the brand for local products – ‘Quality Mark’. A web page and a clip promoting the brand were established.</p> <p>12) promote capacity building and specialisation among permanent park rangers and hire more seasonal rangers during the peak season; use the European Diploma logo more regularly on</p>
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		<p>publications and appropriate infrastructure and promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas more actively in general.</p> <p>Permanent park rangers attend training programmes every year: conducting of minor offences procedure, mountain guides training program, complementary training for park rangers. In 2019 they also participated in a seminar on protecting personal data and attended trainings on monitoring large herbivores and carnivores. During the high season one seasonal ranger was hired. The Diploma logo is used on all important park publications and was mentioned during all important events.</p>
	Conditions	<p>1) National authorities must guarantee the necessary budget in order to fully implement the Triglav National Park Management Plan, adopted in 2016, including a comprehensive monitoring scheme, and to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural and cultural values of the park.</p> <p>For the implementation of the annual programme of the TNP Public Institution, 2.700.612€ was planned in 2019. Most of the funds (73,5%), 1.984.866€ was provided from the state budget. Other funds (715.746€) are provided from international projects (365.076€), so-called non-public sources (102.220€) and marketing activities (248.450€). The financing follows the dynamics set out in the TNP Management Plan from 2016 and the items of adopted state budget. Other holders of management tasks and activities provide funding sources through their own annual programmes of work and financial plans. Funds (partly raised by the rebalancing in May 2019) are sufficient to cover most of the planned tasks of the TNP Management Plan.</p>
	Achievements	<p>One of the ecological farms in the TNP (Trenta valley) was chosen as the best organic farm in Europe by the readers of the Guardian.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project VrH Julijcev aiming to improve the conservation status of eight species was launched in 2019; 	

mentioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful elimination of Japanese knotweed on a territory of 350 square meters was achieved using black mulch. Himalayan balsam was manually removed on a territory of 850 square meters;• The Third Open Forum of TNP was organised.
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	The Diploma logo is used on all important park publications and was mentioned during all important events.
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.

Name of the awarded area	64. Netherlands - Naardermeer Nature Reserve	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2029
<p>To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2009)7</p>	<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>Extraction of drinking water is at a sustainable level and is not affecting the water level of the Reserve. A possible threat was the recently planned development of small-scale groundwater extraction by the Gooische Hockey Club (GHC) to irrigate their hockey fields. Natuurmonumenten targeted this potential impact in good cooperation with GHC which resulted in a solution which has no impact on the Reserve. 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 and expert meetings on a more flexible water level are being undertaken. An outcome was the decision to raise the upper limit of the water level by 10 cm in wintertime, which will be reflected in a new water level agreement and formalised via a legal document called the Water Plan, beginning in 2020. A new development plan “de schil” to benefit reed growth and spatial distribution outside the core Naardermeer area is in elaboration. The western side of the outer Naardermeer is rich on phosphate. Together with a more natural water level and more water this should boost the reedbeds and provide new breeding habitat for species including Purple Heron, Bittern, Bearded Tit, Savi’s Warbler and Great Reed Warbler. It is due to be integrated in the upcoming Natura 2000 Management Plan by end 2020.</p> <p>3) nature restoration and development around the Naardermeer core area is to be fully completed; to that end missing lands</p>	

		<p>(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 for Land and Water Use are urged to make greater efforts to finalise the Naardermeer recovery plan (1993);</p> <p>Although impossible to acquire all missing lands, a large property in the south-west of the Reserve was purchased. The other missing properties are mostly for agricultural use, and the province is negotiating with owners for their purchase. However once acquired, the grounds cannot be automatically sold to Natuurmonumenten. After achieving the development plan the Naardermeer core area will be almost totally surrounded by nature restoration areas by 2025/2026.</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 railroad has been provided with 9 eco-tunnels in 2019. Early camera footage has already shown the crossing of Grass Snake, Pine Marten, Weasel and a variety of mice.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Conditions</p>	<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 was cancelled. Attention will continue to 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>

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Natuurmonumenten worked together with the Dutch Rail Organisation ProRail and the province of Noord-Holland to create 9 ecological passages under the railroad which divides the Naardermeer in two separate parts in August 2019.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>		
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - 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; - Meanwhile, the EDPA has been renewed by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November until 5 May 2029. The GoS looks forward to following the progress in implementation of the new conditions and recommendations: CM/ResDip(2019)12. 	

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
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)3</p>	<p>1) care should be taken to ensure that new activities or developments do not harm either the natural or landscape heritage;</p> <p>A 2.5 km railway construction project of the American Military in Camp Darby Base in the Natura 2000 Site began in January 2019. This project had been submitted to the Park for Impact Assessment. Despite the negative impact, but based on security grounds, the project went ahead, with certain mitigation and compensation measures such as reforestation, creation of wetlands. The Park is monitoring these works. Certain coastal communities also continue to put pressure to increase tourism activities in the area.</p> <p>2) the deer- and boar-culling measures should be continued;</p> <p>These measures continue, and in 2019 1,413 deer (much more than 2018) and 330 boars (much less than 2018) were caught. Results are worse in the Camp Darby area.</p> <p>3) consideration should be given to nature conservation in water management, especially when implementing hydrological measures;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>4) more active consideration should be given to natural assets in the management of areas outside the nature reserves, especially in forest and agricultural areas;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>5) the implementation of measures to minimise the negative impact of risks to the Massaciuccoli Lake, especially from pollution caused by agriculture, should be speeded up and further efforts made to improve the quality of the lake's water;</p>	

		<p>Several projects developed by the high school of agronomic studies Sant'Anna (Pisa) have been financed and could be implemented in the next year, including: 3 new lagooning / phytodepuration zones in the north and south of the Lake, a trap for the sediments corresponding to the tributaries of the hills, restoration of the landscape at the west edge of the lake.</p> <p>6) the measures to better protect coastal dunes and to raise awareness of their importance should be continued and strengthened;</p> <p>The Park, helped by an ornithologist expert, continues the dialogue with municipal administrations and seaside associations to disseminate good practices for managing coastal dunes, in particular cleaning. In addition, since May 2019, there is distribution near each bathing establishment of a "Beach Decalogue" with rules of conduct, portable ashtrays, etc. The activities of cleaning the dunes with tourists, schools and volunteers continue, taking care that these activities do not disturb the nesting of Charadrius alexandrinus.</p> <p>7) the efforts to combat invasive exotic species should be continued;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>8) use should be made of every opportunity to improve wildlife crossing corridors under or over roads and railways;</p> <p>One of the compensation measures prescribed for the new railway line provides for wildlife crossings.</p> <p>9) noise pollution in recreation areas should be minimised;</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p> <p>10) the process of relocating craft activities to the area around Massaciuccoli Lake should be completed.</p> <p>No major developments since last year.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, deer/boar culling measures are improving; • Several projects are in development on measures to minimise the negative impact of risks to the Massaciuccoli Lake.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In spite of the above, deer/boar culling results by the Camp Darby area are far inferior; • The railway project of the American military at Camp Darby which has been pushed through despite the assessment of its negative environmental impact is disappointing.
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; • There is pressure from certain municipal and regional forces to weaken the power of the park over the peripheral zones. Nature protection associations are countering with proposals for a buffer zone; • Since January 2019 the Park has a new full-time Director; • On 13 December 2019, the Park celebrated its 40th anniversary, and several activities and a conference took place; • In 2019 the Park started work on the new Integrated Park Plan, a Management Plan for the protected area (the current Plan dates from 1989) which also includes the Management Plans for Natura 2000 Sites. 	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It congratulates the Park on celebrating its 40th anniversary; - Concerning the railway project of the American Military, it urges the Park to closely monitor the works and ensure the most minimal environmental impact possible; - Linked to this, it urges the Park to collaborate closely with local and regional authorities and other stakeholders, and to defend the Park borders; - It welcomes the launch of a new management plan; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	66. Italy - Gran Paradiso National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 18.03.2021
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3</p>	<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>In the last 8 years the GPNP received ordinary contributions from the Italian State averaging €6,126,923.86 per annum. Other funding was obtained from the 2 regions, and the EU. The resources available to the Park are sufficient to cover management costs and maintain a high conservation level. However, active conservation actions and important works for restoring the integrity of some habitats cannot be financed with these funds. An important part of funding is allocated to local community development actions.</p> <p>2) provide the national park with adequate staff at executive level to enable the director to deal with essential tasks, especially strategic issues;</p> <p>The staff level has fallen slightly, and there is a shortage on certain sectors. On the executive level, the current organic structure will have to be slightly modified in the future, to allow the director and top management to devote more time to the elaboration of suitable conservation strategies, active monitoring and conservation plans and projects.</p> <p>3) actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town planning proposals and decisions;</p> <p>Most infrastructure plans are for the bottom of the valleys, near historical settlements. Many municipalities have specific implementation regulations for interventions in the historical centre. With the approval of the GPMP, the relationship between the management choices of the municipalities and those of the protected area will be even clearer, as the rules of the Park plan have been included in local urban planning. These regulations concern in particular the methods of recovery and conservation of the historical, cultural and landscape heritage.</p>	

		<p>4) integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;</p> <p>The GPMP identifies, as a management objective, the naturalistic forestry aimed at the conservation of forest habitats. The Park Plan also includes the Management Plan of the SIC (IT1201000) which provides conservation measures for all forest habitats and specific measures for forest habitats of Directive 92/43 - EEC. Finally, it should be underlined that, in the GPMP, relevant forest areas were identified: in these areas any management activity is totally excluded, to allow the natural evolution of the forest. Some areas were also included in the GPMP as "Ancient Woods", as they respond to very specific characteristics: they must contain plants of considerable size, with standing and ground wood and lack any management action for the last 60 years. In these areas any human intervention is prohibited.</p> <p>5) continue to encourage farming activities that are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation;</p> <p>Aside from domestic grazing, agricultural activities are practically absent in the Park. Research is being carried out on the impact of domestic grazing on animal biodiversity that will be fundamental for the management of these activities in all the territories of the Park in order to preserve biological diversity.</p> <p>6) avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the national park;</p> <p>To minimise the consequences of water withdrawals, a careful monitoring is carried out by the Park and any other new project of dam building is banned by the Park. After the approval of the Park Management Plan, only small water withdrawals, for local energetic purposes, may be authorised.</p> <p>7) establish a scientific advisory council or other mechanism to provide input from the scientific community regarding the management of the park.</p>
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	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) The park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.</p> <p>The management plan of the GPNP was finally approved by both Regione Autonoma Valle d’Aosta and Regione Piemonte on 22 March 2019, and is thus finally and fully operational. The management plan contains the maps that represent the different areas subject to different protection constraints: these areas are now fully operational. The contents of the Plan and the relative maps will be presented to local people in the coming months. The most relevant topics to be explained will be those relating to the maximum protection areas (Areas "A"), in which even the grazing (by domestic herbivores) activities will not be permitted.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The management plan of the GPNP was finally approved by both relevant regions in March 2019.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>It is restrictive that The National Law on Parks (Law n. 394/1991) does not allow the establishment of a scientific advising commission.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<p>It is of the utmost importance to maintain efficient surveillance services, dedicated, in addition to protection, to active conservation actions and periodic monitoring of habitat changes. The successful maintenance of this in GPNP can act as a role model for other protected areas.</p>	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - Cooperation with the twinned Vanoise National Park regarding joint-scientific research is promising, and joint-activities should be further elaborated; - Engage in dialogue with the relevant Ministry regarding the restriction of setting up a scientific commission; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	67. Romania - Piatra Craiului National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 27.09.2021
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area 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 National Forest Administration (RNP Romsilva) that secures 90% of the national park budget. The remaining 10% comes from the national park administration efforts (visitor fee, selling products at the Visitor Center, guiding fees, approval documentation taxes etc). The total budget is 1.5 mil. lei and staff salaries 1.1 mil. lei.</p> <p>2) complete the construction of the headquarters and other infrastructure, especially the exhibition room and other tourist facilities, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;</p> <p>The Visitor Centre which was completed in 2016 has to date received 24,000 visitors.</p> <p>3) elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local architecture and landscape; this exemplary programme should be implemented with the help of relevant specialists and contribute to making this region a model for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;</p> <p>No developments since last year.</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</p>	

		<p>appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;</p> <p>Since April 2019 the Park Administration is one of the partners in the Building Management Capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas for the Integration and Harmonization of Biodiversity Protection and Local Social Economic Development (CentralParks) project, financed by Interreg – Central Europe Programme, whose main goal is to improve management capacity of protected areas.</p> <p>5) regarding both central and local forest authorities, more attention should be paid to the enforcement of the forest law on the national park’s fringe and in the surroundings of the park; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;</p> <p>In 2019 the Park Administration together with the Romanian Gendarmerie organised 124 control actions to enforce the forest law, 40 of them with the help of authorities. The result was 55 fines coming to a total of 13300 lei.</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 2019 the Park Administration organised 8 garbage collection campaigns with the help of volunteers, along the touristic trails, with a total length of 35 kms. The local authorities in Dambovicioara regularly collect the garbage, and they also set up rest areas along the road, containing garbage bins for tourists.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<p>1) complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.</p> <p>No changes since the Management Plan was approved in 2013, and the revised plan which was</p>

		sent in 2015 to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest is still pending the final approval.
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	The final approval of a revised management plan has been pending at the Ministry for 4 years.
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	The European Diploma logo use increased on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons for awarding the Diploma. All 3 logos (National Park, European Diploma and National Forest Administration) can be seen on the Park official papers and inside the visitor center.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.	

Name of the awarded area	68. Romania - Retezat National Park	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2008 / 02.07.2023
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2013)4</p>	<p>1) the Romanian authorities should secure a sufficient budget for the national park and allocate the funds early enough in the year to ensure favourable working conditions for the staff, the completion and maintenance of the park's infrastructure, more information for visitors and the improvement of tourist facilities;</p> <p>Even though the central public authority for environment didn't finance at all the park's activity, the National Forest Administration ROMSILVA (in whose structure we are included) has ensured, at the beginning of the year, a reasonable financial support in order that we have been able to perform most of our activities without financial constraints. Nevertheless, in September we have received an official notice saying we have to reduce spending to 90% of what was approved at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>2) the competent Romanian authorities should work together to harmonise the different national and international designations in order to achieve efficient joint management and to implement joint scientific research and monitoring programmes;</p> <p>Following the problem of last year of designation of the Park as a Biosphere Reserve, a new compliance plan was again submitted to the International MAB Committee for analysis, but still no reply has been received.</p> <p>3) the management plan should be approved as soon as possible, and at least an executive summary should be translated into either English or French;</p> <p>The implementation of the project to elaborate the second edition of the park's management plan which was initiated in 2018 and has a budget of 4,234,584 Euros should last until 31 December 2020. During 2019, progress continued smoothly.</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>The RNPA's staff took care this year to maintain in good condition the orientation-information infrastructure in the park.</p> <p>5) the park should maintain pressure on local communities to prevent construction of inappropriate buildings either in the park or in its immediate vicinity; and</p> <p>In 2019 there were no problems with illegal constructions.</p> <p>6) the park rangers should monitor the pastures in order to identify early possible changes due to over grazing and/or under grazing; before the next evaluation, the park should carry out a new study on the pastures; the changes in terms of species composition, erosion, etc., should be analysed in relation to the type and amount of grazing.</p> <p>No developments since last year. The existing monitoring plan is being reviewed in order to include new conservation measures.</p>
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European	No information provided.	

Diploma been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts;- It is worrying that expenditure had to reduce to 90% during the year: dialogue with ROMSILVA is encouraged;- It is also concerning that there is continued doubt over the harmonisation of the status of the Park as a Biosphere Reserve: dialogue with the International MAB Committee is encouraged.- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

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
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)9	<p>1) implement the new management plan and in particular control the protective measures for the different zones; after five years, make a comprehensive, mid-term assessment and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate;</p> <p>There are no developments since last year. Observance, security and inspections of compliance with regulations and norms continue on a regular basis. The mid-term evaluation of implementation of the 2nd management plan is expected to occur in 2020.</p> <p>2) take measures to better control poaching in the park and implement as soon as possible the strategic guidelines for the development of the security and control in the Central Balkan National Park, which includes a section on the prevention of poaching. In particular, strictly limit road development and systematically control road usage;</p> <p>There are no major developments since last year. Prevention of poaching remains a high priority for park employees. Monitoring and control equipment (still insufficient quantity) is provided, some barriers are being built to prevent the unregulated movement of motor vehicles on the territory of the park. Specialised equipment (monitoring equipment, night vision devices, drones, new generation radio, specialised vehicles) should be delivered in 2020 under the new project. This will help the park rangers better perform their duties. Thanks to this project, other facilities will be built to prevent unauthorised access to the park by motor vehicles.</p> <p>3) maintain strict control on grazing permits and prohibit any increase of grazing animals; maintain the pressure to reduce grazing by horses, which are much more difficult to</p>	

		<p>control, and increase the number of water sources and their access;</p> <p>The Park Directorate continues to spend enormous administrative and human capacity to control livestock grazing. The Annual plan for grazing and hay use in Central Balkan NP has not changed significantly. For the second consecutive year, the precision of the processing of the documents has been increased in practice to 100% correct declaration of available livestock and to approx. 60% correct tracking of the grazing process during the pasture season by compiling of the necessary protocols in time. The number of horses according to grazing permits issued in 2019 decreased by 25% compared to 2018 and by 45% compared to 2017. Concerning the new project financed by the ERDF under the OPE, the technical specification and the tender documentation for the procurement have been prepared and implementation is expected in the period 2020 – 2021.</p> <p>4) set up comprehensive monitoring of the impact of grazing; in general, allocate the necessary funding for more management-oriented scientific research and studies;</p> <p>See Rec. 3 above, regarding the progress of the new ERDF project, which will also aim to establish a methodology for the annual assessment of natural habitats subject to livestock grazing.</p> <p>5) propose solutions at national level to improve the infrastructure related to mountain pastures, like shelters for animals and shepherds or dairy facilities; improve their visual and ecological impact, as well as their sanitary conditions for dairy production;</p> <p>No major developments since last year. The CBNP is also looking for opportunities through the status of the Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve (see point 7 below) to offer new opportunities for preserving and marketing these products.</p> <p>6) explore solutions to increase the role of the national park in the management of tourist infrastructure (chalets) inside the park, including their maintenance, the control of</p>
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		<p>their ecological impact and their use as information points;</p> <p>No developments since last year. The Park Directorate intends to use the mechanisms of the Biosphere Reserve (see point 7 below) in order to implement, in partnership with the Bulgarian Tourist Union, projects for the construction of waste management systems and of waste water management systems in the chalets on the territory of the national park.</p> <p>7) use the newly established biosphere reserve to reinforce the role of the Public Advisory Council as a link between the national park, the municipalities and civil society organisations around the park; allocate adequate financial and human resources to fulfil the tasks and commitments undertaken at international level with the designation of the park as part of the biosphere reserve and World Heritage property and establish, as soon as possible, corresponding management structures;</p> <p>Concerning the ongoing process of the formalisation of the CBNP as the Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve, the local elections in 2019 delayed the process of formalising the partnership of various entities, but the informal partnership continued, mainly focusing on the development of information materials, presentation of the biosphere reserve in the media space, festivals in the municipalities from the transition zone, etc. Meanwhile, the first international partnership has deepened. After the successful project of getting to know each other with the Thuringian Forest Biosphere Reserve, Germany (ended with Joint Declaration of Intent for future cooperation) we started a second common project for a participatory process in our 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 2019 the decision for inclusion of the national park directorates in this process was taken. This applies to the sites that have a territorial overlap with the parks. The legal changes are still under</p>
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		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.
	Conditions	N/A
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reduction in horse grazing figures is promising; • The technical specification and the tender documentation for the procurement have been prepared and implementation is expected in the period 2020 – 2021 of the new ERDF project; • The partnership with Thuringian Forest Biosphere Reserve appears promising; • The inclusion of the national park directorates in the Natura 2000 process is encouraging.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning		
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	<p>In 2019 the EDPA logo was used from CBNP for printing materials as follows: 2 types of leaflets, 1 brochure and calendar for year 2020. The logo was used also in all presentations for the CBNP presented by park employees. On the webpage of Central Balkan there is information about the European Diploma of the park and link to the official EDPA webpage.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and appreciates the information provided on promotion of the EDPA; - It notes that the mid-term evaluation of implementation of the 2nd Management Plan of CBNP is expected in 2020, and urges the Park to report on this next year; - It suggests stepping up anti-poaching efforts under Rec. 2, and it notes that deliveries of specialised equipment are due in 2020. It urges the Park to report on this next year; - It notes that, concerning the new ERDF project, the selection of a contractor is ongoing, and implementation is expected in 2020-2021. It again urges the Park to report on this next year. 	

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
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	<p>No annual report received for 2019.</p> <p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)14</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 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; 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>Conditions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	

		<p>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>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>3) maintain and sustain the legal regime as a strictly protected area for the Khosrov Forest State Reserve in the future law on the protection of nature currently under discussion in the parliament;</p>
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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
<p style="text-align: center;">To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)13</p>	<p>1) prepare an overarching management framework document for the Burren Region diploma-holding area, outlining the various management initiatives and their inter-relationships;</p> <p>No updates to the “Entity relationship diagram” for the Burren Programme (BP) since 2018.</p> <p>2) aim both to increase the quality of the natural heritage and to prevent damage to the cultural heritage in those areas of the Burren Region not included within the three Special Areas of Conservation;</p> <p>5% of BP is non-designated Annex I habitat and is protected by the BP team. Non-designated Annex I habitat outside of the BP is protected under Local Authority plans or EIA rules. Any instance of damage is reported immediately by the BP team to the Local Authority.</p> <p>3) work with other stakeholders, especially those involved in tourism predicated on the farm holdings, as well as the natural and cultural heritage, to support communities living and working in the Burren Region;</p> <p>The BP, supported by Leader, organised courses for local farmers on ‘Setting up your own Business’ as a way of encouraging and assisting Burren farmers to explore other business options on their land. 80 groups of tourists during the Summer 2019 visited one of three Burren farms for a farmer-led walk across the land. This was very successful and additional groups are expected in 2020. In addition, 2-day training courses for public officials were held in 2019 as part of the Burrenbeo Learning Landscape initiative, with local farmers heavily involved in delivering the training. The BP has provided support to the Burren farming community to explore the establishment of a Beef Producer Group in the Burren.</p> <p>5) consider the development of further walking trails throughout the Burren Region.</p>	

		There are no current plans to extend trails in the Burren. The focus has been to develop farmer-led walks across the Burren. Training has been provided to farmers and several were supported to hold public walks on their land through Burrenbeo's 2019 Monthly Walks programme.
	Conditions	<p>1) secure a budget from 2022 onwards for the development of a successor programme to the current Burren Programme; share with the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas the details of the successor programme to the current Burren Programme prior to its entry into force;</p> <p>The BP awards 5-year contracts to participating farmers, some of which run until the end of 2022; the new CAP and National CAP Strategic Plan will be delayed and as a result, detailed discussions on its content have not yet commenced. Details of the successor plan will be communicated to the EDPA GoS, but won't be available until 2022.</p>
	Achievements	The tradition of Winterage, which is so central to the management of the Burren EDPA, was recognised by the Irish Government in July 2019 through its inclusion in Ireland's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. A successful Winterage weekend was held in October 2019, promoting the site and its conservation importance. Other educational and awareness raising events were held during the year, and media publicity was good.
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth mentioning	Positive preliminary discussions continue with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the continuation of the Burren Programme.	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts. - Prioritise progressive talks with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the continuation of the Burren Programme, and securing a budget from 2022, as in Condition 1; - 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 No annual report received for 2019.	Date of the award /renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2014 / 30.06.2029
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maintain all necessary precautions to ensure that no plant and/or animal species is introduced into the reserve; 2. analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna, following the definitive eradication of all alien species, including recent available data for the three islands; 3. monitor soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio and, if deemed necessary, implement restoration measures; 4. keep the goat population at a very low level and under a strict monitoring scheme to ensure the regeneration of natural vegetation and the success of propagation programmes for threatened or extinct plant species. While 25 years of field experience has led to positive results, continue to explore and test alternative methods for a selective and progressive reduction of the goat population while avoiding animal suffering; 5. ensure a high level of training for the guides who accompany tourists in the reserve; 6. pursue the monitoring of the yellow-legged gull breeding population and their possible interferences with seabird colonies, in order to ensure early detection of possible negative changes; 7. monitor the implementation of the management plan against conservation objectives and initiate its revision by 2024. 	
	Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. eliminate avoidable causes of non-natural mortality of Mediterranean monk seals. To this end, revise the design and construction of the local fishing gear, the so-called "covos", to include mechanisms which prevent the capture of young seals and their subsequent death by drowning. Alternatively, replace the fishing equipment that causes these accidents with safer and more sustainable systems which do not interfere with the population of marine mammals in general, and of the monk seal in particular. 	

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 extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	<p>Recommendations CM/ResDip(2015)1</p>		<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>As well as the continuation of actions mentioned last year within the Comprehensive Monitoring Programme such as on the updating of red-listed species, determination-identification of the places with anthropogenic influences of Vashlovani Protected Areas have also been implemented, based on which new patrolling routes were defined. At this stage eight daily standing ranger protection stations are in place.</p> <p>2) prepare and implement a programme to maintain and renovate field equipment and the infrastructure for tourists and visitors;</p> <p>Financial resources are allocated from the state budget as well as within the financial cooperation with international donor organisations, whose support is extremely crucial for the PA development. The 3-year project in Cooperation with CNF is being implemented and is regularly updated after each 3-year term. There is also support from the WWF in the framework of the TJS programme of construction and arrangement of new eco-tourist infrastructure. This year, for better environmental protection and improvement of the patrolling system on VPA, two more new ranger shelters were also built thanks to the TJS/WWF financial support.</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>Careful monitoring of species continues by specialists, rangers, reporting, and updating the</p>	

		<p>database. Within its status as an Emerald Network Site, special monitoring activities are defined in the Vashlovani annual plan 2020 and will be integrated in the new management plan. The information regarding the key species and habitats of Vashlovani Protected Areas according to the Bern Convention is uploaded on the Emerald Network Standard Data Form.</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>The budget of VPA is financed from allocated funds of the state budget, as well as from international funds of the following donor organisations: Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF), WWF/TJS, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), UNDP, EU within the ENPARD programme assisting the administration to ensure the attainment of core objectives envisaged within the management plan and provide an efficient management performance of Vashlovani Protected Areas.</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>The existing 6-year Management Plan is valid until 2020. The agency has already started working on the next steps for updating the management document with a 9-year validity. This includes assessment of implemented activities under the current management plan and objectives that should be integrated as future priorities within the framework of the new management plan in full accordance with existing needs. The active working phase on updating the MP will begin in 2020.</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>Various knowledge enhancement trainings for VPA employees on local as well as on international level continued in cooperation with the above-mentioned international organisations. In 2020,</p>
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		<p>seven different types of trainings will be held within an ongoing UNDP project. Another huge project that started this year which is supported by the US National Park Service with financial support of the Department of Interior and envisages capacity development and institutional strengthening of Vashlovani. It's noteworthy that with the financial support of UNDP, an appropriate training course has been conducted for VPA employees to increase their capabilities and experience in the monitoring of Emerald Network Sites.</p> <p>7) continue and develop cross-border co-operation for the protection of large carnivores.</p> <p>The cooperation project with Azerbaijan and the WWF regarding Gazelle reintroduction continues and in 2019 the transfer of gazelles from Shirvan National Park of Azerbaijan to Vashlovani Protected Area was made. The reintroduction to Samukhi Valley means the number of gazelles has increased from 100 up to 120 individuals. There are further plans to establish a protected area on a part of the Samukhi Valley to be protected for Gazelles as well as large predators. As a result of the monitoring, it is confirmed that Samukhi Valley is the best habitat for Gazelles, as well as an ideal migration area for other species.</p>
	<p>Conditions</p>	<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 related to the existing shelters in Strict Nature Reserve, hence taking into consideration all the recommendations and the importance of the issue, demarcation of the given area was conducted, based on which the area was excluded as part of a 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</p>

		<p>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 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>The Pasture Management plan for Vashlovani Protected Areas continues to ensure conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. Monitoring of grazing areas on Traditional use zone, as well as controlling the level of erosions is permanently carried out by rangers, as well as the natural resources specialists who periodically process and update the collected data. There is active cooperation with the municipal government to develop a lease agreement form, which will determine lease price and permissions on grazing according to the conditions of the pasture management plan. On the other hand, in the framework of the financial cooperation with the EU and UNDP, the Agency of Protected Areas has completed the Project “Sustainable management of pastures in Georgia to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities” within which 14149 ha of degraded pastures were rehabilitated, about 480 ha of migratory route was introduced, as well as sustainable pasture management practices among farmers and sheep-breeders in the Vashlovani Protected Areas being implemented.</p>
	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regard to monitoring, determination-identification of places with anthropogenic influences of the VPA have been implemented, and new patrolling routes defined; • Two new ranger shelters were built thanks to TJS/WWF financial support;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various staff trainings took place in 2019, with more planned for 2020; • Successful cross-border cooperation with Azerbaijan as regards the gazelle transfer.
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Concerning Rec. 4, there is no information on sustainable internal funding. All funding sources appear to be external.</p>
<p>Other highlights worth mentioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the possible renewal of the Diploma due in 2020, an expert appraisal visit took place in June 2019. The conclusions were favourable and thus it is expected that the Diploma will be renewed for 10 years; • There are currently a number of ongoing studies to assess the potential of creating a Biosphere Reserve at the base of Vashlovani and Tusheti Protected Areas in Kakheti region. The initiative is highly supported by municipalities, local communities, and all stakeholders. In 2020, the studies will be finalised and Georgia will have an important tool to initiate the establishment of a first biosphere reserve in the country; • Staff salaries and benefits have been increased, which is an important tool for retaining and motivating high-quality employees. In 2020, benefits are expected to increase by a further 50%; • The development of VPA has led to a big positive influence on the local population, including generating many employment opportunities; • The exhibition hall of the Visitor Centre was renovated in 2019 and is fully equipped with modern and interactive technologies. Furthermore, construction of a new multifunctional museum on the VPA is planned for 2020; • The president of Georgia visited Vashlovani Protected Areas this year and she actively encouraged others to visit the unique biodiversity of Vashlovani. 	
<p>To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?</p>	<p>No information provided.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and action suggested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, and looks forward to receiving progress on possible new recommendations pending the renewal of the Diploma in 2020; - It appreciates the apparent strong support from international organisations, and urges continuation of this collaboration; - It notes that the active working phase on updating the Management Plan will begin in 2020, and urges the Park to report on this next year; - It notes that several new trainings for staff will be carried out with the UNDP in 2020 and also requests the Park to report on this next year; - It requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	