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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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

20-21 February 2024
Strasbourg, France

**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON THE RENEWAL
OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS**

*Document prepared by the
Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 30 awarding the European Diploma to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)7 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland) until 19 June 2031;

Attaches the following nine recommendations to the renewal:

1. finalise the designation of the "Conservation Area of Segelskär", providing a sufficient conservation legal framework to secure the ecological, cultural, recreational and landscape values deserving its recognition;
2. consider adopting a common approach to monitor the "Global Change" concept and assess the specific impact of climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, land use and all human factors which could modify and deteriorate the ecological conditions of species, habitats and ecosystem services;
3. enhance the monitoring and management of marine birds, namely eider (*Somateria mollissima*). Explore the opportunity to strengthen conservation measures to improve their breeding success in collaboration with local research facilities and organisations;
4. explore the feasibility to extend the European Diploma to the Segelskär area once its designation as Conservation Area is completed;

5. assess and analyse the environmental impact of tourism and the human presence on the natural values of the protected area, including disturbances to the bird nesting process, trampling soil, vegetation and invertebrates, etc., in order to, if appropriate, adapt, and improve the tourism strategy and awareness raising activities;
6. pursue the efforts and improve the efficiency of the methods for the eradication of the invasive alien species, such as the racoon dog, mink and white-tailed deer. Exclude the use of glyphosate for the eradication of *Rosa rugosa* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* or reduce its use to a strict minimum and where there are not better alternatives and with all precautionary measures to avoid damages to aquatic species and habitats;
7. make the monitoring results of marine ecosystems available to the public, to develop scientific knowledge and promote measures to fight against the pollution in the Baltic Sea;
8. reinforce the staff of the Warden Corps and of technicians to improve the capacities to cope with the increasing challenges resulting from the “Global Change” and the rising tourism pressure. Secure the financial resources to pursue the monitoring programmes in the national park;
9. make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors’ centres and on the website.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 29 awarding the European Diploma to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)8 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Seitseminen National Park until 19 June 2031;

Attaches the following eight recommendations to the renewal:

1. make the management plan of the Seitseminen National Park public, and provide an English version that is also publicly available; make sure that the management plan is implemented fully and regularly updated according to new management insights and new necessities, e.g. concerning climate change measures, invasive species, plague species, forest and bogs and mire management, etc.; strengthen the accuracy of the annual reporting to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and summarize in it all relevant and concrete information that is available;
2. continue the restoration management of bogs, mires, lakes and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity and consider extending the sheep-grazed meadow area around the Kovero farm site to gain in management efficiency and effectivity; report more extensively on the annual management measures taken and results in the reporting to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention;
3. Metsähallitus should enhance efforts to bring together communities of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer and exchange; scientific research should actively continue, and be

more proactively encouraged by Metsähallitus and the regional and local management among Finnish and international researchers; report more extensively on the results of (inter)national cooperation, and research in the annual reporting to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention;

4. continue and deepen the cooperation with local stakeholders, such as local nature tourism entrepreneurs, municipal government authorities in the immediate surroundings, nature conservation and monitoring organisations;
5. improve structural monitoring efforts of all aspects of the park management, such as state and trends in biodiversity, tourism, management results, ecosystem health, effects of climate change, etc.; reflect the monitoring results in the management plan; improve communication to the public and to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention on the integrated monitoring results, and consequences deduced from them;
6. provide the necessary funding to continue the refreshment of the recreational facilities, and structurally provide for the necessary personnel and infrastructure to guarantee qualitative nature management measures and tourist and educational activities;
7. assess pros and cons of combining the Seitsemien and the Helvetinjärvi National Parks by connecting them via the forested, state-owned area in between both national parks; depending on the outcomes of the assessment, take initiating steps to realise the connection;
8. make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the Diploma wherever appropriate, in particular on the website, in the visitors' centre, and on information boards in the park.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (71) 21 awarding the European Diploma to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)10 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve until 21 September 2031;

Attaches the following nine recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure the financial sustainability of the conservation measures and the maintenance of the infrastructures in the Nature Reserve by agreements with donors at all administrative levels;
2. keep the decision-making role of the Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge within the management structure of the Nature Park;
3. monitor and analyse the results of the different reforestation approaches of damaged spruce stands and use the most successful experiences to anticipate the effects of climate change;
4. explore the possibility to build a wilderness exhibition centre at Margarethenhöhe and entrust the Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge with the management of the central Margarethenhöhe parking spaces to ensure that parking fees remain allocated to nature protection in addition to the significant volunteer work carried out by Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge;

5. further develop signposting and maintain trails to facilitate shift of visitors from the Nature Reserve to other areas of the Nature Park in cooperation with the management of the Nature Park and local communities;
6. continue research and conservation projects as well as nature monitoring focusing not only on Natura 2000 objectives but also on other groups, in particular fungi;
7. ensure that the existing open landscapes in the reserve are maintained and – by appropriate measures – a biotope network can be created;
8. explore ways to acknowledge the contribution of private landowners to the management goals of the Nature Reserve;
9. gradually replace the Council of Europe logo with the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the Diploma wherever appropriate, in particular on the website, in the visitors' centre, and on information boards in the Nature Reserve.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Muddus National Park (Sweden)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (67) 23 on the award of the European Diploma to the Muddus National Park (Sweden);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)2 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Muddus National Park (Sweden);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Muddus National Park until 27 October 2032;

Attaches the following 11 recommendations to the renewal:

1. consider merging the Muddus National Park and the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks into a larger site including to the whole territory of the World Heritage property Laponian area;
2. set up a coordination mechanism considering all the national and international designation (European Diploma, World Heritage, Ramsar, Natura 2000, National Parks and Reserves). Organise a joint international workshop including UNESCO and the Council of Europe as appropriate;
3. finalise and adopt the new Lapponia management plan and take a rapid decision regarding the future of the management organisation Lapponiatjuttjudus. Consider extending without time limit the special government regulation about Lapponiatjuttjudus;
4. continue and possibly intensify the research on the impact of climate change on food availability for reindeers, reindeer herding and predators' populations, and regulate the grazing intensity as appropriate;
5. continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations. Monitor illegal hunting and increase the number of field staff for this purpose accordingly. Stop issuing new hunting licenses for the wolverine and the Eurasian lynx. Take appropriate measures to stop the decline of the Eurasian lynx and wolverine populations;
6. reconsider the mechanism of the compensations paid for reindeer losses caused by large carnivores; increase them according to the inflation rate and the increase in the meat prices as stated in the reindeer herding law;

7. encourage research on the use of helicopters and drones and their impact on reindeers and wildlife, and, if appropriate, set restrictions. Reconsider the frequency of the use of 6 and 4-wheel drive ATVs;
8. continue the visitors' survey and consider possible emergence of new tourism activities such as paragliding, base jumping, ice climbing and heli-skiing. Explore ways for improving the public transportation service to the three National Parks to decrease the carbon footprint of visitors;
9. continue to build up a centralised database with research results for the whole area, or at least ensure an easy access to the different databases;
10. pay a special attention and, if appropriate, set restrictions to the construction of technological/energy projects outside of the protected areas that may have a negative impact on the reindeer herding system and the fauna including birds (planned mining, existing hydro power plant, housing, wind turbines, etc.);
11. promote the European Diploma in the information material and in particular in the Naturum exhibition and Ajtte Sami culture Museum in Jokkmokk. Improve the communication for visitors to deter tourists from camping at reindeer herding sites and from disturbing grazing reindeer herds.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (67) 23 on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks until 27 October 2032;

Attaches the following 11 recommendations to the renewal:

1. consider merging the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and the Muddus National Park into a larger site including to the whole territory of the World Heritage property Laponian area;
2. set up a coordination mechanism considering all the national and international designation (European Diploma, World Heritage, Ramsar, Natura 2000, National Parks and Reserves). Organise a joint international workshop including UNESCO and the Council of Europe as appropriate;
3. finalise and adopt the new Lapponia management plan and take a rapid decision regarding the future of the management organisation Laponiatjuttjudus. Consider extending without time limit the special government regulation about Laponiatjuttjudus;
4. continue and possibly intensify the research on the impact of climate change on food availability for reindeers, reindeer herding and predators' populations, and regulate the grazing intensity as appropriate;
5. continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations. Monitor illegal hunting and increase the number of field staff for this purpose accordingly. Stop issuing new hunting licenses for the wolverine and the Eurasian lynx. Take appropriate measures to stop the decline of the Eurasian lynx and wolverine populations;

6. reconsider the mechanism of the compensations paid for reindeer losses caused by large carnivores; increase them according to the inflation rate and the increase in the meat prices as stated in the reindeer herding law;
7. encourage research on the use of helicopters and drones and their impact on reindeers and wildlife, and, if appropriate, set restrictions. Reconsider the frequency of the use of 6 and 4-wheel drive ATVs;
8. continue the visitors' survey and consider possible emergence of new tourism activities such as paragliding, base jumping, ice climbing and heli-skiing. Explore ways for improving the public transportation service to the three National Parks to decrease the carbon footprint of visitors;
9. continue to build up a centralised database with research results for the whole area, or at least ensure an easy access to the different databases;
10. pay a special attention and, if appropriate, set restrictions to the construction of technological/energy projects outside of the protected areas that may have a negative impact on the reindeer herding system and the fauna including birds (planned mining, existing hydro power plant, housing, wind turbines, etc.);
11. promote the European Diploma in the information material and in particular in the Naturum exhibition and Ajtte Sami culture Museum in Jokkmokk. Improve the communication for visitors to deter tourists from camping at reindeer herding sites and from disturbing grazing reindeer herds.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Türkiye)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (76) 15 on the award of the European Diploma to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Türkiye);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)6 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Türkiye);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Türkiye);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park until 14 March 2031;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. adopt as soon as possible the revised action plan and secure financial means for its implementation;
2. monitor the effects of climate change on species and habitats and ensure findings are considered in the management of the area;
3. maintain and strengthen the good relations with the local and the district authorities;
4. further ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;
5. continue monitoring the water quality and activities around the lake which could have an influence on the water quality;

6. further develop the camera system, establish monitoring schemes using cameras, enhance their role in educational and visitors programmes;
7. gradually replace the Council of Europe logo with the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the Diploma wherever appropriate, in particular on the website, in the visitors' centre, and on information boards in the National Park.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2024)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2024
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 on the award of the European Diploma to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)11 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 20 and 21 February 2024;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

Recalling that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park until 28 March 2031;

Attaches the following 15 recommendations to the renewal:

1. do everything which is in the power of management that restructuring the National Park management and services does not jeopardize the so far exceptionally good work done; keep lobbying for an annual grant from the government that is able to cover the fixed costs of the park; keep lobbying for a full replacement of former EU funds with national grants in order to be able to tackle on-going and acute challenges adequately; keep investigating into alternative sources of financing;
2. keep investing into the full set of actions that contribute to mitigating the negative effects of climate change, like natural sequestration of carbon and greenhouse gases, woodland recovery, sustainable farming, adapted housing, and changing the ways of traffic within and to and from the National Park; support alternative forms of climate change mitigation, like the projected carbon dioxide storage under the sea, only if they do not jeopardise the specific values of the National Park;
3. keep on working for a total recovery of the moorlands and bogs to a reasonable ecological status, including enhanced resilience to wildfires; keep teaming up with the water suppliers who need healthy

moorlands as catchment areas for drinking water supply;

4. keep on managing the limestone dales and their woodlands in a way that preserves the ecological highlights of the habitats; keep researching into new and adapted caretaking methods;
5. further develop scientific research on wild species, habitats, and ecosystem services to support inventories and monitoring in order to provide the necessary background for future decision making on conservation and management;
6. undertake feasibility studies to determine if the current conditions of the moorlands and adjacent woodlands are suitable for the reintroduction of the black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) and other signature species of these habitats that went or are at risk of going extinct and define the management measures that should be taken to assure a successful release of those species in the wild, as a first step for their future return to Peak District National Park;
7. keep liaising with gamekeepers and moorland owners and managers in order to make sure that hunting in the moorlands maintains its ecological functionality;
8. deepen the knowledge on the birds of prey in the park and implement measures to eliminate their persecution and other causes of non-natural mortality;
9. continue working on the expansion of native woodland and other forms of tree and shrub-covered areas and the transformation of woodlands into a natural or semi-natural state in order to increase their biodiversity and resilience to sudden events like the ash dieback disease;
10. increase the percentage of local farms which cooperate with the National Park in increasing the ecological level of farming standards and the quality of cultural heritage preservation in the National Park. Continue influencing and lobbying for appropriate and adequate agri-environment scheme support and a continuation of funding dedicated to environmentally sustainable farming within Protected Landscapes, building on the experience of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme;
11. ensure that Local Plan policies and planning decisions only support the growth of the mineral extraction and quarrying industry in the park if they follow rules that make sure that key values and assets of the National Park are not endangered, and where possible are enhanced;
12. continue addressing new and so-far underrepresented groups of people on the purpose and assets of the National Park at the same time as actively deal with ways of supporting existing volunteers and their associations, both for nature and heritage conservation;
13. keep investigating into innovative methods of landscape monitoring and planning in order to get deeper and more efficient insights into the current situation of the National Park;
14. continue developing tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the local communities and the environment and supports the local economy; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel; immediately react to signs of potential or actual over-tourism;
15. Make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, in particular at the park's own premises and on the website.