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**Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe  
in the field of biological and landscape diversity  
(CO-DBP)**

**Group of Specialists – European Diploma of Protected Areas**

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Room 16, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

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**SEITSEMENEN NATIONAL PARK  
(FINLAND)**

**RENEWAL of the European Diploma**

**Report by  
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(United Kingdom)**

*Document established by  
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

## 1. Introduction

1. The first on-the-spot appraisal of Seitsemien National Park was carried on 1 and 2 June 1995. At a meeting on 19 June 1996 the Committee of Ministers at its 569th meeting agreed to award the European Diploma to the National Park, making a series of three recommendations (which will be reviewed in the following section, paragraphs 5 to 8).

2. The second on-the-spot appraisal of Seitsemien National Park took place on 12 and 13 July 2000. The Committee of Ministers, at its 769th meeting on 17 October 2001, confirmed the renewal of the European Diploma, attaching to this renewal a series of four recommendations. These will also be reviewed in the following section, paragraphs 9 to 13.

3. With the expiry of the European Diploma on 19 June 2006, the Council of Europe considered that a further on-the-spot appraisal was required. The Head of the Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity Division of Directorate General IV: Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Dr Eladio Fernandez Galiano, asked me to undertake this appraisal. The visit took place on 29 and 30 September 2005 (full details of the programme are given in Appendix 1). I was not accompanied by a member of staff of the Council of Europe on this occasion.

4. The aim of the appraisal was threefold. First, the Council of Europe asks that the European interest of the protected area be confirmed (section 3 of this report) and that the merits and protection system be examined (section 4). Second, on the basis of the visit and the annual reports, an assessment is made of the extent to which previous recommendations have been acted upon (section 2). Third, proposals are formulated as to whether or not the European Diploma should be extended for a further 5 years; these proposals can contain a series of conditions and/or recommendations (sections 5 and 6).

## 2. A Review of the Previous Seven Recommendations

### 2.1. The 1996 Recommendations

5. The recommendations agreed by the Committee of Ministers on 19 June 1996 in Resolution (96) 29 were as follows.

- “1. the appointment of a leading person with full and specific responsibility for the park;*
- 2. the setting aside of additional funds for:*
  - employing more personnel for education, instruction, and training activities;*
  - stepping up scientific research principally on biodiversity and biotope restoration;*
- 3. continued efforts in the following fields:*
  - rehabilitation trials of plantations on mineral soils;*
  - maintaining oligotrophic lakes in their present state;*
  - finding solutions, by the next renewal, for prohibiting fishing activity with a view to reducing ecological side effects and disturbances of vulnerable lake and peatland landscapes;*
  - monitoring the increase in pressure from tourists: guidance and wardening must be guaranteed.*

6. Recommendation 1 has been fulfilled. The Park Manager, Mr. Pekka Vesterinen, and the Senior Planning Officer working from the park, Ms. Satu Kalpio, accompanied me throughout the visit. I was also accompanied by Dr. Tapio Lindholm, from the Finnish Environment Institute.

7. It was obvious that more funds were available to the park in 2005 than had presumably been the case in 1995. As can be seen from the itinerary, there is a useful team of Metsähallitus staff working from the visitor centre. The second part of recommendation 2 has been implemented in part – with trials taking place on biotope restoration but only limited biodiversity research being focussed on the park's area.

8. Again recommendation 3 has been accepted in part, depending on the priorities attached to the four activities. For example, considerable success has been achieved with forest restoration, but the prohibition on fishing is of a lower priority and monitoring of visitor pressure only needs to be undertaken in areas where there are real or perceived visitor pressures.

## **2.2. The 2001 Recommendations**

9. The recommendations agreed by the Committee of Ministers on 17 October 1996 in Resolution ResDip (2001) 2 were as follows.

1. *in order to respond to growing public interest and further increase visitors' environmental awareness, the ministries of the environment and of education are invited to agree on a specific programme to appoint nature teachers and strengthen the visitors centre's educational capability;*
2. *greater efforts in the field of ecological research are strongly recommended, making use of the excellent basic knowledge already available; special attention should be paid to the following:*
  - *permanent sites for monitoring vegetation development after restoration (peat lands) or other nature management measures (grazing, mowing, forest rehabilitation) are essential, in conjunction with fauna monitoring (of both vertebrates and invertebrates);*
  - *physical environment parameters (quality of natural environment) should be monitored in a network of permanent sites;*
3. *co-operation between the National Park, the FEI (Finnish Environment Institute) and METLA (Forest Research Institute) is to be encouraged;*
4. *the Natura 2000 designation, which includes new protected areas, strict reserves and the National Park itself, and which consolidates the Park's European Diploma status, should be accompanied by a review of the Diploma area master plan. The establishment of more buffer zones with ecologically relevant land use restrictions (forestry, recreation, hunting) is to be encouraged.*

10. Recommendation 1 has been accepted, and Ms. Elina Pilke has implemented a number of innovative educational programmes. These programmes have not just focussed on the children, but have also been providing material to the teachers so that they are better able to continue the educational activities either within or outside the park.

11. Recommendation 2 has been partially implemented, with some monitoring of the various restoration activities. Guidelines for restoration work have been published so that the experiences at Seitsemien (and other places) can be made as widely available as possible, especially to private or corporate owners of land.

12. Recommendation 3 has been accepted. The fact that I was accompanied during the visit by a scientist from the Finnish Environment Institute demonstrated the close working relationship between national park staff and the Institute. Relationships with the Forest Research Institute were less evident.

13. The overlapping Natura 2000 and National Park designations could cause some misunderstandings, though this did not appear to be evident during the visit. The Master Plan is now 10 years old and undoubtedly its updating is now becoming more urgent. There has therefore been only limited activity in relation to recommendation 4.

## **3. European Interest in the National Park**

14. Seitsemien National Park is located in an area of extensive boreal forest, interspersed with a multitude of lakes and mires, and with a traditional farmed environment at Kovero (the Kovero Heritage Farm). Particularly important is an old growth forest, Multiharju, which has been a nature

reserve since 1910, designated to protect an example of pristine, untouched forest. This example, with a trail running through it, is one of several remnants of old growth forest in the national park. Research has shown that the boreal forests have periodically suffered from fires, which can be dated to about 1720, 1764, 1806 and 1860.

15. These forest remnants amply demonstrate the ecological characteristics of boreal forest, where the drier ground tends to be dominated by pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and the wetter areas by spruce (*Picea abies*). There are some particularly interesting areas where tall spruce forest occurs in low-lying, wet areas dominated by *Sphagnum* moss species.

16. The whole area in which the national park is located consists of a mosaic of forests, mires and freshwater lakes, with the small area of meadow around Kovero and with the Seitsemisharju esker running along the western side of the national park. It is this intermixture of habitats, and the various transitions that occur between them, that contribute to the diversity of the national park and to the European importance of the landscapes. Earlier in the 20th Century a number of attempts was made to improve the productivity of the forests by draining mires and by creating even-aged plantations of coniferous trees. Whereas this form of land management might detract from the ecological value of the national park, major restoration programmes have been, and are being, implemented. These are further discussed in paragraphs 32 to 35 below, but they act as a demonstration that is valuable in a European context.

17. There are popular descriptions of the national park in a number of leaflets published by Metsähallitus, and there is a fuller description in *Finland's National Parks: Seas of Blue, Seas of Green*, by Markku Lappalainen (2001). Given all of this information, I can confirm the European interest of this national park.

#### **4. Merits and Protection System**

18. The body responsible for the national park is Metsähallitus, the Finnish Forest and Park Service. At the end of 2004 the President of Finland confirmed a new Act of Parliament on Metsähallitus, and this came into force on 1 January 2005. Metsähallitus's Board of Directors also adopted a new strategy in February 2005 (details are given in the 2004 Metsähallitus Annual Report). At the time of the on-the-spot appraisal new structures were being introduced throughout the Natural Heritage Services, the Directorate in Metsähallitus responsible for the management of the majority of Finland's designated protected areas. Responsibility for Metsähallitus is jointly between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (largely related to the operations as a state-owned enterprise) and the Ministry of the Environment (largely related to the public service obligations).

19. The legislation concerning national parks in Finland, and legislation in relation to Natura 2000 sites (the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives) would appear to be sufficient to provide effective protection.

20. There is a zoning system within the national park, whereby

- a) access to two areas is prohibited during the nesting season, i.e. from 1 April until 31 July, and
- b) access to the old growth forest at Multiharju (and one other small area) is permitted only on the trails, and the public is forbidden to move off the trails.

These zones are shown on the map in Appendix 3. There is also a degree of informal buffering of the national park because it is largely surrounded by state forest (between 60% and 70% of its boundary is with state forest and the remainder with private lands).

21. The whole of the national park is in the ownership of the state.

22. There appear to be no land use plans that are contrary to the objectives of the national park. In the past the main form of land use has been forestry, and in order to gain greater production mires have been drained. The aim of the national park management is to reverse this situation and to encourage

the development of more multi-aged forests. Care will, however, be needed in working with the other Directorates of Metsähallitus so that drainage for forest production outside the national park does not inadvertently lead to the drying out of the park's peripheral forests and mires

23. There was no indication of development works affecting the national park.

24. The management plan was written in 1995. This 'Master Plan' was the subject of a recommendation in the report written after the appraisal in 2000 (see paragraphs 9 and 13 above). This forms the subject of a further recommendation (see paragraphs 48 to 49 below).

25. There is a major visitor centre on the northern boundary of the national park, close to the 332 road linking Parkano with Kuru. There are also visitor reception facilities at the Kovero Heritage Farm, and a network of nature trails, hiking trails and bicycle trails throughout much of the park.

26. Finland has an important reputation in undertaking environmental research. This is addressed in paragraphs 36 to 42 below.

27. The links between the staff of the national park and the staff of the Finnish Environment Institute have clearly forged international relationships with other countries with boreal forests and mires. This was particularly evident in mire research (see, for example, Heikkilä *et al.* (2001)), and in cooperation with Russia (Haapala *et al.*, 2004) on many aspects of nature conservation.

28. At the end of the visit there was a small press briefing with three journalists. This briefing was also attended by staff from the Kuru Municipality and from the town of Ikaalinen.

## **5. Discussion Leading to Proposed Recommendations**

### **5.1. Reflections on Finland's Protected Areas**

29. During 2004 an international group spent two weeks in Finland, at the request of Metsähallitus, to evaluate the effectiveness of the management of the many protected areas in the country. The network of 35 national parks was included within the remit of the review group, but the group did not visit the Seitsemien National Park. The group did, however, visit a total of nine national parks, some of which, such as Liesjärvi, Nuuksio and Torronsuo, have forest and mire habitats not dissimilar to those that occur in Seitsemien. The group's report (Gilligan *et al.*, 2005) concludes that "in general, Finland's protected areas are well managed and well resourced, and with some exceptions they appear to be achieving their aims of conserving biodiversity" and further "the Finnish protected areas are in an enviable position compared with many of the world's protected area systems and should form a model that others can follow".

30. The report does, however, focus on some potential improvements, and it collects its recommendations into ten suggested areas for action. These areas are (with some quotations from the report in brackets)

- ecosystem approaches ("... Finland's protected areas need to stretch out consciously into the rest of the land and water mosaic by developing more integrated landscape plans for conservation");
- system planning ("... some key issues do now require coordinated national plans. Two key national strategies that we believe are now required would address invasive species and climate change ...");
- site planning ("Management planning is currently falling behind schedule ... one important element should be a risk assessment ...");
- conservation outcomes ("Most rare or threatened species appear to be stable or increasing within protected areas, although there are exceptions ... some habitats are also declining ... we suggest looking into options for introducing more strictly protected areas where hunting and fishing are prohibited, particularly in national parks ...");

- community outcomes (“there is ... a mismatch between the general enthusiasm for increasing tourism and continuing antipathy towards protected areas in some places and we recommend that specific efforts are made to build the arguments for protection with concerned rural local communities.”);
- visitor outcomes (“our only real recommendation is that perhaps greater emphasis might be given to looking at ways of reducing visitor impacts ...”);
- finances (“generally the level of support provided by the Finnish government is good ... however, we note that staffing levels are quite lean ... there is also some imbalance between the southern and northern regions ... “);
- global role (“the international work of the Natural Heritage Services is of high quality although not fully comprehended by all staff ...”);
- assessment (“the level of ecological assessment is very good, cultural assessment still needs further development”); and
- state of the parks (... recommend the development of a *State of the Parks* report that would be published periodically ...”).

31. It needs to be noted that these are generic recommendations from a review group concerned with all protected areas in Finland, and that they do not relate specifically to the Seitsemien National Park. However, they do raise a number of issues that could be related to an area awarded the European Diploma for Protected Areas, and hence they form the content of a recommendation, which is

R1. The recommendations of the 2004 review of protected areas in Finland are noted. Metsähallitus is encouraged to implement these recommendations for the well-being of the Seitsemien National Park.

## **5.2. Restoration of Forests and Mires**

32. Potentially the most important aspect of land management at the Seitsemien National Park has been the work of restoration. Most of the mires in the national park were drained, at least partially, in the 1960s and 1970s so as to increase forest production. However, with the designation of the national park, drainage ceased and since 1987 there has been an active programme of restoration. This involves the blocking or in-filling of ditches so as to make them non-functional. The 1993 restoration plan aimed to treat all 1,300 ha of drained mire within a 15-year period. By 2005 only about 120ha remains to be treated and hence restoration activity is either on target or ahead of target (the aim at the present time is to have completed ditch blocking by the autumn of 2006). It was stated that, whereas the general hydrology of these former mires can be restored rapidly, within a few years, it is likely to take many decades before the acrotelm (the lens of fresh water in the mire) is fully restored.

33. It should be emphasised that restoration does not aim to create a mire surface that is devoid of trees, but rather to have an open surface that supports a relatively small number of dead, moribund and very slowly growing trees. This was observed in areas where restoration had been completed several years previously, and young pine trees that were growing by perhaps 30 to 40 cm per year prior to restoration are now growing at less than 10 cm per year, and indeed some were hardly even growing by 1 cm. Clearly the work that has been done at Seitsemien National Park demonstrates what can be achieved by various methods of blocking ditches and managing the tree growth that has occurred on drained sites.

34. The forest restoration plan dates from 1999 and it aims to restore about 350 ha of former commercial forest. Approximately 150 ha have now been restored, and it is planned to complete the restoration by 2020. Amongst the experimental approaches to re-establishing multi-aged forest have been three basic techniques – burning (but due to the damp environment, this is often a year or so after many trees have been felled), pushing trees over (in order to simulate windblow) and ring-barking so that standing trees die (and in some places mixtures of these approaches have been used). It will obviously take a century or more to achieve a multi-aged forest from one that is more or less even-aged at the start of the restoration process. However, with these different techniques used at the Seitsemien National Park, and given the fact that the national park was the first area in Finland to develop restoration plans, for both mires and forests, there are clearly some very valuable demonstrations within the national park.

35. The restoration plans are being effectively put into effect, with the mire plan on schedule and the forest plan only slightly behind schedule. However, given the importance of restoration activities, these actions can form the subject of a recommendation. Thus,

R2. The restoration plans are an important component of the management of the Seitsemien National Park. It is recommended that

- activities should be continued so as to complete the mires restoration plan;
- management, on the basis of the forest restoration plan, should be continued to reach the target (which means restoring about 15 ha per annum); and
- together with the educational outreach of the national park staff, the Seitsemien National Park should be used to demonstrate methods of restoration of both forests and mires, both for Finnish and for international audiences.

### ***5.3. Science and Research***

36. The two previous on-the-spot appraisals have both referred to the need for increased scientific research and monitoring (see paragraphs 7 and 11 above). There have been, and are, important research initiatives in Finland. Starting in the late 1990s there was a major programme of research on biodiversity, using the acronym FIBRE, managed from the University of Turku. This involved a considerable number of research groups, but it was felt to be ‘very academic’ in nature. Publications coming from the programme, which ended in 2002, have largely been in the peer-reviewed scientific literature, as would befit an academically orientated programme.

37. Subsequently there has been a more applied research programme, with the acronym MOSSE, which has been orientated towards forestry. This has been criticised on the basis that only very small components are either interdisciplinary or relate to the social and economic sciences. With the extent of forest in the national park, this research programme has considerable relevance to the park’s management. I was unable to determine if any of the research projects were actually carried out within the national park.

38. The most recently announced programme of research has the acronym VELMU, and it relates to biodiversity in aquatic ecosystems. Because lakes only account for a small portion of the national park’s extent, there is only a very limited potential for the VELMU researchers to interact with the park authorities.

39. The evaluation of Finland’s Biodiversity Action Plan (FEI, etc., 2005) is critical of what has been achieved during an 8-year period. A quotation from the abstract states “The actions have not, however, succeeded in stopping the negative development with respect to biodiversity. The state of many habitats is still not satisfactory from the point of view of safeguarding biodiversity and favourable conservation status has not been achieved for all species and habitats”. However, the report goes on to state that “The Action Plan has supported a public discussion on the need to safeguard biodiversity” and “Biodiversity research has expanded significantly and the knowledge of Finland’s natural biological diversity has increased considerably”. Whilst it is neither the purpose of an individual national park, nor of the network of national parks, to achieve the objectives of Finland’s Biodiversity Action Plan, they do have a significant role to play in helping to achieve those objectives.

40. All of this argues for a much closer co-operation between the researchers, who are acquiring this knowledge of Finland’s biodiversity, the policy makers, who are responsible for drawing up Finland’s policies and plans, and the practitioners, who should be using the knowledge gained to achieve the aims of the policies and plans. Similarly, there need to be feedback loops so that the practitioners can inform the researchers where more knowledge or information needs to be gained, or inform policy makers where their ideas are either impractical or could be more challenging. It is probably true that these flows of information are never perfect anywhere in the world, but Metsähallitus needs to explore more active ways of encouraging knowledge transfer (KT).

41. Such activities are already being fostered in part, if not in whole. The Natural Heritage Service has an external Scientific Advisory Committee, composed of staff from the universities and research

institutes, and bilateral framework agreements with key scientific bodies such as the Finnish Environment Institute, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, the Fish and Game Research Institute and the Finnish Geological Survey. The annual priority themes are usually identified at national level, and activity takes place in the most appropriate areas, and thus not necessarily in a particular national park. Whereas the local staff in one national park might not have the potential to co-ordinate priority research activity, the regional level is better placed to work on such activities. Therefore at the regional level (there are three regions covering Finland), there is considerable potential to co-ordinate research activity, but such co-ordination needs to be widened to include policy makers and, possibly, practitioners.

42. There is therefore a recommendation that is essentially generic, relating both to the work in Finland as a whole and to the region in which the Seitseminen National Park is located.

R3. Metsähallitus should proactively bring together the community of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer. Such knowledge transfer needs to include researchers, practitioners, educators and policy makers.

#### ***5.4. Visitors and their Reception***

43. One of the greatest developments during the last few years at the Seitseminen National Park has been the appointment of an education officer, Ms. Elina Pilke. It was obvious both from a short presentation that she gave, as well as from discussion with the press representatives, that she has had a very considerable impact on the ability of the national park to communicate with, and enthuse, children from the surrounding communities. Indeed her innovative approach to environmental education could be linked to the second recommendation (R2) because it could form the basis of a demonstration for other national park managers, or indeed any other countryside managers, about how to get messages across to children.

44. The Visitor Centre at Seitseminen National Park is visited by about 32,100 people per year. In rank order it is the 7th most visited centre of the 22 visitor centres in Finland managed by Metsähallitus. An estimated 40,000 people per year visit the national park. Again in rank order of the 34 national parks in Finland managed by Metsähallitus, it is also the 7th most visited national park. In Finnish terms, Seitseminen National Park is one of the more popular and frequently visited (although in many European contexts such visitation rates would appear small).

45. The Visitor Centre at Seitseminen is modern; as well as displays of the park's wildlife it also contains a small café area, office accommodation for the park's staff, and an excellent lecture theatre. Its standard is therefore good, but the topicality of the displays needs to be considered periodically, and new displays created. Some further imagination could possibly be introduced, focussing on some of the 'flagship' species that occur within the national park. An example might be a live video link-up with the nesting area of the cranes, which nest in an area that people are prohibited from entering during the nesting season.

46. The attractiveness of both the visitor centre and the national park itself is important in relation to the local community. The two representatives from Kuru and Ikaalinen, who attended the press briefing, clearly considered the national park to be an asset in their communities, attracting visitors. If the information being provided in the visitor centre is periodically changed, there exists the possibility of many repeat visits to the area. As one of the more frequently visited centres, there is the possibility of putting across wider environmental messages to the public. Similarly, so as to prevent damage by visitors to the national park itself, it is important that the various trails and other outdoor facilities (camping sites, camp fire sites, cooking shelters, etc.) are maintained at a high standard.

47. Thus, a recommendation can be made about the provision of facilities for recreational users. It is to the effect that

R4. Recreational facilities both within the visitor centre and outdoors in the national park need to be reviewed periodically. Outdoors, so as not to damage the natural ecosystems and habitats, such as those at Multiharju, trail maintenance is important. Indoors, in the visitor



centre especially, the displays need to be changed or refreshed periodically. The educational work being done should act as a demonstration for other environmental educational activities elsewhere in Finland. Just as plans have been produced for mire and forest restoration, in order to assist with budgeting and scheduling, a Recreational and Educational Activities Plan for the national park could be prepared.

### 5.5. Other Issues

48. Another issue raised in the previous on-the-spot appraisal relates to the Master Plan for the national park. As noted in paragraph 24, this plan is now about 10 years old, and there have been many developments since it was prepared. Given the changing Finnish domestic legislation, and a variety of international factors affecting the management of Finland's protected areas (such as the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Convention on Biological Diversity), many new dimensions will be required in the Master Plan.

49. It was noted in the 2004 Metsähallitus review (Gilligan *et al.*, 2005) that the preparation of management plans for the national parks was falling behind schedule. These are important documents that can be both prescriptive and strategic, and therefore it would seem appropriate that the Master Plan for the Seitsemien National Park be reviewed and updated. A recommendation is that

R5. The contents of a revised Master Plan for the Seitsemien National Park should be discussed with all stakeholders and then a new plan prepared for acceptance by Metsähallitus.

## 6. Proposed Recommendations

50. *The conclusion from the on-the-spot appraisal is that there are good grounds for me to recommend renewing the European Diploma for Protected Areas for a further period of five years.* However, in making the recommendation for renewal, it is suggested that this renewal should have attached to it a series of five recommendations (R1 – R5). In the preceding paragraphs this collection of recommendations has been discussed, and for convenience these are collected together below.

R1. The recommendations of the 2004 review of protected areas in Finland are noted. Metsähallitus is encouraged to implement these recommendations for the well-being of the Seitsemien National Park.

R2. The restoration plans are an important component of the management of the Seitsemien National Park. It is recommended that

- activities should be continued so as to achieve the objectives of the mires restoration plan within the next 2 to 3 years;
- management, on the basis of the forest restoration plan, should be continued and speeded up so as to bring the amount of forest restored back on target (which means restoring about 30 ha per annum); and
- together with the educational outreach of the national park staff, the Seitsemien National Park should be used to demonstrate methods of restoration of both forests and mires, both for Finnish and for international audiences.

R3. Metsähallitus should proactively bring together the community of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer. Such knowledge transfer needs to include researchers, practitioners, educators and policy makers.

R4. Recreational facilities both within the visitor centre and outdoors in the national park need to be reviewed periodically. Outdoors, so as not to damage the natural ecosystems and habitats, such as those at Multiharju, trail maintenance is important. Indoors, in the visitor centre especially, the displays need to be changed or refreshed periodically. The educational work being done should act as a demonstration for other environmental educational activities elsewhere in Finland. Just as plans have been produced for mire and forest restoration, in

order to assist with budgeting and scheduling, a Recreational and Educational Activities Plan for the national park could be prepared.

R5. The contents of a revised Master Plan for the Seitsemien National Park should be discussed with all stakeholders and then a new plan prepared for acceptance by Metsähallitus.

## 7. Acknowledgments

51. I should like to thank the three people who accompanied me on the visit to the national park – Pekka Vesterinen (the park manager), Satu Kalpio (Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, Western Finland) and Tapio Lindholm (Finnish Environment Institute). I should also like to thank Tuulikki Halla (Visitor Centre Manager) and Elina Pilke (Education Officer) for their contributions. Timo Saari (Kuru) and Jorma Kiiveri (Ikaalinen) and the three press representatives contributed to a lively discussion about the national park and various recreational activities in the area. Finally I should like to thank Lassi Karivalo for making so many of the arrangements for my visit to Finland.

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## APPENDIX 1

### ITINERARY FOR APPRAISAL OF TWO NATIONAL PARKS IN FINLAND

(Those parts of the itinerary relevant of the Seitseminen National Park are in larger type)

Monday 26 September 2005

- Departure from home (05.20) and travel to Helsinki via Copenhagen
- Meeting and dinner with Dr Rauno Väisänen (Director of Natural Heritage Service, Metsähallitus), Dr Stig Johansson (Regional Director (South Finland) of Natural Heritage Service, Metsähallitus) and Mr Lassi Karivalo (Senior Planning Officer, Metsähallitus, Central Unit)
- Night spent in Helsinki

**Tuesday 27 September 2005**

- Drive to Ekenäs Visitor Centre with Dr Stig Johansson
- Presentation on the Ekenäs/Tammisaari Archipelago National Park at the Visitor Centre (Visitor Centre Manager: Ms Eva-Lotta Söderlund)
- Lunch with the Mayor of Ekenäs, Mr Mårten Johansson, and Metsähallitus staff
- Visit to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park, stopping *en route* to the island of Jussarö at a possible extension area on the mainland. Accompanied by Mr Hans-Erik Nyman (Park Manager), Mr Hannu Ormio (Senior Planning Officer, Metsähallitus, South Finland) and Mr Jukka-Pekka Flander (Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Environment)
- Night spent on Jussarö

**Wednesday 28 September 2005**

- Visit to other islands – Modermagan and Rödjan on Älgö – in the Ekenäs National Park (rough seas prevented a visit to the outermost islands)
- Return to Ekenäs/Tammisaari and meeting with representatives of the press (2 people)
- Return to Helsinki
- Evening discussions with Professor Jari Niemelä, Dean of Biological Sciences, University of Helsinki
- Night spent in Helsinki

Thursday 29 September 2005

- Travel by train to Parkano with Dr Tapio Lindholm (Senior Scientist, Nature Division, Finnish Environment Institute)
- Presentations at the Seitseminen Visitor Centre by Mr Pekka Vesterinen (Park Manager), Ms Satu Kalpio (Senior Planning Officer, Metsähallitus, former Western Finland), Ms Elina Pilke (Planning Officer responsible for educational programmes) and Ms Tuulikki Halla (Visitor Centre Manager)
- Visit to various areas in the Seitseminen National Park to see old growth forest, some restoration work of mires and even-aged forests, and the cultural heritage associated with an old farm
- Night spent in Parkano

Friday 30 September 2005

- Further visits in the Seitseminen National Park to see restoration work on mires and even-aged forests
- Meeting at the Visitor Centre with 2 representatives of local communities (Mr Timo Saari from the Kuru Municipality and Mr Jorma Kiiveri from Ikaalinen Town) and representatives of the press (3 people)
- Brief visit to Kauhaneva-Pohjankangas National Park (about 60km west of Parkano) to see an extensive system of mires
- Return by train from Parkano to Helsinki, arriving at about 20.15
- Night spent in Helsinki

**APPENDIX 2****THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE OF EXPERTS  
CARRYING OUT ON-THE-SPOT APPRAISALS**

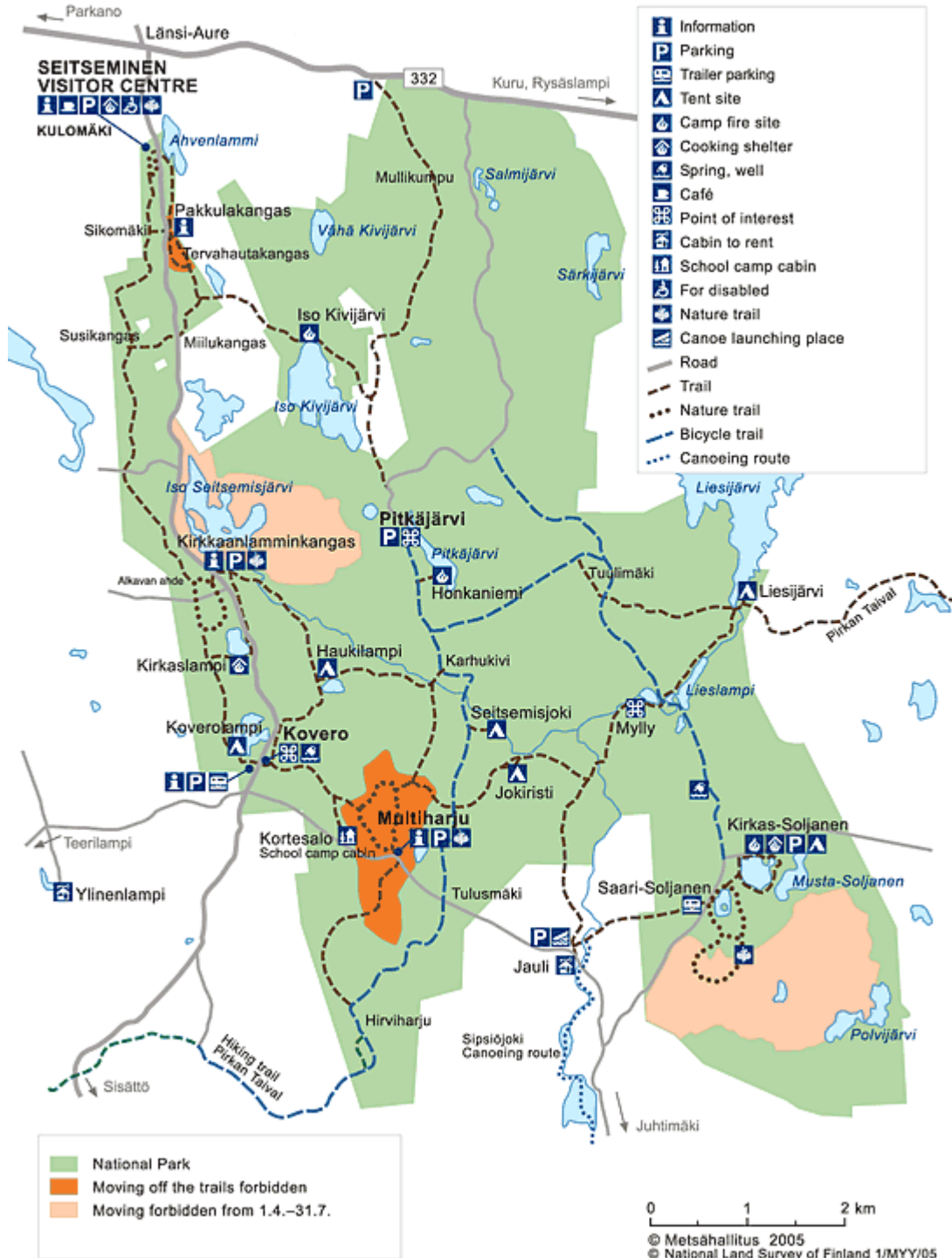
Experts mandated to carry out on-the-spot appraisals of applicant areas shall, in particular, examine the following matters:

**I. European interest** (to be confirmed)**II. Merits and protection system**

- a. The body responsible for administration and management of the area, particularly its attributions, powers, budget and human resources.
- b. The effectiveness of existing protective regulations vis-à-vis internal and external threats, particularly those originating in surrounding areas; effects of agriculture, industry, tourism, hunting, fishing, urban development, road building, air traffic, military manoeuvres, etc.; possible need for supplementary protective measures.
- c. Zoning.
- d. Ownership title (effects of possible expropriation).
- e. Land-use plans, in so far as these affect the area in question.
- f. Development work launched, under way, or to be launched.
- g. The management plan for the area.
- h. The manner of public access and reception facilities and infrastructures, if any.
- i. Any scientific studies needed and activities of research bodies.
- j. Possible membership of international networks.
- k. Relationship between the body responsible for the area, local elected representatives, officials in the socio-economic sphere and associations.

APPENDIX III

A PLAN OF THE SEITSEMENEN NATIONAL PARK



**APPENDIX IV**COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**Resolution ResDip(2001)2  
On the renewal of the European Diploma  
awarded to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers  
on 17 October 2001, at the 769<sup>th</sup> 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, as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 29 on the Award of the European Diploma to the Seitseminen National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 1 and 2 March 2001,

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP);

Renews the European Diploma awarded to the Seitseminen National Park until 19 June 2006;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. in order to respond to growing public interest and further increase visitors' environmental awareness, the ministries of the environment and of education are invited to agree on a specific programme to appoint nature teachers and strengthen the visitors centre's educational capacity;

2. greater efforts in the field of ecological research are strongly recommended, making use of the excellent basic knowledge already available; special attention should be paid to the following:

- permanent sites for monitoring vegetation development after restoration (peat lands) or other nature management measures (grazing, mowing, forest rehabilitation) are essential, in conjunction with fauna monitoring (of both vertebrates and invertebrates);

- physical environment parameters (quality of natural environment) should be monitored in a network of permanent sites;

3. co-operation between the National Park, the FEI (Finnish Environmental Institute) and the METLA (Forest Research Institute) is to be encouraged;

4. the Natura 2000 designation, which includes new protected areas, strict reserves and the National Park itself, and which consolidates the Park's European Diploma status, should be accompanied by a review of the Diploma area master plan. The establishment of more buffer zones with ecologically relevant land use restrictions (forestry, recreation, hunting) is to be encouraged.

**APPENDIX V****COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS****Draft Resolution  
on the renewal of the European Diploma  
awarded to the Seitseminen National Park (Finland)**  
*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers  
on..., 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, as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 29 on the Award of the European Diploma to the Seitseminen National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 23-24 January 2006,

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP);

Renews the European Diploma awarded to the Seitseminen National Park until 19 June 2011;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. The recommendations of the 2004 review of protected areas in Finland are noted. Metsähallitus is encouraged to implement these recommendations for the well-being of the Seitseminen National Park.

2. The restoration plans are an important component of the management of the Seitseminen National Park. It is recommended that

- activities should be continued so as to achieve the objectives of the mires restoration plan within the next 2 to 3 years;
- management, on the basis of the forest restoration plan, should be continued and speeded up so as to bring the amount of forest restored back on target (which means restoring about 30 ha per annum); and
- together with the educational outreach of the national park staff, the Seitseminen National Park should be used to demonstrate methods of restoration of both forests and mires, both for Finnish and for international audiences.

3. Metsähallitus should proactively bring together the community of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer. Such knowledge transfer needs to include researchers, practitioners, educators and policy makers.

4. Recreational facilities both within the visitor centre and outdoors in the national park need to be reviewed periodically. Outdoors, so as not to damage the natural ecosystems and habitats, such as those at Multiharju, trail maintenance is important. Indoors, in the visitor centre especially, the displays need to be changed or refreshed periodically. The educational work being done should act as a demonstration for other environmental educational activities elsewhere in Finland. Just as plans have been produced for mire and forest restoration, in order to assist with budgeting and scheduling, a Recreational and Educational Activities Plan for the national park could be prepared.

5. The contents of a revised Master Plan for the Seitseminen National Park should be discussed with all stakeholders and then a new plan prepared for acceptance by Metsähallitus.