



Strasbourg, 24 October 2025

T-PVS/DE(2025)07

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas

Centro Administrativo del Parque Nacional
y Parque Natural de Sierra Nevada, Granada, Spain

20 May 2025

MEETING REPORT

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

The Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas met in Granada, Spain, on 20 May 2025. The Standing Committee/Bureau is invited to:

- Take note of the meeting report of the Group of Specialists;
- Take note of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma (Granada, 21 May 2025) and thank the Spanish authorities for hosting the event;
- Take note of the [Granada Declaration](#) adopted on the occasion of the Roundtable of the Managers of the Diploma holding areas (Granada, 21-22 May 2025) (see the Presentations of Case Studies on that occasion [here](#));
- Welcome the award of the European Diploma to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain) and the renewal of the European Diploma of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy);
- Take note that no on-the-spot appraisal visits are to be carried out in 2025 and that 3 are foreseen in 2026;
- Take note of the need to have additional Specialists in the Group and to follow-up on the call.

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

As host, Mr Francisco De Asís Muñoz Collado, Director of the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve, welcomed the group to the venue and wished the participants a productive and successful meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic). He welcomed the Specialists and the independent experts attending in person, as well as those participating online (see the List of Participants in Appendix I). He thanked all contributors to the European Diploma for Protected Areas: the Specialists, the independent experts, the Secretariat, the site managers and other stakeholders.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Group adopted the draft agenda (see Appendix II).

3. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES PRESENTING AN INTEREST FOR THE WORK OF THE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS

3.a Short presentation of the report of the meeting of the group in 2024 and of the activities undertaken during the last year

The Chair briefly wrapped up the outcomes and conclusions of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists ([T-PVS/DE\(2024\)12](#)) elaborated further in the next point.

3.b Follow up by the Secretariat on the conclusions of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists

The Secretariat reported on the follow-up given to the decisions adopted by the Group of Specialists at its 2024 meeting and to the decisions of the 44th Standing Committee regarding the European Diploma ([T-PVS/DE\(2024\)01](#)). It reported that 2 on-the-spot appraisal visits took place in 2024.

The Secretariat informed the participants that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the Resolutions renewing the European Diploma of the following 7 areas on 10 July 2024 ([CM/Del/Dec\(2024\)1504/9.1](#)):

| Name of the areas | End dates |
|---|-------------------|
| Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland) | 19 June 2031 |
| Seitsemien National Park (Finland) | 19 June 2031 |
| Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany) | 21 September 2031 |
| Muddus National Park (Sweden) | 27 October 2032 |
| Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden) | 27 October 2032 |
| Kuşçenneti National Park (Türkiye) | 14 March 2031 |
| Peak District National Park (United Kingdom) | 28 March 2031 |

The Secretariat further reported that it followed up bilaterally with the managers of several areas identified in 2024 as requiring special attention. Further details could be found under item 5b of the meeting report.

4. RESULTS OF THE ADVISORY VISITS, DISCUSSION AND PROPOSALS TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

4.a Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy)

The independent expert, Ms Blanca Ramos, presented the outcomes of her on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy) to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2025\)03](#)). Based on her findings, she suggested the renewal of the European Diploma of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato for an additional period of 10 years.

The Group of Specialists thanked the independent expert for her presentation and endorsed a draft resolution attaching 1 condition and 8 recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma of the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (see Appendix III).¹

4.b Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

The independent expert, Mr Pierre Galland, presented the outcomes of his on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain) to the members of the Group of Specialists (report [T-PVS/DE\(2025\)02](#)). Based on his findings, he suggested the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve for an initial period of 5 years.

The Group of Specialists thanked the independent expert for his presentation and endorsed a draft resolution attaching 6 recommendations to the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (see Appendix IV).²

4c New application for the EDPA: Eagle's Nest Landscape Park (Park Krajobrazowy Orlich Gniazd), Poland

The Secretariat informed the Group of Experts of a letter of 28 March 2025 by the General Director for Environmental Protection in Poland forwarding an application for the European Diploma of Protected Areas of the Eagle's Nest Landscape Park (Park Krajobrazowy Orlich Gniazd).

The Secretariat recalled that, according to Article 3 of Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas, applications shall be submitted at least three months before the date of the meeting of the Group of Specialists. The Secretariat also noted that some information was missing from the application form.

The Group of Specialists expressed satisfaction with the application for the European Diploma of Protected Areas of the Eagle's Nest Landscape Park (Park Krajobrazowy Orlich Gniazd), in Poland. It however requested the Secretariat to inform the authorities of the park that the Group of Specialists couldn't consider the application due to a too late submission before the date of the meeting and to ask them to complete the form with the missing information, in due time before its next meeting in 2026. If

¹ The Committee of Ministers adopted the draft resolution on 9 July 2025 at the 1534th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies: See [CM/ResDip\(2025\)1](#).

² The Committee of Ministers adopted the draft resolution on 9 July 2025 at the 1534th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies: See [CM/ResDip\(2025\)2](#).

these requirements are met, the manager of the park will be invited to present the application of the park to the Group of Specialists at its next meeting.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTING RESULTS BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS

5.a Analysis of the annual reports

The Secretariat recalled the objectives of the annual report and the Group's mandate, which are defined by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas. It also highlighted that conditions and recommendations of each area had been integrated in the nominative reporting templates which were shared with area managers individually. This approach helped site managers to address key information and meet the reporting expectations and therefore will continue to be used in the future.

In 2024, the number of annual reports received continued to increase from 63 in 2023 to 65, out of the possible 66 areas considered for the 2024 reporting. The Group of Specialists welcomed the results of the 2024 annual reporting and thanked the managers of the Diploma holding areas for complying with the reporting obligation. It acknowledged the specific efforts of Ukraine managers to fulfil their reporting role despite the on-going war. The only area which has not reported is Peak District National Park (United Kingdom), for a second year in a row, which the Group regretted.

Following the request of the Group of Specialists to look into the possibility to assess the quality of the reporting, a traffic light system indicating whether the fulfilment of the conditions/recommendations attached to renewal of the Diploma was achieved, underway or not yet started replaced the scoring system as of 2022. Overall, the Group of Specialists considered the traffic light system to be an improvement, but that it could still be improved to further refine the analysis, in particular in the case of ongoing processes.

As in previous years, members of the Group of Specialists had been involved in the assessment of the annual reports by using the assessment forms. Document [T-PVS/DE\(2025\)05](#) provided the conclusions of the Group for each Diploma holding area. The Group discussed key overall findings of their assessments and highlighted challenges and gaps in the implementation of the recommendations and fulfilment of the conditions attached to the European Diploma.

The Group regretted frequent delays in the adoption of management plans or in their renewal. It also regretted the continued lack of information reported on the use of the logo of the Diploma.

Overall, the Group of Specialists found the annual reporting of a good quality, with some noticeable exceptions such as the use of the same text as in previous years and the lack of specific information to address the specific recommendations/conditions included in the decision of the Committee of Ministers. The Group discussed the idea for managers or Diploma holding areas to report only every two years (except in the first 5 years after the awarding of the Diploma), with pros and cons being presented (What about possible urgencies to be reported? / Reading the reports every year was helpful for Specialists / Annual reporting was a key moment for site managers to keep in mind the European Diploma and its importance, which could be lost if reporting were only done every two years / ...).

The Group of Specialists decided that a letter should be sent to the UK Ministry of the Environment to confirm who was managing the Peak District National Park and to recall the obligation to submit an annual report (Article 7 of Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas).

The Group reiterated its invitation to area managers to improve the quality of their reports, ensuring that all the elements included in the recommendations/conditions listed in the decisions by the Committee of Ministers on their European Diploma are fully addressed with sufficient level of detail.

The Group has decided to be stricter on the issue of management plans and thus to issue a clear warning in its future assessments of annual reports when there is a significant delay in the adoption of the first management plan or in the renewal of the previous plan. The Group also decided to take particular attention in the evaluation of the reports on the use of the logo of the Diploma.

The Group requested from the Secretariat to prepare improvements or an alternative proposal to the current red flag system, to be discussed at its next meeting in 2026.

It decided to send a questionnaire to all site managers holding a European Diploma for a period of 10 years to consult them on the possibility of reporting only every two years instead of once a year as currently. This would not apply to sites holding a European Diploma for an initial period of 5 years. The Group of Specialists will consider the replies at its next meeting in 2026.

5.b Follow up on the areas identified in 2024 as requiring particular attention

- **Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Germany)**

Last year Mr Siegfried Roth, manager of the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve, informed members of the Group of Specialists of the ongoing construction plans of wind turbines in the vicinity of the Nature Reserve and their possible impact on it.

It was recalled that the Group of Specialists agreed with the delineation of the Wurzach basin protection zone considering that the Wurzach basin was designated as protection zone and that the draft subregional Energy Plan excluded wind energy priority zones located within the protection zone, also noting that, according to studies, birds would not be affected by the wind turbines located in the priority zones but that in case the subregional Energy Plan would not be approved, wind farms could be constructed even in the Wurzach basin protection zone. Furthermore, to be consistent with the sixth recommendation attached to the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers renewing the European Diploma to the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Resolution CM/ResDip(2019)2), the Group of Specialists requested the competent authorities to relocate the wind turbines planned at the Hummelluckenwald in a wind energy priority zone outside the Wurzach basin protection zone.

The Group of Specialists noted that no wind turbiness will be built in the area due to a decision from the Regionalverband Bodensee-Oberschwaben. In fact, the investor left the idea undone due to the very old plans of construction of three wind turbines in the area.

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024.

The Group noted with satisfaction that no wind turbiness will be built in the area due to a decision from the Regionalverband Bodensee-Oberschwaben.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve.

- **Scandola Nature Reserve (France)**

The Group of Specialists was first recalled that it was decided in 2020 not to renew the Diploma to the Scandola Nature Reserve (France) due to the considerable lack of progress and minimal attempts of communication with the Secretariat, despite several warnings by the Group over the past years. The Group was also recalled that for the first time since 2020, the authorities have submitted an annual report in 2023. The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2023, which the Group welcomed. It also encouraged the managing authorities to speed up the revision of the decree of the nature reserve, to create as soon as possible the regional terrestrial and marine nature reserve and to develop without delay the management plan with a special emphasis on a sustainable tourism strategy.

The Group of Specialists was informed that another annual report was sent in 2024, which demonstrates the goodwill of the managing authorities of the Scandola Nature Reserve towards the European Diploma. Good progress was noted in implementing several recommendations even though more efforts were needed to comply with the conditions since it appears that the National reserve was still not created (even though the revision of the decree creating the Scandola national nature reserve is underway) and that there was no updated management plan. xxx

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024.

Even though the Group noted a few positive developments in the implementation of several recommendations, it called on the authorities to urgently finalise the revision of the decree creating the Scandola national nature reserve, and to update the management plan.

The Group of Specialists requested the Secretariat to find information on the report the French authorities were supposed to submit to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and to find out whether the area was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Scandola Nature Reserve.

- **Doñana National Park (Spain)**

It was recalled that in 2020, the Group of Specialists decided to postpone the renewal of the Diploma of the Doñana National Park and to seek information on the legal proceedings engaged by the European Commission and on the findings of a reactive mission of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

The Group also noted that the Park's authorities were expected to forward to the Secretariat the report they were supposed to send by 1st December 2024 to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

The group highlighted the positive changes that have taken place in the management of the Park with several recommendations now being implemented and others in progress.

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024.

The Group of Specialists requested the Secretariat to contact UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and Ramsar Convention to ask them what the current situation of the Park was according to their own evaluation systems, in particular if they acknowledge improvements.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Doñana National Park and to decide at its next meeting if it suggests to renew the Diploma or not, on the basis of the information collected as well as on the basis of the information sent by the Park.

- **Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve (Germany)**

Overall, the Group of Specialists considered that the conditions and recommendations were well processed, so that the report can be assessed as positive.

The most important information from the annual report was that the pressure of use from various tourist and sporting activities in the area has decreased. The reasons given for this are the growing acceptance of the protected area, so a growing awareness of nature, but also the fact that there have been major floods that have created natural barriers

The Group of Specialists also discussed the issue of boat traffic on the Danube even during low water conditions with the risk that boats run on ground with possible negative effects on the gravel banks. It underlined that such accidents could happen and that the authorities should do their best to avoid them in protected areas such as the Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve.

In order to be even better informed about the situation on the ground, the Secretariat could exchange information with the federal authorities responsible for national natural monuments (since the Weltenburger Enge has been designated as such by Germany).

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024. It appreciated the continued progress and encouraged them to continue their efforts and to report back the same way in 2025.

The Group of Specialists asked the Secretariat to get in touch with federal authorities responsible for national natural monuments.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve.

- **Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria)**

It is recalled that the Group of Specialist was alerted in its previous meeting that the regional government of Salzburg decided to take steps towards building retention basins and dams in the valleys of the Hohe Tauern National Park overlapping with the Diploma holding area and Natura 2000 sites. These infrastructures were aimed to prevent floods downstream in the future.

The managing authorities of the site confirmed the plan to have a single large retention basin in the Krimmlerachen-valley. They added that the Krimml Waterfalls should not be impacted except during major flood events, which could be compared to the impact snowfall had in past decades.

The Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat to continue monitoring the situation, and to assess the possible impact this planned retention basin on the Krimml Waterfalls could have, once more official information becomes available.

It is noted that the information provided in the 2024 report was very limited, as in the 2023 report, and didn't allow a proper evaluation of the management of the site and the actions adopted. It was therefore considered that the recommendations valued in red in the 2023 report have not been addressed adequately in 2024. It is also noted that there is not reporting on the use of the EDPA logo.

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024, while highlighting the need for more detailed reports which should demonstrate that the recommendations in red, in particular, are being adequately addressed. In the current context, the Group doesn't have sufficient information to be able to assess the progress, risks, and achievements of management activity

in the area, which is an important issue that will be taken into account when considering the renewal of the Diploma.

The Group of Specialists asked the Secretariat to inquire on who was in charge of the reporting within the site to alert on the necessity to provide adequate information.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site.

- **Purbeck Heritage Coast (UK)**

Of concern to the Group of Specialists is the granted planning permission for a physical extension and extension of operation to Swanworth Quarry within the Purbeck Heritage Coast. In December 2023, Dorset Council granted planning permission for an extension to Swanworth Quarry within the Purbeck Heritage Coast, within the EDPAs southern portion. The proposed extension is approximately 14ha of land in agricultural use which would be worked as a quarry for 20 years, followed by a 7-year restoration period. 9.7ha of the existing quarry would be retained in use. In compensation 12.3ha of other land will be subject to habitat enhancement. So there will be negative effects over the course of the operation to landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area, although these may be adequately offset by agreed mitigation actions and a compensation package to deal with residual effects.

Managing authorities say, the decision is disappointing and will result in some harms, particularly over the operational period. However, these are reasonably mitigated against are compensated for, and the restoration plan is ultimately nature-positive.

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024.

The Group of Specialists requested the Secretariat to ask UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and IUCN if the new quarry issue was on the spot and if the area was included in the list of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue monitoring the situation overall.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

- **Minsmere Nature Reserve (UK)**

It should be noted that the Group of Specialists has been alarmed by the reports in recent years by the developments in Minsmere Nature Reserve (UK) and the planned construction of a new nuclear power plant reactor in the immediate vicinity of the EDPA.

Managing authorities are very transparent on the ongoing processes there in their reports and are working with the developer and statutory agencies to seek to ensure that potential environmental impacts on Minsmere are appropriately managed. Nevertheless, Sizewell C will be a huge construction project, and the impact on one of the UK's finest nature reserves probably will be intense. New roads and a temporary port may be built, huge cranes erected across land that borders Minsmere. For at least a decade, construction will proceed.

The Group of Specialists thanked the managing authorities for submitting a report in 2024.

The Group of Specialists decided to ask the managing authorities for a non-technical summary of the state of play of the new reactor. It also requested the Secretariat to ask UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and IUCN if the area was included in the list of World Heritage in Danger.

The Group of Specialists mandated the Secretariat to continue monitoring the situation.

It decided to continue the follow-up of the Minsmere Nature Reserve.

* * *

It was also suggested, as a general way of proceeding, to seek for information on all the areas in need of follow-up by the European Commission (of Natura 2000 sites) and on the state of play of pending cases in from of the European Court of Justice.

6. ON-THE-SPOT APPRAISAL VISITS IN 2025

The Group of Specialists noted that there were no on-the-spot appraisal visits to be carried out in 2025 and 3 in 2026 (Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site, Austria; Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine; Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, Portugal).

It understood that many OSAs would have to be organised in 2027 and subsequent years and was concerned that this would represent too great a workload for the experts and the Secretariat.

The Group of Specialists welcomed the fact that the latest OSAs were conducted by a group of two experts. While it understood that the objective was to train new experts, having two experts in the OSA proved useful during the preparatory phase of the visit, the visit itself and its follow-up.

The Group of Specialists requested the Secretariat to prepare a table listing the end dates of all diplomas and when a visit should take place in order to have a clear view of the number of visits to be organised and when they should take place.

The Group supported the continuation of the practice of entrusting a team of two experts with the carrying out of OSAs if the budget allocated to the implementation of the European Diploma allowed it, and asked the Secretariat to raise this issue with the Bureau of the Bern Convention so that this approach could be approved.

7. UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Mr Michael Schimek (expert, Austria) presented his experience in the functioning of the UNESCO [World Heritage Convention](#) to the Group of Specialists (see the presentation [here](#)).

The presentation contained information on the status of the World Heritage list, how the Convention is organised, how to get on the list and which important strategic concepts are applied during this procedure. Mr Schimek also presented the monitoring precautions at stake and how conflicts connected to the World Heritage are handled. By this, he pointed out similarities of the European Diploma and the World Heritage and where both systems differ.

The Group thanked Mr Schimek for his presentation. It found out that a number of participants in the meeting (Specialists and experts) are involved in the routines of the World Heritage, in particular as members of IUCN working groups dealing with issues around natural World Heritage properties.

The Group considered that having more frequent contacts with the Secretariat of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention could be helpful to share experience and information on sites of common interest.

It also considered that sharing more information on UNESCO's biosphere reserves / Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme would be interesting.

The Group of Specialists asked the Secretariat to contact the UNESCO World Heritage secretariat to cross-check information on some of the reports when needed. The Group also envisaged that more formal links with the UNESCO World Heritage Secretariat (such as a memorandum of understanding) could be considered.

The Group decided to have a presentation on UNESCO's biosphere reserves at its next meeting.

8. 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

The Secretariat informed the Group of Specialists of the agenda of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma for protected areas to be held the following day (21 May 2025). It also informed the Group of the agenda of the Roundtable of the Managers of the Diploma holding areas (21-22 May 2025) during which [case studies](#) will be presented and the [Granada Declaration](#) adopted.

The Group of Specialists took note of the agendas of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma and of the Roundtable of the Managers of the Diploma holding areas, and welcomed the draft Granada Declaration.

It thanked the Spanish authorities for hosting the events.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Group of Specialists about his visit to the Riserva naturale Sasso Fratino (Italy).

The Group also discussed the issue of its composition, as it noted that it now consisted of only four Specialists, which it considered insufficient, whereas the Group previously had up to six specialists.

The Group of Specialists asked the Secretariat to have a call sent to National Focal Points of the Bern Convention to appoint new specialists with expertise in protected area management. The composition of the group should take into account both gender and geographical balance.

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Secretariat, in liaison with the Chair, will notify members of the date of the next meeting in 2026, which is expected to take place in Strasbourg.

11. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

The Chair thanked the members of the Group of Specialists, the independent experts, the management authorities of the European Diploma holding areas and the Secretariat for their efforts throughout the year and lively discussions. He declared the meeting closed.

Annex I: List of Participants

| SPECIALISTS/SPECIALISTES | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Czech Republic | Mr Jan PLESNIK (Chair) Advisor to Director Nature Conservation Agency |
| Georgia | Ms Mariam MACHARASHVILI (online) Senior Specialist Protected Area Policy Division Biodiversity and Forestry Department Ministry of Environment and Agriculture |
| Germany | Ms Stefanie STENZEL (online) Federal Agency for Nature Conservation |
| Luxembourg | Mr Christian KAYSER Director Nature Park Our |

| INDEPENDANT EXPERTS | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Austria | Mr Michael SCHIMEK Schimek plant, Ingenieurbüro für Raumplanung und Raumordnung |
| Netherlands | Mr Luc HOOGENSTEIN Ecologist Dutch Society for Nature Conservation (Natuurmonumenten) |
| Poland | Ms Renata KRZYŚCIAK-KOSIŃSKA Biologist, Nature Conservation Specialist Institute of Environmental Protection |
| Republic of Slovenia | Ms Vanja DEBEVEC Expert Associate Institute for Youth Policy |
| Spain | Ms Blanca RAMOS LOSADA Independent consultant |
| Switzerland | Mr Pierre Henri GALLAND Environment consultant |
| Türkiye | Ms Cigdem ADEM Researcher Middle East Technical University |

| INVITED SPEAKERS | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Spain | Mr Francisco De Asís MUÑOZ COLLADO Director Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve |

| COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT | |
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| Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment | Mr Mikaël POUTIERS Secretary of the Bern Convention |
| | Mr Pep AMENGUAL Policy Adviser |
| Bern Convention | Mr Mark BARLOW Administrative Assistant |

Annex II: Agenda of the meeting

| | | Documents | Expected results |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| <i>Tuesday 20 May 2025</i> | | | |
| 9.30 | 1. Opening of the meeting <i>Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic), Chair of the Group of Specialists</i> | | |
| | 2. Adoption of the agenda | Meeting agenda: T-PVS/Agenda(2025)04 For adoption | Members of the Group of Specialists are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda. |
| | 3. General information on activities presenting an interest for the work of the Group of Specialists | | |
| | 3.a Short presentation of the report of the meeting of the group in 2024 and of the activities undertaken during the last year <i>Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic), Chair of the Group of Specialists</i> | Report of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas: T-PVS/DE(2024)12 For information | The salient points of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists are recalled. |
| | 3.b Follow up by the Secretariat on the conclusions of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i> | Extract from the list of decisions and adopted texts on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, at the 44 th meeting of the | Members of the Group of Specialists take note of the follow up given to the outcomes and decisions of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists. |

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| | <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are informed of the follow up given to the conclusions of the 2024 meeting of the Group of Specialists and of the decisions of the 44th Standing Committee regarding the European Diploma.</i></p> | <p>Standing Committee to the Bern Convention: T-PVS/DE(2024)01</p> <p>List of resolutions renewing the Diploma adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2024</p> <p>CM/Del/Dec(2024)1504/9.1</p> <p>For information</p> | |
| | <p>4. Results of the advisory visits, discussion and proposals to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe</p> | | |
| | <p>4.a Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Ms Blanca Ramos</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p> | <p>Report on the assessment visit to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato</p> <p>T-PVS/DE(2025)03</p> <p>Draft resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Gallipoli Cognato Regional Park</p> | <p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution renewing the European Diploma to the Gallipoli Cognato Regional Park which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption.</p> |

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| | | T-PVS/DE(2025)04 For discussion and decision | |
| | 4.b Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain) <i>Presentation by Mr Pierre Galland</i> <i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to discuss the conclusions of the on-the-spot appraisal visit report and to exchange views on possible follow up.</i> | Report on the assessment visit to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve T-PVS/DE(2025)02 Draft resolution regarding the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve T-PVS/DE(2025)04 For discussion and decision | Members of the Group of Specialists agree on a draft resolution awarding the European Diploma to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for formal adoption. |
| 11.30 Coffee break | | | |
| 11.45 | 4c New application for the EDPA: Eagle's Nest Landscape Park (Park Krajobrazowy Orlich Gniazd), Poland | For information | The Secretariat will inform the GoE about the application to the European Diploma of a new |

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| | | <p>EDPA Application form - Eagles Nest Landscape Park</p> <p>Resolution on the CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> | <p>protected area in Poland, and the state of play of the evaluation procedure</p> |
| | <p>5. Presentation of the reporting results by the Secretariat and the Group of Specialists</p> | | |
| | <p>5.a Analysis of the annual reports</p> <p><i>Introduction by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to share their comments on and discuss the outcomes of the annual reports and exchange views on possible follow up.</i></p> | <p>2025 Compilation of the analysis of the annual reports</p> <p>T-PVS/DE(2025)05</p> <p>Methodological note on the usage of the assessment forms of the annual reports</p> <p>T-PVS/DE(2024)02</p> <p>Link to the dashboard of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p> | <p>The compliance of the Diploma holding areas with the conditions and/or recommendations attached to the award/renewal of the European Diploma is assessed and possible areas at risk requiring a closer monitoring or even an exceptional on the-spot appraisal visit are identified.</p> |

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| | <p>5.b Follow up on the areas identified in 2024 as requiring particular attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Germany) • Scandola Nature Reserve (France) • Doñana National Park (Spain) • Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve (Germany) • Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria) • Purbeck Heritage Coast (UK) • Minsmere Nature Reserve (UK) <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views about Diploma holding areas identified as requiring closer attention and to agree on follow up actions in the light of the 2024 annual reports and the information received by the Secretariat.</i></p> | <p>2025 Compilation of the analysis of the annual reports</p> <p>T-PVS/DE(2025)05</p> <p>Purbeck: Strategic and Technical Planning Committee Report</p> <p>Minsmere: Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station Stage 4 Pre-Application Consultation</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p> | |
| 14.00 Lunch Break | | | |
| 15.00 | <p>6. On-the-spot appraisal visits in 2025</p> <p><i>Introduction by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are invited to exchange views on the on-the-spot appraisal visits to be carried out in 2025.</i></p> | <p>For discussion and decision</p> | <p>Members of the Group of Specialists agree on the on-the-spot appraisal visits to be carried out in 2025.</p> |

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| | <p>7. UNESCO World Heritage Convention</p> <p><i>Presentation by Mr Michael Schimek</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are informed of the functioning of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.</i></p> | <p>For information</p> | <p>Members of the Group of Specialists take note of the functioning of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.</p> |
| | <p>8. 60th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Group of Specialists are informed of the agendas and draft declaration of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</i></p> | <p>Agenda of the celebratory event, 21 May 2025</p> <p>T-PVS/Agenda(2025)05</p> <p>Agenda of the roundtable of the managers of the Diploma holding areas, 21 – 22 May 2025</p> <p>T-PVS/Agenda(2025)08</p> <p>Draft declaration of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <p>T-PVS/DE(2025)06</p> <p>For information</p> | <p>Members of the Group of Specialists take note of the agendas and draft declaration of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p> |
| | <p>9. Any other business</p> | | |

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| | 10. Date and place of the next meeting | | |
| | 11. Conclusions of the meeting | | |
| 17.00 | End of the meeting | | |

Annex III: Draft Resolution CM/ResDip(2025)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy)

MINISTERS'
DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2025)...

..... 2025

Draft Resolution CM/ResDip(2025)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2025
at the ...th 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 [CM/ResDip\(2020\)1](#) on the award of the European Diploma to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy);

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 May 2025;

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 Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato until 23 September 2035;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. The regulations of the pre-Park area are to be adopted by the regional government by the end of 2025.

Attaches the following eight recommendations to the renewal:

1. make all necessary efforts to successfully enlarge the Gallipoli Cognato Regional Park adding to its territory the forests in good conservation situation that are located in the pre-Park area, so as to ensure the coherence between the natural limits of these forests and the administrative boundaries of the Regional Park. Consider applying for the extension of the European Diploma to the enlarged Regional Park;
2. reinforce the monitoring programmes by including in the existing protocols the drivers of global change, (namely climate change, land use, pollution, alien invasive species, emergent

diseases and pests, etc.), in order to i) assess the effect of the climate change and the other drivers of change, ii) early detect undesirable consequences on species (specially the most vulnerable ones like wolf, otter, Italian hare, black stork, amphibians, etc.), ecosystems and ecological functions and iii) develop predictive models to help anticipate possible adaptive management needs to eventually prevent forest decay, increasing risk of fire or biodiversity loss;

3. considering the magnitude of the current and future challenges that the Park must cope with to maintain its ecological integrity under the present scenario of global change, significantly increase the financial resources allocated to technical and warden permanent staff and material means;
4. within the frame of the subsequent Management Plan and Forest Management Plan, continue the measures for improving the structural diversity and the composition of the forests, maintaining their naturalness and improving their resilience, their functions and their capacity to provide ecosystem services;
5. continue improving the techniques for optimising the results of the Captive Breeding Programme of the Italian Hare (*Lepus corsicanus*) and the subsequent population reinforcement. Reduce the inbreeding risk in the offspring and improve the number of releases in the wild, in order to ensure the long-term viability of the population;
6. explore the possibility to assess the interaction between herbivore species, vegetal covers and predators in order to define criteria for measuring the responses of the vegetation to variation of densities of roe deer, of wild boar and of the Podolica cow. The objectives are: i) to evaluate the role of each of the species and its temporal/spatial dynamics in accordance with the use they make of the natural resources, ii) explore the possible optimisation of herbivores as vegetation management tools, iii) optimise the role of the wolf as potential regulator of herbivore populations and iv) closely monitor the abundance and population structure of the wolf, since an increase of roe deer population may help to improve the wolf's conservation status;
7. Assess the population level and the distribution in the Park of the wild cat (*Felis sylvestris*) within the fauna monitoring actions, and evaluate whether conservation measures are required in case of decrease, as occurs in many parts of its European distribution area.

pursue the efforts to progressively eradicate the conifers planted during the 1970s and test the most adequate techniques fostering the affected areas to recover their natural vegetation.

Annex IV: Draft Resolution CM/ResDip(2025)... on the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2025)...

..... 2025

Draft Resolution CM/ResDip(2025)... on the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2025
at the ...th 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;

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 May 2025;

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

Solemnly awards the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve; recognises the European significance of this area which has remarkable landscapes, rich and diverse flora and fauna, exceptional geological features and ethno-anthropological and archaeological interest;

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,

Places the aforesaid area under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 9 July 2030;

Attaches the following six recommendations to the award:

1. Prepare and adopt a revised version of the Management Plan as soon as possible;
2. Continue to support the long-term research on the impact of climate change, and in particular the activities of the Laboratory of Global Process in Spain;
3. Continue to monitor the impact of tourism in the most popular places, in particular the alpine areas, and take the necessary measures to limit this impact on the very fragile vegetation and vulnerable fauna; pay special attention to actual and potential invasive species;

4. Study the potential for greater use of solar energy for heating water and electricity production, while respecting the traditional architecture and cultural heritage of the villages and taking into account landscape issues;
5. Pay special attention to water quality within and outside the park territory. Avoid deterioration of the rivers and streams of the Monachil catchment, due to water extractions for the ski resort and to urban wastewater from Pradollano. Also, maintain and restore as appropriate the traditional water channels system to provide water for agriculture and cattle breeding, and as an outstanding ecological service provider by a nature-based solution, and as a recognised cultural heritage;
6. Use the European Diploma logo on information displays and material, in combination with the other national and international recognitions.