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AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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

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online meeting

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

*Document prepared by the
Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

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MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2022)...

..... 2022

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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 (86) 18 on the award of the European Diploma to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)4 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (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 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, 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 Bayerischer Wald National Park, until 18 June 2031;

Attaches the following four conditions to the renewal:

1. the responsible authority of the Free State of Bavaria to apply for the extension of the European Diploma to the enlarged area of the Bavarian Forest National Park;
2. immediately stop all interferences in the forest in the 1997 extension area, including bark beetle control, with the exception of the buffer zone (Randbereiche) where such measures are intended to minimise the spread of the bark beetle to adjoining private forests outside the national park, and for security reasons;
3. guarantee that the same regulations as in condition 2 are applied for the enlargement to the east, which is proposed for 2022, without any transition period;
4. take into consideration the neighbouring core zone in the Sumava National Park (Czech Republic) when designing visitors infrastructure and ensure that the management goals and conservation measures of the proposed extension area to the east are harmonised with those of the adjoining area in the Sumava National Park;

Attaches the following nine recommendations to the renewal:

1. entrust the national park administration with the appropriate legal rights as nature protection authority, (Naturschutzbehörde) in addition to its role as forest authority (Forstbehörde), to strengthen its function in the field of nature protection;
2. entrust the National Park Watch (rangers) with additional rights, first of all to collect fines in case of violations of the national park regulations, as it is done in the Sumava National Park (Czech Republic);
3. periodically evaluate the National Park Plan and update topics when useful. This might be documented in a supplementary volume;
4. periodically evaluate the management of visitors to avoid over tourism in sensitive areas and react if and when problems occur;
5. secure the continuation of research studies, in particular those that have been conducted for a long time and those that are important in the context of climate change in a broader sense and for invasive species;
6. dismantle the forest roads that do not function as service roads to a minimum and replace them with hiking routes in line with the infrastructure plan in places where disturbance of wildlife is to be avoided;
7. harmonise the hiking routes with those on the Czech territory to avoid a mismatch;
8. carefully observe any further plans of installations for the production of green energy in the vicinity of the Bavarian Forest National Park and report to the Council of Europe immediately if impacts on the park can be expected;
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.

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2022)...

..... 2022

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Vanoise National Park (France)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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) 14 on the award of the European Diploma to the Vanoise National Park (France);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Vanoise National Park (France);

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

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting 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 Vanoise National Park until 18 March 2031;

Attaches the following ten recommendations to the renewal:

1. keep up dialogue with the municipalities of the optimal buffer zone to try to persuade them to join the Park;
2. closely monitor the management of grazing land in close coordination with the other competent bodies (municipality etc); establish mapping and a database for the medium-and long-term monitoring of pastureland use and livestock grazing densities;
3. closely monitor projects connected with renewable energy (hydroelectricity, wind power) in the Park and in the optimal buffer zone;
4. continue monitoring sports activities such as mountaineering, hang-gliding and mountain biking and take the necessary measures to limit their impact on nature and the landscape;
5. plan, with the relevant authorities, the necessary measures to reduce motor traffic on the roads providing access to the core area of the Park and to reduce the impact of high-altitude car parks;

6. continue scientific research and biological monitoring; ensure that new counting methods can be reconciled with older results and group scientific research findings in a database that is accessible to researchers and park managers;
7. pursue and step up transfrontier co-operation with the adjacent Gran Paradiso National Park. Take advantage of the forthcoming anniversaries (100 years of the Gran Paradiso in 2022, 60 years of the Vanoise in 2023) to publicise the achievements of that co-operation;
8. stop the erosion of park staff and, if possible, take on new workers where necessary;
9. ensure that the National Park's research programme and activities take account of the effects of climate change on the ecological processes linked to the long-term conservation of the diploma-holding area's European interest. Research efforts should be coordinated with those of the Gran Paradiso and the findings incorporated in the respective management plans;
10. publicise the European Diploma, make wider use of its logo and promote dialogue between the diploma-holding areas.

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2022)...

..... 2022

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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 ResDip(2006)9 on the award of the European Diploma to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2021)3 on the extension of the validity of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (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 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting 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 Gran Paradiso National Park until 18 March 2031;

Attaches the following 10 recommendations to the renewal:

1. finalise the rules governing the application of the Management Plan in 2022 and implement the Plan;
2. closely monitor the schemes to renovate or build new hydroelectric installations, preserve the natural water courses and reduce the impact of power lines;
3. with the municipalities concerned, study solutions for reducing tourist traffic on the roads providing access to the upper reaches of the Park;
4. closely monitor the management of grazing land in close coordination with the other competent bodies (municipality etc); establish mapping and a database for the medium-and long-term monitoring of pastureland use and livestock grazing densities;
5. stop the erosion of staff (wardens) and, if possible, fill the vacant posts; continue to explore possibilities for bringing the head office of the Park's management closer to the area concerned;

6. continue research into biodiversity relating in particular to the abandonment of pastureland on the high-altitude and subalpine levels. Group scientific research findings in a database that is accessible to researchers and managers;
7. carry on counting alpine ungulates and birds in collaboration with the Vanoise Park, using the same methodology if possible;
8. put the Park's scientific committee on a formal footing, within the possibilities of the law, and make it operational;
9. ensure that the National Park's research programme and activities take account of the effects of climate change on the ecological processes linked to the long-term conservation of the diploma-holding area's European interest. Research efforts should be coordinated with those of the Vanoise and the findings incorporated in the respective management plans;
10. publicise the European Diploma, make wider use of its logo and promote dialogue between the diploma-holding areas. In particular, pursue and step up transfrontier cooperation with the adjacent Vanoise National Park. Take advantage of the forthcoming anniversaries (100 years of the Gran Paradiso in 2022, 60 years of the Vanoise in 2023) to publicise the achievements of that cooperation.

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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 Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)7 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting 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 Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site until 27 October 2027;

Attaches the following eight recommendations to the renewal:

1. review and, where necessary, improve the regulations of the protected area in order to maintain the protection status, and devote a part of the next management plan (2024 onwards) of the Hohe Tauern National Park to the Krimml Waterfalls, detailing the measures implemented to meet the recommendations attached to the renewal; consider applying for the extension of the European Diploma to the Hohe Tauern National Park;
2. continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural phenomenon for future generations; monitor the potential impact of climate change on the ecosystem, and its fauna and flora; seek for appropriate measures to mitigate flash floods in case of heavy rainfalls;
3. keep on avoiding impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, not in the least in the areas around "Wasserfallboden" and "Schönangerl";
4. continue to maintain great vigilance regarding infrastructural developments close to the falls, e.g. installations or extension of shops, as well as medical care and new touristic activities that are not compatible with the naturalness of the area;
5. continue to pay close attention to potential path erosion; and make sure that visitors only use the existing paths;

6. maintain and further strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially landowners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations;
7. further pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on fauna and flora within the European Diploma holding area, focussing on recurrent monitoring of relevant taxonomic groups in order to evaluate possible effects of changing environmental drivers such as flooding regime, climate change, invasive pathogens, invasive alien species; pay special attention to monitor and manage damaging bark beetles, e.g. *Ips typographus* (European spruce-bark beetle, Buchdrucker);
8. make 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.

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2022)...

..... 2022

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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 (97) 21 on the award of the European Diploma to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)1 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting 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 Carpathian Biosphere Reserve until 30 September 2027;

Attaches the following twelve recommendations to the renewal:

1. develop a ranger training programme, including where possible entry level apprenticeships for younger people, which provide a strong career base for rangers, and assess salaries to attract and keep suitably qualified staff;
2. enhance the research and monitoring directed towards understanding the effects of climate change on the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (biodiversity, social, economic), develop adaptation and mitigation plans, and identify nature-based solutions to manage the impacts;
3. dedicate research and monitoring on open habitats and their component species, to better understand ecological processes to maintain them, especially in the light of climate change, wild mammal populations and agricultural practices, and consider and implement relevant adjustments to management;
4. dedicate research and monitoring to understanding the ecological dynamics of wilderness management, especially the ecosystem function in the absence of traditional farming and forestry practices;

5. review the monitoring methodologies for large mammals, prioritising the more at-risk carnivores, to achieve reliable estimates of species populations; review knowledge base of the ecological role of the large mammals in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, and consider optimum populations to maintain the coherence of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve;
6. continue to make representations to the relevant authorities to ensure that the environmental impacts of the proposed ski resort in the Svydovets mountain range, including any potential effects on the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, are assessed, prevented or effectively mitigated;
7. secure and increase the budget allocation for education, awareness raising activities, scientific programmes, the development of the ranger service, and to support socio-economic priorities in the extended Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Continue to develop project-based funding appropriately, ensuring that there is not an over-reliance on project funds to support long term needs;
8. continue close co-operation between the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and State Forest enterprise, especially in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change, including economic impacts on the local community;
9. review the viability of traditional farming practices, consider how state funding and other initiatives can support and incentivise traditional farming where it benefits the aims of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (including direct payments to farmers for ecosystem services). Pilot potential options where possible;
10. develop a strategy for sustainable ecotourism to support the local economy, securing and focussing funding on infrastructure priorities, and creating more opportunities for employment for local people, to reduce outward migration;
11. ensure that the European Diploma logo, and the significance of the award, are widely used in all Carpathian Biosphere Reserve material, events and communications;
12. develop a strategy for enhancing ecological connectivity within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve between the 8 original massifs; examine the ecological connectivity issues between the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and other parts of the Ukrainian Carpathians; continue to pursue trans-boundary connectivity, e.g., with Romania.

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2022)...

..... 2022

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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 (92) 18 on the award of the European Diploma to the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)4 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting that holding the European Diploma implies maintenance of the area as one of exceptional European interest, 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 Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, until 18 May 2027;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

the Portuguese Government should continue to take the necessary steps to preserve the current status of the Selvagens Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve, in accordance with the provisions of Act n° 15/86 of 21st May 1986.

Attaches the following ten recommendations to the renewal:

1. revise and reinforce, if necessary, all precautions to ensure that non-native species of plants and animals are introduced in the Nature Reserve;
2. continue to improve the accommodation lodge and the communication systems of the Nature Reserve with the new technologies available, in order to increase the capacity for wardens and military staff to contact their authorities in Madeira and their families; consider increasing the number of solar panels to reduce the dependence on the generator;
3. include in the monitoring programme the follow-up of a selected number of parameters, not only to survey the effect of the eradication of the flora and fauna alien species, that must be continued, but also to establish monitoring protocols scientifically validated to generate long series of data allowing the

comparison among different timeframes in a changing scenario. This recommendation includes the definition of specific census methods stable over time, providing reliable datasets that, when analysed, provide trustworthy information on the evolution, fluctuations and trends of the seabird colonies, including specific attention to possible rising of the yellow-legged gull population and the evolution and effect on the biodiversity of the microplastics;

4. in order to mitigate possible risks and hazards related to climate change and possible large-scale disturbances on the Reserve (like contamination, changes of the rainfall and/or temperature annual patterns, invasive alien species, frequency of extreme events, etc.), reinforce the existing monitoring programme with new technologies like remote sensing, satellite, drones, etc. to follow-up indicative parameters allowing: i) assessing the effect of the climate change in the Selvagens Islands, ii) early detection of undesirable consequences on species, ecosystems and ecological functions, iii) characterising the rate of changes (if any) and iv) predictive models that could be of help to anticipate possible management needs;
5. considering the vital role of the staff responsible for the surveillance of the Nature Reserve, and the difficult conditions in which they often must carry out their tasks, enlarge and reinforce the warden staff, providing opportunities and offering incentives to young naturalists to join the warden corps and to learn from the experienced current wardens, allowing a smooth transition between the generation on duty and the one that would replace it, without losing their knowledge;
6. maintain the dialogue with the economic sectors of the region, namely with the actors of the tourism, in order to not increase the impact of people in a so delicate and vulnerable ecosystem, putting in practice the new resources and technology to maintain the necessary restrictions combined with the better understanding by the citizens of the natural values of the Nature Reserve; envisage drafting a tourism strategy to ensure a sustainable balance between showcasing the natural assets of the islands and the control over the touristic frequentation;
7. along with the enlargement of the Nature Reserve to the boundaries of the Natural Monument, consider the extension of the area awarded the European Diploma and the protection of the whole water column between the water surface and the deep bottom. The management plans of the different existing protection categories should subsequently be harmonised;
8. consider making the scientific data collected over the years available to the public;
9. increase the awareness of the importance of the geological heritage;
10. revise and maintain in good condition the restored rubble walls and reconstruct the unrestored (if any).

Resolution CM/ResDip(2022)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Swiss National Park (Switzerland)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2022
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 Swiss National Park (Switzerland);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)6 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Swiss National Park (Switzerland);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 23 and 24 February 2022;

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

Noting 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 Swiss National Park until 27 October 2032;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. activate all players at federal, cantonal and local level to remediate to the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) pollution from the Spöl river (total clean up);
2. continue activities to enlarge the buffer zone of the Swiss National Park in the municipalities Zerne, S-chanf and Scuol; the extension of the buffer zone will in turn mitigate the effects of climate change on the reserve;
3. continue to raise awareness among local inhabitants, municipalities and visitors, of the presence of large carnivores, support sheep-breeders in applying preventive measures, and work in close co-operation with the Hunting and Fishing Department of the county of Graubünden;
4. while keeping traditional monitoring in good condition, further develop and financially secure research focusing on actual challenges (e. g. influence of Il Fuorn road traffic, visitors, neophytes, natural calamities, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) pollution, noise landscape) and issues to support management decisions;
5. continue the co-operation with the neighbouring Stelvio National Park at operational level and seek for possibilities to establish strategic cooperation at the level of both management authorities;

6. include the Macun area to the European Diploma and consider including the remaining part of the Biosphere Reserve;
7. give more visibility to and use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructures.