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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas

23-24 February 2022
(*virtual meeting*)

COMPILATION OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORTS

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

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**Areas in red did not submit an annual report*

Name of the awarded area	1. Belgium Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.66 / 28.03.2021 (extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)9	1) pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the European Union's LIFE programme;	3
		2) continue to acquire privately owned plots of land inside the reserve and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly owned nature reserves;	3
		3) continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve's European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision makers;	3
		4) continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse population in co-operation with the relevant European partners;	2
		5) ensure the sustainability of the measures taken under the LIFE Programme, which have had a very positive effect by providing the reserve with a guarantee of sufficient financial and human resources.	4
	Conditions	1) finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end.	3
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The habitat cartography has been finalized 2 new administrative employees at Malmedy direction There are new private land plots which have been bought and reverted to public land, potentially subdued to environmental management 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of workforce 	

	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial resources to maintain/renew the visitor's infrastructure
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information included	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations. • The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to explain the acronyms where needed and to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	2. France Camargue National Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	29.03.1966 / 28.03.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)5	1) study the possibility of reviving co-operation with other deltaic sites that have been awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania);	1
		2) grant sufficient additional resources, both financial and human, in particular with a view to the future setting up of a perimeter of protection as laid down in the law of 10 July 1976 on nature conservation, so as to guarantee management, surveillance and scientific monitoring of the reserve;	3
		3) ensure the strict application of limits to the discharge of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon, and pursue co-operation with rice growers in accordance with sustainable development principles, as well as to ensure the implementation of the five-year action program as agreed by the different stakeholders;	3
		4) initiate studies for the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as <i>Jussiaea repens</i> (<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>) or <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> , and provide the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control;	4
		5) give a higher profile to the European Diploma and the work of the Council of Europe, particularly in information provided at public reception points and in leaflets on the Camargue National Reserve;	4
		6) control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve;	4

		7) prepare a plan for adaptation to climate change, including the rise in sea level.	
	Conditions	1) guarantee the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2016. This condition should be removed or updated, as the MP 2011-2016 has already been completed, just like the following one, which will be extended up to 2027	2
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in financing and human resources for the new peripheral areas added to the managerial duties and responsibilities of SNPN • A lawsuit and a sentence have condemned for the first time some farmers for illegal spills of polluted waters or for the use of forbidden pesticides and herbicides in the periphery of the Reserve, some being detected by chemical analysis in the waters of the reserve lagoons. 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The acute problem of chemical pollution, although addressed, has not been solved yet compromising the conservation of the Vaccares lagoon and the rest of the lotic system, with clear indicators of degradation as is the case with <i>Zostera noltii</i> 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an agreement to extend the duration of the just concluded management plan since 2027 		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems that more than an improvement there has been a maintenance of the current state of visibility of the European Diploma 		
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS requests the authorities to provide more concise and direct information on the extent to which recommendations and conditions are met with and to explain the acronyms where needed.		

Name of the awarded area	3. United Kingdom Peak District National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	29.06.1966 / 28.03.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)11	<p>1) secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes, particularly through advice and brokerage of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations;</p> <p>The government-funded the “Farming in Protected Landscapes” programme, which was launched to support farmers and landowners in National Parks to transition to a new agricultural support system following Brexit.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Authority-led South West Peak Landscape Partnership (SWPLP) completed restoration works on 8.25ha of hay meadow and began an ambitious research project with Aberystwyth University surveying eDNA in soils on 26 different farms.</p> <p>The Peak District National Park Authority also lead two projects in the White Peak to influence the development of the Environmental Land Management Scheme and the national agricultural support scheme being developed following Brexit. Nothing has been said on lead mine rakes.</p>	4
		<p>2) halt and reverse the past degradation of heather moorland and blanket bog through moorland management plans, agri-environment schemes and with help from the Moors for the Future Partnership;</p> <p>During 2020/21 the Moors for the Future Partnership delivered £5 million (€6 million) worth of moorland restoration works, including stabilization of 30 hectares of bare peat through re-vegetation; installation of</p>	5

		10,000 dams and gulley blocks to raise the water table in the peat and slow erosion of blanket bog; planting of 1,000 sphagnum moss plugs; and restoration of 1.25 km of moorland footpaths.	
		3) step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species, particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland; The Southwest Peak Landscape Partnership produced 15 wader plans to provide advice on land management, furthermore a PhD was conducted and two peer-reviewed papers have been published. There were two confirmed persecution incidents- significantly fewer than in 2020.	5
		4) negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites; They have secured funding from the Local Authority Treescaping Fund, which allowed them to replace some diseased ash trees and they also established an Ash Dieback Plan to describe how we will address this significant issue on our own property. No information has been provided on other properties, which are not owned by the Peak District National Park Authority.	3
		5) implement with partners programmes to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, 2011-2020; See Recommendations 1-4.	5
		6) maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on land owned by the National Park Authority; in addition, implement measures on authority-owned land to maximise its contribution to nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives; By November 2021 95.5% of SSSI land within the National Park was in favourable	5

		or recovering condition (16% Favourable, 79.5% Recovering).	
		<p>7) carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach;</p> <p>Several projects have been carried out including the excavation of a 19th century limekiln or a field survey with community volunteers.</p>	5
		<p>8) implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner organisations, local communities and English Heritage to achieve targets;</p> <p>The Authority continues to implement its Cultural Heritage Strategy through its external partnerships and collaborative partnerships with external organisations continue.</p>	5
		<p>9) continue to provide encouragement to small-scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit;</p> <p>The Peak District National Park Authority continues to award businesses the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark – an environmental accreditation scheme that recognises and rewards positive sustainability practices and continues to support local landowners and managers in applying for agri-environment scheme and other financial measures to deliver national park objectives.</p>	5
		<p>10) only authorise extensions of existing mineral quarries to meet essential national needs, for example, if the minerals are not available elsewhere or are needed to provide traditional building materials in the park; seek restoration of mineral quarries to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the national park;</p> <p>The number of active mineral working sites in the national park has reduced</p>	5

		significantly over the last 30 years from 141 to 33 and many of those 33 are now in a final restoration phase or, having been restored, are in a period of prescriptive aftercare to bring the site to a beneficial after-use.	
		<p>11) continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and the environment and supports the local economy; ensure that the National Park Authority meets the requirements of an application for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel.</p> <p>The Peak District National Park works closely with Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire (MPDD), the tourist board for the area. They worked with them to support campaigns such as 'Time to enjoy the great outdoors' that promoted sustainable tourism and staycations as lockdown eased.</p> <p>To support this and the ongoing work around recreation hubs they are currently developing a sustainable transport programme with the ultimate aim being delivery of modal shift for visitors to the Peak District National Park.</p> <p>They also have delivered new heritage-focussed public walks with the Ranger team.</p>	
	Conditions	<p>1) complete the review of the national park management plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies it contains.</p> <p>The implementation of the National Park Management Plan 2018-23 delivery plan continues. They have started to review the Management Plan with partners to develop the 2023-28 vision, aims, objectives and targets and are seeking to adopt the new plan in September 2022.</p>	4
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes - Moorland restoration 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 wader plans to provide advice on land management - Secured funding from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund - Maintained more than 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Carried out conservation and community work at a landscape scale - Implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy - Provide encouragement to small-scale economic schemes - Restoration of mineral quarries - Close cooperation with the tourist board to support sustainable tourism
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information provided on the management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites which are not owned by the Peak District National Park Authority
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	4. Austria Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)7	1) review and, where necessary, improve the regulations of the protected area in order to strengthen the protection status; and devote a part of the management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park to the Krimml Waterfalls;	1
		2) continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural monument for future generations;	2
		3) avoid impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Waterfalls, especially in the areas around “Wasserfallboden” and “Schönangerl”;	2
		4) maintain great vigilance regarding the development close to the falls, e.g. installations or extension of shops, as well as medical care and new touristic activities (e.g. ice-climbing);	4
		5) avoid as far as possible increasing light pollution;	4
		6) continue to pay close attention to the problem of path erosion; and ensure that visitors only use the existing paths;	2
		7) pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on regional birdlife, fungi (including lichens) and bryophytes, as a contribution to protect the area's typical biodiversity;	2

		8) strengthen the co-operation with local stakeholders, especially land owners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations.	2
	Conditions		
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The information provided is tiny, and make difficult to evaluate the changes, achievements or accomplishments of the recommendations	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The information given on the World of Water site and its potential effect on the waterfalls seems a commercial, not a comprehensive and justified report		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No information provided		
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS requests the authorities to provide more concise and direct information on the extent to which recommendations and conditions are met with, giving the necessary information to evaluate if the protection of the site and its management are effective.		

Name of the awarded area	5. Germany Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 25.10.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)5	1) pursue a reduction, or at least a limitation to no more than the current amount, of the concession of ground-water extraction and co-ordinate the ground-water extraction for irrigation on farmland technically and quantitatively with the activities and infrastructures of Wasserwerke Hamburg; carry out additional studies and monitoring in order to collect more information about the influences of all kinds of water extraction on species and ecosystems; and simulation modelling should be undertaken for all factors possibly influencing the groundwater level, the soil, the streams, the different types of vegetation including forests, the biotopes of red-list-species, and the natural dynamic of the whole ecosystem;	4
		2) pursue political recognition of the VNP's Lüneburger Heide Nature Reserve (NLH) and increase the public funding to the same level as that provided to Federal Nature Parks;	1
		3) reconsider the ongoing practice of agricultural funding and pursue recognition of all types of heathland cultivation and all heathland restoration activities as a kind of 'green land cultivation' with the same amount of funding, especially during the EU-funding period 2013-2020; 0. NOTE: This question should be reconsidered, taking into account the new EU-funding period	

		4) pursue the continuation of funding for the rearing of the “Heidschnucke” (Heathland sheep) by Lower Saxony and the Federal Republic and recognise the “Dülmener Pferde” (Heathland horses) as worthy of subsidy by the rear-premium of Lower Saxony;	3
		5) develop a concept for connecting the large heathlands areas east and west of Wilsede by an ecological corridor;	5
		6) pursue restoration of streams, their associated wetland biotopes and their buffer strips;	3
		7) reduce areas with cultivation of energy-crops to a level that does not affect the nature reserve’s flora, fauna, groundwater and the scenic attractions;	0
		8) continue ecological forest management and convert mono-croppings of spruce into mixed forests including oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.);	3
		9) ensure that existing scientific data are included and respected in regional planning processes and also ensure that negative impacts on the nature reserve from outside the area’s boundary are prevented; before licensing a wind farm, or any other project in the neighbourhood of the reserve, carry out sufficient and detailed studies taking into account the formulated VNP recommendations;	1
		10) complete the database of Lower Saxony concerning FFH-Species so that all species existing in the reserve are listed and considered in regional, national and federal planning procedures;	1

		11) create suitable ecological corridors between the nature reserve and the black grouse biotopes outside the reserve without endangering infrastructures such as like wind turbines;	0
		12) realize the concept of buffer zone areas with a high protection status in the neighboring areas of the nature reserve;	1
		13) establish a corps of rangers (Naturwacht).	0
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNP has been able to conduct, in tough conditions both in financial and human resources, and in a scenario of pandemic, remarkable managerial activities like habitat restoration, establishment of ecological corridors and specific activities concerning flagships livestock species and endangered species 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing continues to be a limiting factor, as well as the recognition of VPN as a manager entity of the Reserve in equal terms as the protected areas managed by public authorities 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attacks of wolves to the sheep herds continue to be a problem. The reluctance to increase the number of guard dogs due to the huge amount of visitors seems to block the only proper solution to diminish the effects of the wolves. 		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information included. The use of the logo in the web page is not indicated in the report as an improvement 		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS requests the authorities to include in their next report an an evaluation of damages of the wolves to the sheep herds.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	6. Sweden Muddus National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)2	1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new “Laponiatjouttjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;	5
		2) continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;	3
		3) establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Lapponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;	3
		4) continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change;	3
		5) assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact);	3
		6) consider linking the Muddus National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Lapponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;	0

		7) Reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.	0
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and financial resources seems adequate to manage the area 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding variable depending on the year 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information included in the report about novelties on that issue. 		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS requests from the authorities to include comprehensive information to evaluate the extent to which Recommendation No. 2 is complied with.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	7. Sweden Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)3	1) provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the “Laponiatjouttjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new management plan and ensure a smooth transition from the former county management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the management plan;	5
		2) continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserve the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;	3
		3) establish a centralised research database linked to a GIS for the whole Lapponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;	3
		4) closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing;	1
		5) set up a system for estimating the number of visitors, their profile and distribution over the year and initiate a research programme on the long-term impact of the different human activities (e.g. reindeer herding, fishing and tourism) on the landscape, and design a programme to monitor the effects of the climatic change;	3

		6) build and equip as soon as possible the visitor information centre in Stora Sjöfallet for the Laponia World Heritage site and provide specific information on the different National Parks; establish a network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the parks and communicate about the different categories of international designations;	5
		7) consider linking the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with the Muddus National Park and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site;	0
		8) reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organise a workshop with the relevant international organisations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, and National Park Service) with a view to harmonising the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.	0
	Conditions		
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		
	Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laponiatjuottjudus has continued the restoration and maintenance of the historical research cabins built up at the beginning of the XX century 	
	To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information included in the report about novelties on that issue. 	

Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS requests the authorities to report specifically on the recommendations regarding the area rather than reproducing information from the report on Muddus National Park.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>
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Name of the awarded area	8. Switzerland Swiss National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 27.10.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)6	1) take all necessary measures to fulfil the UNESCO condition that the national park, which is the core zone of the “Biosfera Val Müstair/Parc Naziunal” biosphere reserve, be entirely surrounded by a buffer zone;	3
		2) ensure that staff numbers are sufficient to comply with existing requirements and grant sufficient additional resources with a view to the celebration in 2014 of the 100 year jubilee;	5
		3) continue to raise among local inhabitants, municipalities and visitors, the awareness of the return of large carnivores, working in close co-operation with the Hunting and Fishing Department of the county of Graubünden;	2
		4) initiate studies with the different ministries and authorities concerned on the possibilities of minimizing the impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road;	3
		5) continue the close co-operation with the neighbouring Stelvio National Park;	2
		6) consider the enlargement of the European Diploma area to include the whole of the Biosphere Reserve.	3
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 was the second year where the 3 large predators bear, wolf and lynx have been present in the SNP at the same time. Seems a good indicator of natural rewilding and that the conditions inside the protected area evolve positively in conservation terms 	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information included 	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS invites the authorities to carry out urgently the study on wolves pending approval and financing in order to know as precisely as the effects on the economy of local stakeholders potentially affected by wolves' presence.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	9. Italy Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.10.1967 / 26.11.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)10	1) begin implementation of the PATOM action plan for the protection of the bear population as soon as possible, facilitated by the administration of the PNALM;	3
		2) continue discussions on the inclusion within the diploma-holding area of the sectors adjacent to the PNALM deemed to be of major biological interest for large carnivores, especially the brown bears and wolves;	0
		3) complete the preparation of the economic and social development plan by the end of 2012, as scheduled by the PNALM administration, with a view to its early implementation;	0
		4) substantially increase the human and financial resources earmarked for scientific activities in the PNALM and tailor them to the complex problems which the Park will be facing over the next few years; ensure that its general capacities are such that it can carry out its conservation and monitoring assignments appropriately;	2
		5) consider the possibility of instructing all technical personnel to record any violations of the PNALM regulations;	0
		6) launch discussions on the need for controlled management of red deer, linking this to improving the state of conservation of the chamois population;	0

		7) make a special effort to support rural tourism activities around the PNALM periphery;	2
		8) launch discussions with local mayors on the issue of stock and wildlife feeding.	0
	Conditions	1) that the PNALM National Park management plan be finally adopted within a maximum period of one year, i.e. before the meeting of the Group of Specialists in 2013;	2
		2) that strenuous efforts be taken so that:	5
		a) in pursuance of Italy's Framework Law on Protected Areas, peripheral zones are created on the territories of the Abruzzi and Molise regions by the end of 2013, and that regulations on hunting, which take account of the need to minimise disturbance to bears during the autumn, are introduced in these zones and applied with effect from, at the latest, the 2013-2014 hunting season;	
	Achievements	b) the regulations prohibiting livestock farming within zone A of the National Park are applied absolutely and without delay, and that local elected representatives are made aware of this matter;	1
		c) consultation begins without delay with the municipal authorities of the National Park municipalities on physical closure of those access routes to the diploma-holding area which are most critical from the viewpoint of the conservation of large animals; this consultation should lead to closure arrangements and appropriate regulations, taking account of the rights of local third parties, being adopted by the end of 2013;	2
		• The evaluation of the brown bear population seems to be successful, just like the evolution of the population, which seems to be occupying slowly new areas in the vicinity of the core of the park.	

	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of a fence 2 meters high along 83 km of a road, located in an area precisely described as a corridor for the species connecting Abruzzo NT and the regional park of Sirente Velino, do not seem to be the best way to guarantee the biological expansion or connectivity of the Marsican Brown Bear population, at the expense of receiving more precise information on that issue • The lack of natural pollinators of <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreement between the region of the Abruzzos and the NP for the management of the Reserve Regionale de Chiarano-Sparvera • <i>The Drapeau Vert</i> award won by the farmers of the area • The natural comeback of the otter to the park • The declaration of « Environmental Economic Zones » the municipalities inside National Parks in Italy, which has allowed to face in favourable conditions the effects of the 2020-21 Covid pandemic on local economies. • The forthcoming increase in the extension of the Strict Natural reserves of the National Park after the set-in place of the Management Plan 	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information included in the report	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS regrets that the Management Plan is still not adopted.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	10. Germany Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	29.11.1968 / 28.11.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)1	1) in co-operation with the Swiss authorities, assess the possibilities to harmonise the regulations for the protection of nature on both shores and to extend the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to the State border in order to enlarge the water zone, which is especially important during low water periods in winter;	1 <input type="text"/>
		2) pursue the efforts to improve the connections between protected sites in the hinterland and the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve in connection with the extension of the trunk road B33, including the enlargement and/or adaptation of the nature reserve's boundaries; compensation measures should be continued, and the construction has to be carried out with the least impact for the protected area;	1 <input type="text"/>
		3) end fishery in the most sensitive areas, mainly Schläuche and southern Hegne Bay, under the provisions of the bilateral treaty between Germany and Switzerland, with the aim to improve the quality of this area as a breeding ground, wintering place and moulting area;	1 <input type="text"/>
		4) abandon the still existing cycle path between the B33 road and the protected area boundaries, which is only used by a limited number of cyclists, and include the path into the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve to enable more efficient control of the visitors by bike;	1 <input type="text"/>

		5) reduce or stop disturbances to the protected area caused by leisure activities and sports through awareness raising and dissemination of information to boat rental companies, and to hot-air balloon and Zeppelin tour operators;	3 <input type="text"/>
		6) strictly consider the boundaries of the protected area, their potential for extension and the need for sufficient buffer zones to meet the objectives of the protected areas when examining the further extension of building areas in the communities concerned.	1 <input type="text"/>
	Conditions	1) prepare a study on the legal possibilities of enlarging the strict core zones of the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve and report to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention by 2024;	3
		2) reject any proposals or plans aiming to eliminate naturally formed barriers such as the <i>Schneggglisand</i> and silting areas and to enable undisturbed natural processes without human intervention in a larger area, except in cases of public interest, for example flood protection;	4
		3) draft and adopt a management plan meeting the provisions and objectives of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and addressing the recommendations attached to the renewal of the diploma by 2022;	2
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are plans and actions, some of them well advanced, to enlarge the reserve to protect peripheral areas under jeopardised by urban and transport infrastructure development 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an urgent need to set up and apply the Management Plan for the area, which should address some if not most of the recommendations and conditions proposed by the Expert Group in the past There seems not to be established a permanent mixed managerial or participatory committee or body with the Swiss authorities at the other part of the border, with also the participation of local stakeholders, like fishers and leisure companies operating in the area 	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information included in the report
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS notes that there is a lack of critical information, like human and financial resources dedicated to the area and their evolution or changes along the time, or the actions to publicize the European Diploma, and specific information responding to some of the conditions / recommendations</p>

Name of the awarded area	12. Germany Siebengebirge Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	22.09.1971 / 21.09.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)10	1) in case of changes in the management of the area, the leading role of the VVS (Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge), whose work to date has been fully satisfactory in the eyes of the Council of Europe, should be maintained;	5
		2) develop a new financial plan together with local communities and the Rhein-Sieg-District;	2
		3) continue the provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government;	5
		4) maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads;	5
		5) minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area and consider the setting up of a system of public transport for visitors;	3
		6) continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area so as to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity of the Siebengebirge as a protected area;	5
		7) encourage the continuation and extension of scientific research.	5
	Conditions	1) to draw up a management plan within three years in order to guarantee the preservation of the reserve and its cohesion within the larger area of the nature park.	5
	Achievements	C1 & R1 & R3 & R4: Realized. R2: In progress; no changes compared to last year. R5: In November 2021 the Königswinter city council has obliged itself committed to achieve climate neutrality in the city until 2035. To realize this aim, bicycle, foot traffic and public transportation shall be given priority. VVS has	

		<p>introduced a motion in the nature park assembly to develop new plans.</p> <p>R6: In progress; additional a walking guidebook “Hiking trails to wildernis” was published in 2021. Five different hiking trails (35 km altogether) guide visitors through the wildernis area. In 65 “wildernis windows” on wooden posts along the five routes natural phenomena and developments are vividly explained. An extensive glossary with typical wildlife species complete the richly illustrated guide. Via QR-code (on the signposts) visitors have access to the website of the VVS and can download the “Hiking trails to wildernis”.</p> <p>R7: In progress; At the moment the focus seems to be on geological topics.</p>
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Visitor numbers and pressure on the nature reserve have increased overall, but trail management could be optimised through improved visitor guidance/guides.</p> <p>The number of rangers in charge of the area was further increased with the support of the nature park authority (+2).</p> <p>The security measures at the Drachenfels continue and must be further expanded.</p> <p>The increased immigration of wolves into the area is expected, which will result in increased herd protection measures for grazing livestock (including flocks of sheep and goats to keep the landscape open).</p> <p>The conversion of the forest to deciduous (mixed) forest stands is being consistently pursued (e.g. in the dead spruce monocultures after bark beetle calamities).</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma Award will continue to be used in all public relations activities of the VVS (e.g. VVS homepage, publications, leaflets, excursions, press releases, etc.).</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations. One needs to keep a focus on the near-natural forest conversion which should be further promoted, also the wilderness area should be brought closer to the national target of 1000 ha through extensions where possible.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	13. Germano/Luxembourg Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	26.10.73 / 25.10.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)3	1) pursue and develop cross-border co-operation and collaboration and explore the best adapted form of transfrontier co-ordination, including the formulation of common mid- and long-term development objectives and the reactivating of an intergovernmental committee, as appropriate;	4
		2) ensure that nature conservation management in the Zweckverband Naturpark Südeifel mirrors the practice and performance of the Luxembourg nature parks;	2
		3) make more extensive use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, first of all in the visitors' centre and on the website.	3
	Conditions	1) at the initiative of the States concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible;	3
		2) engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park	3
		3) define specifications and a road map for the drawing-up of a global management plan for the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park incorporating those of the nature parks on its territory; prepare the management plan before the next renewal of the European Diploma falls due and ensure the funding required for its implementation	4
	Achievements	R1 & R3 & C1 & C2: In progress. C3: With the involvement of local stakeholders, it was possible to complete a spatial analysis in the	

		summer of 2021, on the basis of which recommendations for action were defined for the area of the Nature Park. Partners are seeking funding within the framework of the next Interreg program of the Greater Region (2021-2027).
	Shortcomings	R2: The exchange meetings planned for 2021 between the nature parks Südeifel, Möllerdall and Our and their partners from the fields of sustainable rural development (LEADER) and tourism (regional tourist associations) had to be cancelled also in 2021 COVID-19 conditionally.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Numerous measures in protected area management were carried out in the European Diploma area. The nature conservation measures in the Möllerdall Nature and Geopark for insect protection and protection in the open countryside through grassland conservation and development are representative examples. Also, the preparation of a Natura 2000 management plan for the Natura 2000 areas in the Our Nature Park and the development of a visitor-guiding mountain bike trail network, which is to contribute to the calming of sensitive protected areas on both sides of the Our and will start in 2022. The Southern Eifel Nature Park is also working on increased digital visitor guidance.</p> <p>The Our Nature Park has expanded its team by 5 project managers.</p> <p>Conflicts have arisen in the area of various designated nature reserves by mountain bikers. A project starts to work out a cross-border mountain bike trail with all parties involved, beginning in 2022.</p> <p>In the coalition agreement in Rhineland Palatinate that there are plans to establish regional nature conservation stations and to finance them in line with demand in order to strengthen and expand nature and species conservation. To avoid duplicate structures, existing actors like nature park Southern Eifel are to be integrated. The necessary coordination talks are planned for 2022.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	On its new website the Our Nature Park refers to the cross-border cooperation within the framework of the German-Luxembourg Nature Park and also refers to the link of the EDPA.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations. The cross-border cooperation of the German-Luxembourg Nature Park could also be continued in a proven manner in the pandemic situation in 2021 through the use of video conferences and online workshops and continues to serve the objective of implementing the conditions and recommendations associated with the European Diploma.	

No report received

Name of the awarded area	14. France Vanoise National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.03.1976 / 18.03.2021
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3	1) pay close attention to natural and landscape issues when development projects are carried out on the periphery of the park and avoid any direct or indirect impact on the core area;	
		2) co-ordinate the park's "core" and "optimal buffer zone" objectives with the "green and blue infrastructure objectives";	
		3) ensure that nature and landscape protection interests are fully taken into account when making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydropower concessions;	
		4) actively pursue diagnostic and management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses mesh harmoniously with, and are in synergy with, protection of its natural assets;	
		5) continue to strike a balance between the reception and service functions of refuges and refuge gates on the one hand, and their information and awareness-raising functions on the other hand, by pursuing the development of facilities for categories of visitors who require special attention, such as people with disabilities;	
		6) supervise and strictly regulate air sports so as to reduce their adverse impact on fauna.	
		7) consider submitting a joint annual report with Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy)	
	Conditions	1) define a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park.	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		

Name of the awarded area	15. Turkey Kuşçenneti National Park (NP)	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	15.03.1976 / 14.03.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)6	1) increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement;	1
		2) ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;	5
		3) set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area.	3
	Conditions	1) finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;	3
		2) submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;	3
		3) regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Sığirci Delta and Koçocay Delta;	3
		4) continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it.	3

	Achievements	<p>R2: Due to long term monitoring, good information is available. Lake's natural water level shows seasonal changes; Water fluctuations are caused by seasonal fluctuations and weather conditions; there have not been any adverse effects resulting from State Water Affairs practices that may affect bird population. No changes compared to last year's report.</p> <p>R3: In progress; No changes compared to last year's report.</p> <p>C1: In progress. NP management plan was approved in 2019. A detailed list of many activities of the plan with management goals is given in the report (it is just not obvious what has been done and has not been done yet).</p> <p>C2: In progress; No changes compared to last year's report.</p> <p>C 3: In progress; Bird population dynamics have been observed and recorded at 12 different points, especially in Sigirci Delta and Kocaçay Delta, since 2010. A new project "Preparation, Implementation and Monitoring of Species Action Plans for Endangered Species in Turkey within the Concept of a New Methodology" has just started.</p> <p>C 4: In progress; No changes compared to last year's report.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>R1: Number of staffs decreased again (-1). The most important problem was the housing problem of the staff, but now renovation of the Administration and Visitor Promotion Center is ongoing. Thus, it is planned to increase the number of staffs in the next years.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>+ Several research studies (MA, PhD) take place in NP.</p> <p>- There is a huge decrease in bird number (Fig.1) from 2011 to 2021 of around one fifth, but no explanation or comment on this. Is this alarming or not?!</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available in the report.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing most of the conditions and recommendations. One needs to keep a focus on the amount of staff as well as the development of biodiversity, e.g. birds. Information about the visibility of the EDPA should be provided.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	16. Germany Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.03.1978 / 02.03.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)2	1) achieve, as soon as possible, the formal extension of the European Diploma area to 934 hectares, change the name to "Weltenburger Enge, Hirschberg und Altmuehlleiten" and adapt as soon as possible all signposts, brochures, maps and leaflets to the new area. Prepare and adopt, by 2020, an overall management plan in addition to the existing Natura 2000 management plan;	3
		2) assess the effects of wave disturbances, caused by larger boats, on the river bank and on selected and relevant species, especially fish, freshwater molluscs and dragonflies;	3
		3) consider a harmonisation of information boards and a better planning of their distribution across the area and add the European Diploma logo at least to those boards containing information on natural and cultural highlights within the European Diploma area. This includes the information point at the boat landing in Kelheim. Immediately add information about the role of the European Diploma on information boards, at least those at the main access routes;	3
		4) increase and conduct more efficient control of illegal mountain-biking off the official mountain-bike routes;	4
		5) carefully examine the opening of official viewing points taking into consideration the natural value of the specific site, and close down a number of uncontrolled and unsafe spots;	4
		6) put an emphasis on the natural succession of forests and the development of more natural forest reserves in the total area and avoid clear cuts of any size. Minimise commercial exploitation of forests and stop the use of heavy machinery in forestry management. Thoroughly assess any	3

		intervention in the forest around the Befreiungshalle and refrain from any forest management that cannot be considered ecological;	
		7) recognise the need for professional, on-site supervision of the area, including fieldwork by professional and permanent staff, and envisage an increase in capacity of permanent supervision staff;	3
		8) assess the technical possibilities and financial support for restoration of the Klösterl cultural monument.	1
	Conditions	1) conduct an expertise on legal options to stop or at least regulate disembarking of private boats on the right bank of the Danube between the Weltenburg landing place and river kilometre 2416, and to ban overnight camping and campfires in the whole European Diploma area. Report to the Council of Europe by 2020 at the latest;	4
		2) extend, wherever ecologically and touristically worthwhile and as soon as possible, the stricter regulations of the decree on the Nature Reserve Hirschberg und Altmuehlleiten to the area of the Nature Reserve Weltenburger Enge to make the rules more comprehensible for visitors and supervision more effective, and to underline the unity of both sites as an ecological entity;	4
		3) take more responsibility for the preservation of the archaeological monument Keltenwall (Celtic wall) and stop further damage and erosion through visitor management or appropriate installations to limit hiking and mountain-biking on the monument, in co-operation with the government agency for monument conservation;	3
	Achievements	<p>C1 & C2: In progress; an ordinance on the future "Weltenburger Enge, Hirschberg und Altmühlleiten" Nature Reserve is in the status of public inspection.</p> <p>C3: In progress; partly covered by the aforementioned ordinance, further work is planned</p> <p>R1: In progress.</p> <p>R2: A FFH compatibility assessment study was commissioned and completed in December 2020 on conventional passenger shipping. For the vessel with jet propulsion an extra assessment will be prepared. The planned navigation restrictions can be seen as harm-reducing and therefore no further measures for limiting any damage are planned.</p>	

		<p>Impacts resulting from the planned operations do not indicate any significant detrimental effects relating to the FFH protected species group “fish”. No information about dragonflies or molluscs.</p> <p>R3: In progress.</p> <p>R4: In progress; partly covered by the aforementioned ordinance, round tables take place, three rangers have been in action.</p> <p>R5: In progress; partly covered by the aforementioned ordinance, further signs are put up, three rangers have been in action.</p> <p>R6: In progress; forests have been permanently placed under protection as natural forest which are not to be used for forest farming with immediate effect. For the forest areas of State-owned Palaces etc., a management was commissioned, priority is being awarded to the preservation of monuments while considering nature conservation aspects as well.</p> <p>R7: In progress; Number of rangers increased (+2).</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>R7: Since November 2021 the project manager for the National Natural Monument position is vacant.</p> <p>R8: It is said that the Klösterl is privately owned and responsibility for maintenance lies with the owner. No information about further actions like contact with the owner to find common solution.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>In the budget 2021 of the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection a separate Chapter “National Natural Monument Weltenburger Enge” has been created for the setting up and for the duties of the new administrative agency. Sufficient funds are available for these tasks. It is expected that the budget funds will be carried over to the coming year.</p> <p>Difficulties have been encountered in finding a permanent solution for a property in which the administrative agency, including a nature experience and visitor centre, can be set up on a long term basis.</p> <p>The high leisure/usage pressure on and along the Danube continues. Impacts can still be seen in all areas of the protection area</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>For the National Natural Monument and for the new Nature Reserve all information boards and the visitor channelling concept will be updated after conclusion of the protected area procedure and, where necessary, supplemented with information on the role of the European Diploma.</p> <p>Already in 2020 the European Diploma logo was added to all protected area information boards, where required. Whenever boards have to be replaced, the logo along with the brief information will be directly taken up in the layout. Reference is made to the European Diploma area in publications and on the information platform at the Kelheim boat landing point.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing most of the conditions and recommendations. One needs to keep a focus on the high leisure and usage pressure on and along the Danube. More efforts for preserving the important cultural monument Klösterl should be done</p>	

Name of the awarded area	17. Greece Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria)	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 12.09.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)9	1) proceed as quickly as possible to the signing of the pending presidential decree recognising the new boundaries of the Samaria National Park; adapt accordingly the funding of the management board and the implementation of the management plan; continue the monitoring of species and ecosystems, including in particular the phenomenon of drying pine trees;	3
		2) open a certain number of side trails along the main trail for several purposes: a. for mountaineering, b. for scientific research, c. to make some historical buildings or ruins accessible for rehabilitation, and d. to create new emergency paths for rescuing people or combating fires. The access to these newly reopened trails should be prohibited for visitors and strictly regulated;	3
		3) design and apply measures to reverse the observed invasion of old olive groves by pine trees next to the village of Samaria;	3
		4) preserve the current extent and quality of wilderness, excluding any new roads within the limits of the Samaria National Park, and retain a similar situation as far as possible in the surrounding areas;	3
		5) take appropriate measures to facilitate the accessibility of the national park for disabled people up to 2.5 km from the south entrance of the park.	1
	Conditions	None.	
	Achievements	R1: In progress. R2: In progress; A Civil Engineer was hired, prepared bureaucratic procedures for the assignment of building and aggregates, pharmacy, fuel costs and outsourced	

		<p>work to third parties for renovation and stonework. The aim of the act is to restore, highlight and tidy the temples, so that they are delivered statically and morphologically restored and safely accessible, harmoniously integrated into the natural environment of the forest.</p> <p>R3: In progress; A study with an external consultant to map and evaluate the current state of the old olive groves near the village of Samaria was completed in 2021. Results will be used in order to conduct an action plan for the olive groves management.</p> <p>R4: In progress.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>R5: No information on the in the last report mentioned study "Samaria access for all. Agia Roumeli entrance gate of EDLO".</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>A new IUCN Red List Assessments of threatened taxa of the Lefka Ori area was implemented which is now in the process of publication.</p> <p>The system for governing protected areas in Greece is under reformation. The management of protected areas is going to be assigned to the new Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Currently administrative preparations are made so that the New Agency can fully uptake its responsibilities. It is expected that within the next months the management of the National park is going to be assigned to the "Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency", thus Management Body will change.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The logo of the European Diploma appears on the information sign at the entrance of the National Park and on all the signs along the central path, on the home page of the official website of the National Park. It is also included in the book about the Gorge of Samaria that was reissued in 2015, in the chapter "Protection and Management of Samaria National Park". Council of Europe flags have been hoisted at both entrances.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing most of the conditions and recommendations. One needs to keep an eye on possible negative effects of the transition to another authority, and National Park should improve accessibility to all persons.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	18. United Kingdom Minsmere Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.09.1979 / 13.09.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)5	1) control, wherever possible, the invasion of bracken with mechanical means, as opposed to the use of herbicides; in cases of restoration of big areas, the use of chemical products should be limited to the minimum possible extent and a careful record of this practice should be kept in order to assess and cope with possible undesirable side effects; specific scientific research on this issue should be carried out;	2
		2) pursue efforts to mitigate the effect of the rise in the sea level; explore the possibility of restoring the lost habitats in other parts of the reserve; envisage compensatory measures; carefully monitor indicative plant and fauna species and duly register and scientifically characterise the changes observed;	3
		3) continue the land purchase policy; in the absence of opportunities to acquire new plots, establish long-term agreements with the land owners of selected areas to improve their contribution to biodiversity conservation and/or restoration;	2
		4) maintain the surveillance of alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing the pirri-pirri bur (<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>) and pursue the control of the American mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>).	3
	Conditions	1. with regard to the project for a third reactor at the Sizewell nuclear power plant (project Sizewell C), carry out a proper Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment according to international standards; the results of these assessments should ensure that the construction of the new reactor will not be to	3

		the detriment of the Minsmere Nature Reserve;	
	Achievements	R2: In progress, workshops were postponed to 2022 due to pandemic situation R4: In progress. There was Spraying to control pirri-pirri, and no signs of mink presence were observed.	
	Shortcomings	R1: Bracken has brought under control, but only with chemical products. R3: No appropriate land purchase opportunities; No changes compared to last year's report.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>C1: RSPB played a very active role in the Examination Process on the third reactor at the Sizewell nuclear power plant. They believe that on current evidence the proposal could be to the detriment of the protected sites at Minsmere and beyond and should not proceed. These significant concerns were raised by a number of other stakeholders, including the County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and constituency Member of Parliament.</p> <p>More monitoring of species was possible again, since last year due to pandemic situation there was few. Several rare or key species and breeding success were observed.</p>		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>Acknowledgement of the European Diploma award was included in the Reserve Leaflet which is normally given to all visitors to the site. This was suspended due to pandemic situation. They have yet to determine whether they will go back to paper in due course or rely on mobile devices. They would ideally like to make greater use of QR codes alongside mobile devices but are still restricted by the lack of mobile coverage on-site.</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing most of the conditions and recommendations. A great concern is the project for a third reactor at the Sizewell nuclear power plant, according to RSPB this will be to the detriment of the protected sites at Minsmere and should not proceed.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	19. United Kingdom Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	26.05.1983 / 25.05.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)19	1) make a comprehensive mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2015-2026) in 2020 and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate;	5
		2) prepare a revised management plan, taking an appropriately long-term view based on adaptation to the effects of climate change, by the end of 2026;	3
		3) ensure the continuance of monitoring of, and research on, the flora and fauna for the conservation of the native species, to derive appropriate performance and conservation indicators, and to assess the effects of climate change;	4
		4) devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national nature reserve and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area;	4
		5) develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly targeting children and youths.	4
	Conditions		
	Achievements	R1: Completed in 2020. R2: In progress. R3: In progress, monitoring and other research is going on. R4: In progress, a lot is going on (Visitor Management Plan, Sustainable Tourism with UNESCO Wester Ross biosphere, Code of Conduct for sportspeople, etc.) R5: In progress.	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	They continue to develop a landscape scale, long-term partnership with their neighbors. The aim is for ecological restoration over a large area (30,000ha) of Wester Ross, which will regenerate some rare habitats, such as temperate rainforest, and make the habitats and species more resilient to climate change. This long-term approach shall have significant gains for nature, people and resilience to climate change.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	In their Visitor Management Plan there is one aim to promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas, by adding the logo to some of the visitor areas. They already display the European Diploma certificate in the Beinn Eighe Field Station where they host meetings and deliver presentations.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing of the conditions and recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	20. United Kingdom Purbeck Heritage Coast	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.1984 / 20.06.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)4	1) secure appropriate funding incentives for continuing environmentally friendly management of the landscape;	3
		2) promote and improve public transportation and more sustainable methods of transport, particularly near the most visited sites;	2
		3) monitor the number of visitors in order to determine their impact on the environment; a visitor-management strategy should be prepared for the areas with the largest number of visitors in order to avoid any negative impact either on the quality of the recreational experience or on the natural treasures of the Purbeck Heritage Coast;	2
		4) consider further investments to improve the habitat and landscape connectivity within the Purbeck Heritage Coast;	3
		5) promote the monitoring of the main species and habitats in the area and encourage partners to co-ordinate efforts and produce high-quality data for the whole diploma-holding area;	2
		6) Initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien species occurring in the Purbeck Heritage Coast, particularly the Canada goose and the sika deer, and if deemed necessary, prepare a strategic plan for their control.	3
	Conditions	1) ensure that the terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and Perenco are strictly adhered to; Perenco should continue to work to the highest standards;	3

		<p>2) ensure that the enlargement of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries conform to the “exceptions” principle that they should only be permitted if they do not impair the character of the Purbeck Heritage Coast as a result of any one or a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the scale and duration of the project; – the negative impact on the landscape, wildlife and the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities; - the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years following the cessation of work; 	3
	Achievements	<p>C1: The Wytch Farm Oilfield’s Operating Agreement exists and compliance seems good. Perenco itself carries out a number of annual ecological surveys around its land management areas with positive results on species/diversity.</p> <p>R1: In progress; Several funded projects and management activities are ongoing.</p> <p>R2: In progress; A Sustainable Tourism Strategy will be developed until March 2022.</p> <p>R3: In progress; A Visitor Management Strategy was set up for some areas.</p> <p>R4: In progress; A Sustainable Tourism Strategy will be developed until March 2022. The new Management Plan was formally adopted by the 7 landowning partners.</p> <p>R5: In progress; partner organisations have agreed on a comprehensive monitoring programme.</p> <p>R6: In progress; A Deer Management Plan is being agreed amongst the partners.</p>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>C2: There is an application for physical extension and extension of operation at Swanworth Quarry. The Dorset AONB team has advised that the Council should refuse this application due to its likely adverse impacts to the Purbeck Heritage Coast. Negotiations are ongoing.</p> <p>Public finance continues to represent a risk; all conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area. A national Landscapes Review has been published in 2019 and recommends strengthening both funding and legal protections for AONBs and National Parks which would benefit the Heritage Coast area. UK Government is expected to respond in early 2022.</p>		

	The beaver reintroduction feasibility study led by National Trust has led to an application for a wild-release licence. This is being considered by central government, which has recently closed a consultation on beaver licencing policy.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available in the report.
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes good progress in implementing most of the conditions and recommendations. A great concern is the application for physical extension and extension of a quarry. The AONB team has advised that the Council should refuse this application due to its likely adverse impacts to the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

Name of the awarded area	21. United Kingdom Fair Isle National Scenic Area	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)6	1) consider a ban on fishing and catching of lobsters within the marine protected area or at least in a scientifically defined area;	1
		2) consider the inclusion of the marine protected area into the European Diploma site;	1
		3) enhance the housing-related quality of life through appropriate measures, mainly concerning renovation and restoration; take into consideration the peculiar conditions of local businesses and improve working conditions through the installation of appropriate manufacturing locations;	2
		4) give the European Diploma a prominent place at the entrance of or inside the new bird observatory.	1
	Conditions	1) by 2022, review the 2010-2019 management plan, as was foreseen in 2018, and elaborate a new management plan to secure the continuous development and management of the Fair Isle Scenic Area;	1
		2) consider, in the above-mentioned management plan, the conditions and recommendations of the appraisal report and include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term conservation of endemic species and species of birds;	1
		3) make more extensive use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever useful.	2

	Achievements	C3: A media team was engaged to initiate appropriate media for summer 2022, this will include use of the logo in media. Furthermore, the logo is displayed on the island on the school building. (Still, it should be much more visible, like on the homepage etc.)
	Shortcomings	<p>C1 & C2: Significant disruption to work schedules in consequence of pandemic situation has delayed management planning. Still the planning team intend to deliver the plan during 2022.</p> <p>R1: There are no information about a ban on fishing and catching of lobsters. Still, it is said that it is intended to set up a V-notching and tagging programme that will provide stock assessment and fishing pressure data at a local level. The project also aims to improve collaboration with several stakeholders and should ensure traditional fishing activities can be continued on a sustainable basis.</p> <p>R2: No developments yet.</p> <p>R3: In 2022 renovations on the school house and nurses house are planned, as well as setting up the position of a “Fair Isle Development Officer”.</p> <p>R4: No developments yet.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>There was and is a lot of changes in the staff.</p> <p>With regards to terrestrial habitat management, the key change has been alterations to the common grazing. Rather than each croft maintaining and being responsible for individual shares on the hill, a proposal was adopted in summer 2021 to change to a system of shared flock management.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available in the report.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS notes some progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations, still there is most of it to do or to start.	

No report received

Name of the awarded area	22. France Scandola Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.85 / 21.09.2020 (Not renewed in 2020)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)11	1) complete, by the end of 2011 at the latest, and implement as soon as possible, the new management plan and include recommendations and objectives for effective monitoring of new, emerging and existing activities;	
		2) continue the efforts already made in order to provide the manager with the necessary funds to manage the site in an ambitious manner commensurate with its reputation and outstanding character; increase the operating budget and the scientific research budget;	
		3) move towards an increase of the Barrier tax (the revenues from which are used to finance the management of protected marine sites) through a review of the tax which could include extending it to everyone who visits the site, increasing the amount of the tax, changing the way it is collected and/or monitoring the number of visitors carried by boat trip operators;	
		4) continue to draw on the work of the scientific committee, in order to manage the site in a effective way; continue to ensure that the reserve serves as a reference point by including it in international programmes;	

		5) deepen and widen research, especially on climate change which has an impact on animal communities and ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial; publish the methods and findings in order to contribute to providing solutions to environmental problems in the Mediterranean;	
		6) allow only fishing with highly selective gear and introduce medium- or long-term bans on trammel nets in areas populated by deep-water stands of <i>Cystoseira Profondes</i> and other species, at depths of between 30 and 90 metres, and any other fishing gear (present or future) that has an unsustainable impact on marine ecosystems;	
		7) maintain and raise the awareness of the need to respect the environment in the Scandola Nature Reserve among boat trip operators; any operators which fail to do so before a certain date should not be allowed into the integral section of the reserve.	
	Conditions	1) undertake, between now and 2012, the planned extension of the marine part of the Scandola Nature Reserve, which should mean a significant enlargement of the site and more specifically of the integral section of the reserve. This project could be included in the works done in the framework of the implementation of the 2006 Law on National Parks, Natural Marine Parks and Natural Regional Parks and/or thoughts carried out within the regional analysis of Natura 2000 marine sites. In the meantime, take steps to reduce the impact of mooring on the <i>Posidonia</i> beds;	

		2) introduce stricter rules in order to better control tourism-related activities, especially nautical activities, which cause major disturbance to species, in particular certain fish species and osprey, and to anticipate the impact of new economic activities; impose an immediate ban on jet skiing in the reserve, whether supervised or unsupervised;	
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?			
Conclusions and action suggested			

Name of the awarded area	23. Italy Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)15	<p>1) strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination on coherent management with the Casentino Forest National Park and national, regional and local authorities, especially in regard to visitor management and the management of wild ungulates and large carnivores;</p> <p><i>The research activities are being carried out within the integral nature Reserve and in the buffer area represented by the Casentino biogenetic nature reserves, taking care of the coordination with the Foreste Casentinesi, Monte Falterona and Campigna national park and taking into account the indications coming from the park's plan.</i></p> <p><i>Visitors are allowed to enter only if authorized by the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità in Rome, while the management of wild ungulates and carnivores consists solely of monitoring activities carried out in coordination with the Park Authority.</i></p> <p><i>Next to the Reserve (in the Lama forest), the camera trapping activity highlighted the presence of an individual of the raccoon species captured last October, as part of the eradication activity envisaged by the containment plan of the species shared with the Park Authority and the Region.</i></p>	3
		<p>2) the nature reserve should continue to stand out as a reference for nature protection in the region;</p> <p><i>The Pratovecchio Department maintained relations with universities and research institutes for multidisciplinary studies of the Reserve.</i></p>	5

		<i>Through television and press it is proceeded to inform about the characteristics and significance of the integral reserve at regional and national level.</i>	
		3) prepare and secure funding for a long-term monitoring programme. National park policy documents should encourage high-quality scientific research within the reserve and the whole national park area; <i>In the integral nature reserve and adjacent reserves, research activities have been carried out linked to the loans received with the LIFE projects in progress; part of the research is funded by the park authority and part by the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità and in collaboration with some research institutions and universities.</i>	3
		4) pay special attention to the management of the buffer zone, using all existing legal instruments, taking into account the requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage and of the European Diploma; <i>The Sasso Fratino Reserve and the surrounding biogenetic Reserves are managed by the Pratovecchio Department which pays particular attention to their integrated management in compliance with the requirements of the UNESCO world heritage and the European Diploma.</i> <i>The interventions on the bands of biogenetic nature Reserves bordering Sasso Fratino are very limited or missing, the reserves in this sense constitute a buffer zone.</i>	4
		5) avoid any further damage in the buffer zone, such as the laying of new roads or significant improvement work on the ski slopes; <i>There are no plans to change the state of these places and make new ski runs or roads.</i>	5
		6) include, in the management plan currently in preparation and in the Casentino Forest National Park management plan, specific provisions dedicated to climate change (including research needs) and how to address this issue in relation to the long-	4

		<p>term conservation of threatened and rare species;</p> <p><i>Both the Natura 2000 site plan currently under preparation by Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità and the UNESCO world heritage plan which is also under development (by University of Tuscia) provide for long-term monitoring plans to study the dynamics of vegetation with specific focus on the response to climate change and the conservation of the site's naturalness.</i></p>	
		<p>7) limit the visits to the core area to researchers and people with a genuine interest in the site and other visitors to the buffer zone;</p> <p><i>Visits to the integral Reserve have been contained and they are authorized for reasons strictly linked to research and university-level education, related to the conservation of the ecosystems. To reduce the number of internal presences and to select the type of visitors, but trying at the same time to satisfy other types of visitors, alternative routes of considerable environmental interest have been proposed outside the integral nature Reserve.</i></p>	4
		<p>8) use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, and encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo.</p> <p><i>The Diploma logo is regularly affixed to our publications and we'll push for the partners and stakeholders to make regular use of it in publications concerning the nature integral reserve.</i></p>	4
	Conditions	None	
	Achievements	<p><i>Achievements see above in Recommendations</i></p> <p><i>There have been no changes in management in 2021 but there has been an increase in finance for plans within the Natura 2000 sites.</i></p>	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	There are currently just under 20 different biodiversity protection, research and monitoring projects underway, some of which are implementing didactics, popularization and promotion.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<i>See Recommendation 8</i>	
Conclusions and action suggested	The annual report provides a good overview of many ongoing tasks, including references to many biodiversity conservation or promotion projects. All recommendations have been well or partially implemented. Some of them require constant maintenance and still need to be worked on.	

Name of the awarded area	24. Spain Doñana National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.1985 / 21.09.2020 (Not renewed in 2020)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2010)13	1) all efforts should be made to restore the good ecological state of the river at the level of its catchment (river basin or water basin), within the meaning of the Water Framework Directive; all appropriate measures should be taken in order to make water use and other activities, especially agricultural activities, in this catchment (basin) compatible with this aim; <i>The Third Hydrological Planning Cycle of the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Demarcation is currently being drafted and is in its last stage of public information. This new planning cycle will incorporate in its environmental assessment a specific chapter on Doñana, which will guarantee the conservation of its values within the framework of a basin as vast as that of the Guadalquivir in which Doñana represents only 2.2% of its surface area. The Scheme of Important Issues included a specific sheet for Doñana,</i>	3
		2) a specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be drawn up; <i>The Natural Area has a Self-Protection Plan against hydrocarbon spills, and it is a priority area in the Andalusia Forest Fire Plan: INFOCA Plan. There have been no changes regarding the last report issued.</i>	3
		3) the implementation of the action plans for the conservation of the flagship species, in particular the Iberian lynx and the Imperial eagle, should be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be drawn up if needed; <i>As reported in previous reports, different conservation plans continue to be developed for the most emblematic species of Doñana</i>	4

		<p>4) concerning the Port of Sevilla development projects, the Spanish authorities should avail itself of the best international scientific expertise and also take account of the relevant international conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Bern Convention, and work closely with the relevant international bodies, including the European Union and the European Environment Agency;</p> <p><i>As reported in the Condition 1 section, this project has been officially rejected by the Spanish national government.</i></p>	5
		<p>5) the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011;</p> <p><i>The current planning of the Doñana Natural Area has been in force since September 2016 (Decree 142/2016, of August 2, published in the Official Gazette of the Andalusian Regional Government of September 26, 2016).</i></p>	5
		<p>6) the extension of the Doñana 2005 Project to riparian vegetation, correcting erosion problems or extending its scope to adjacent areas of agricultural marsh, should be undertaken;</p> <p><i>The Water Working Committee of the Doñana Participation Council has carried out intensive work to define a proposal for hydrogeological actions that have been favourably reported by the Council Plenary and transferred to the competent water administration so that they can be included in the third Hydrological Planning Cycle of the Guadalquivir Basin.</i></p> <p><i>This document contains comprehensive proposals for various measures.</i></p>	3
		<p>7) the possibility of developing co-operation with other European Diploma sites which are deltas, such as the Camargue National Reserve (France) or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania), should be explored.</p> <p><i>Doñana Natural Area has had a twinning agreement with the Camargue Regional Natural Park since 2008, which expired in 2020; a new agreement is being drafted.</i></p>	3

		<i>As for the Danube Delta, a proposal for collaboration with this area is being prepared in coordination with the responsible Ministry and has not yet been finished.</i>	
	Conditions	<p>1) the Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Port of Sevilla development projects have no significant environmental impact on the Doñana ecosystems. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a complementary study to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report;</p> <p><i>There have been no changes in this matter. The project has been rejected by the Spanish authorities and has been removed from the hydrological planning documents.</i></p>	5
		<p>2) the Andalusian Government, responsible for the management of the national park and also for water management, should ensure the high quality of water entering the national park and eliminate the illegal extraction of groundwater; in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, it should monitor the status of the aquifer underlying the national park and surrounding lands, the extent of groundwater extraction and the water quality;</p> <p><i>Each year the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation (CHG) presents a specific report that aims to analyse and quantitatively interpret the piezometric information available throughout the corresponding hydrological year.</i></p> <p><i>The conclusions of the latest report issued by this body, corresponding to the 2019-2020 hydrological cycle, follow the same line as in previous years.</i></p> <p><i>Among the positive aspects, the sustained improvement of the South Sector of Arroyo de la Rocina stands out, which, if it continues, will allow it to move to the category of the best state. This improvement is very important news, as it allows us to detect the beneficial effects of the actions carried out, such as the</i></p>	2

		<p><i>closing of wells and the removal of crops from about 1000 hectares around Mimbrales.</i></p> <p><i>Among the negatives aspects, Marismas shows for the first time a statistically significant negative trend, although its direct relationship with terrestrial ecosystems is scarce, and that the trend of the Coastal Zone, which until recently was in a positive situation, has not been reversed.</i></p>	
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The annual report is informative and gives a good idea of most of the ongoing tasks. Most of the recommendations have been well or partly implemented some require continued action and further efforts.</p> <p>The EDPA GoS requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	25. Germany Bayerischer Wald National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.86 / 18.06.2021
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)4	<p>1) secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non-intervention in large areas of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring;</p> <p><i>The non-intervention strategy is applied in the whole territory with the exception of bark beetle control in the extended area and the policy of non-intervention in the processes of nature and the ongoing monitoring of biodiversity have been secured by the statutory regulation.</i></p>	5
		<p>2) pursue consequently a non-intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the older part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the newer part, thus working toward the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the national park by 2027;</p> <p><i>The natural area without intervention covers 17,516 hectares (72.3%) of the total national park, of which 7,839 hectares (73.4%) in the extension area.</i></p> <p><i>The next step of extension of the nature zone will be implemented together with the enlargement of the National Park by around 600 hectares in 2022.</i></p>	4
		<p>3) continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone);</p> <p><i>Targeted measures to control and combat bark beetle development on the periphery of the National Park have reliably prevented infestations from spreading to neighbouring private woodlands.</i></p> <p><i>Standardised bark beetle monitoring has been carried out in the woodlands along the borders</i></p>	5

		<i>of the National Park. The results provide the basis for a coordinated approach in forest protection measures along the borders inside and outside of the National Park.</i>	
		4) pursue and develop the dialogue with local communities; develop synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the re-establishment of the Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the Sevilla Strategy; <i>Dialogue with the National Park local communities and associations was maintained and cooperation in the field of tourism development was further enhanced.</i> <i>There currently lacks the political will to reactivate the biosphere reserve protection category.</i>	3
		5) pursue the collaboration with the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, both national parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border; <i>Despite several impediments caused by the corona pandemic the collaboration with the Sumava NP has been consistently implemented and further enhanced. The 2020 Annual Report provides several examples of effective cooperation</i>	3
		6) maintain the public transportation "Igelbus" network, secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in co-operation with Šumava National Park. <i>The continued operation of the 'Igelbus' is secured by a mixed financing system.</i>	5
	Conditions	No conditions attached	
		See above Recommendations	

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	<i>Despite the good achievements, there is no mention of the aim of a common joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" covering all the protected areas adjacent to or included in the two national parks</i>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>The Bavarian State Forests, as owners of part of the potential sites for wind turbines and "Münchener Stadtwerke" as a potential principal investor, have publicly stated that they will no longer provide the areas for wind farming or will discontinue such plans until further notice.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease of bark beetle infestation in the border area and in the development zones. 31.500 qm of spruce logs had to be removed from the forest in the buffer zone and in the development zones of the national park. Additional 5.000 m of spruce logs were felled, debarked and then remained as deadwood in the forest ecosystem</i></p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>All recommendations have been well implemented. Some are ongoing measures and need to be maintained. Efforts to fulfil the 75% rule of a non-intervention policy for the forests must yet be promoted. Also the use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, in the visitors' centres and on the website should be enhanced.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	26. Spain Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)6	<p>1) pursue the management of the park in accordance with the Land Use and Management Plan (PRUG) approved in 2015, the Law No. 30/2014 of 3 December 2014 on National Parks and the Royal Decree No. 389/2016 of 22 October 2016 which adopted the Master Plan of the National Parks Network. Follow up on the foreseen creation of a visitor-access point at Pineta Valley and the new visitors centre at Escalona and strengthen collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France);</p> <p><i>The Project to improve infrastructure for public use in Escuaín has been completed. Work has begun on the new visitor centre in Escalona. Maintenance work has been carried out for the commissioning of the Hanging Path, in Escuaín to help distribute the visit in the National Park.</i></p> <p><i>Collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France) has been strengthened, in the monitoring of the natural environment and in audiovisual recording with their participation. Some works in French are presented in the researcher's corner.</i></p>	4
		<p>2) ensure that people entering the park are aware of the rule that dogs are only allowed in the park if held on a leash, and inform visitors that they are not allowed to enter the French National Park with dogs, even if held on a leash;</p> <p><i>An awareness and communication campaign has been continued to inform that within the National Park, dogs must always be on a leash.</i></p>	4

		<p>3) subject to the availability of resources, conduct a study on mitigating the impact of visitors on flora, fauna and landscape, and assess the effect of promoting alternative access ways to the park on the quality of visits in sectors with high touristic pressure.</p> <p><i>For the first time, selective garbage collection is being carried out in the valleys of Ordesa and Pineta.</i></p> <p><i>In 2021 it is planned to modify the Master Plan of use and management to regulate the camping area near the Refugio de Góriz.</i></p> <p><i>The European funds of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan will be used for the conservation of the biodiversity of the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park, as well as for the realization of infrastructures aimed at regulating public use.</i></p> <p><i>Several facilities have been put into operation with the aim of launching an ex-situ conservation program of the Pyrenean frog (Rana pyrenaica).</i></p> <p><i>New declaration of singular tree the Yew of La Mirona in the valley of Añisclo in December 2021.</i></p>	3
	Conditions		
	Achievements	All recommendations were promoted in 2020 as described above	
	Shortcomings	<i>A report was also prepared in 2021 on incidents with loose or tied dogs in the National Park with the proposal to prohibit the access of dogs to the National Park. It was raised to a vote of the Board of Trustees and finally the dogs are allowed access to the National Park, always tied.</i>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma		No information provided	

has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	All recommendations have been well or partly implemented. Some of them need ongoing maintenance and additional inputs depending on the availability of resources. Also the use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website should be enhanced.

Name of the awarded area	27. Sweden Store Mosse National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 13.06.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)4	<p>1) reduce the dependency upon volunteers for monitoring and regular maintenance work;</p> <p><i>The funding of Swedish nature conservation has been continuously very good. This has made it possible to keep last year's increase in ranger staff, but also enabled the transitioning of a part-time (75%) employment to full-time.</i></p> <p><i>The good funding has supported hiring of contractors working with the regular maintenance and monitoring as well as a wide range of projects.</i></p> <p><i>Volunteers have still contributed in some projects, but their ability to participate has been limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</i></p>	5
		<p>2) continue encouraging more scientific research in the park and ensure that all results are centralised in a database maintained by the park or, as appropriate, a relevant scientific institution;</p> <p><i>The National Park continues to be of big interest for research. There is a free accommodation in the National Park for scientific researchers to visit and work on site.</i></p>	3
		<p>3) secure the long-term management and restoration of the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön Lakes for increased birdlife;</p> <p><i>The restoration project in the Kävsjön and Häradsösjön lake area has continued throughout the year. Also, a small forest area by Kävsjön lake has been cut down to enhance wading bird habitat.</i></p> <p><i>According to plan, to enable water flux regulation, the application for water operation permit has been submitted for consideration by the Land and Environment Court.</i></p>	4

		<p>4) set up a comprehensive but simple monitoring system for the park, to be attached to the management plan; monitor carefully the effectiveness and impact of the lake management and restoration, as well as of the LIFE mire restoration project;</p> <p><i>The development of a monitoring plan for nature types and species in the National Park is now in progress.</i></p> <p><i>The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's national monitoring program runs according to plan.</i></p>	3
		<p>5) implement the new national system for information materials, signs and trail marking and, in particular, give appropriate visibility to and communicate more actively on the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p> <p><i>The National Park management focus on maintaining the information material system and enhance relevant information according with the identity guidelines including putting up complementary trail marking signs where needed, as well as producing signs on certain topics</i></p>	4
	Conditions	None	
	Achievements	see above Recommendations	
	Shortcomings	<p><i>The overgrowth at the quagmire by lake Kävsjön was planned to be milled, though, the contractors had technical problems with the machines and the measure has been postponed to next year.</i></p> <p><i>The Covid-19 pandemic has postponed a workshop with scientists who run different projects in the National Park</i></p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>The beneficial funding has made it possible to maintain and move forward with a high level of management, restoration of Kävsjön and Häradsösjön and surveys in the National Park</i></p> <p><i>A high visitor number along with beneficial funding, has made it possible for the National Park management to also put extra effort into improving and monitoring trails and facilities for visitors.</i></p>		

	<i>The number of visitors has increased by approximately 25% in comparison to an average year.</i>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<i>There is information about the European Diploma on the website, but the content could be developed to become even more informative.</i>
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>All recommendations have been well implemented. Some of them need ongoing inputs next years. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website should be enhanced.</p> <p>The beneficial funding has made it possible for the National Park's management to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to keep increase in ranger staff - promote restoration of habitats - improve information materials, signs and trail marking - go on with a development of a monitoring plan for nature types and species <p>It is urged that the good work will be continued and that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a workshop with scientists is organised when again possible - that a comprehensive but simple monitoring system is developed - to ensure that all results of scientific research are centralised in a database to be available for the National Park management

Name of the awarded area	28. Sweden Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)3	<p>1) pursue the efforts to establish a national park including both reserves as well as surrounding islands and waters;</p> <p><i>The work to make a National Park and a new management plan is still in progress and is estimated to be finished in year 2025.</i></p>	3
		<p>2) continue to monitor the activities which are potential sources of disturbances, and enforce the regulations regarding in particular the access to closed areas and make the monitoring results easily accessible to managers and visitors;</p> <p><i>Comprehensive investigations are in progress to map species and biodiversity on land and in water. Both aquatic species, birds, vegetation and grassland flora is being monitored. The results will be accessed to managers and visitors in the upcoming management plan.</i></p>	3
		<p>3) continue providing support to farming activities on the islands, following the objectives of landscape and biodiversity conservation;</p> <p><i>The grasslands on Bullerö have been made available for a farmer with grazing sheep. Authority personnel have aided the farmers in watching and taking care of the sheep during the summer. The grasslands have also been cleared from bushes during the year.</i></p> <p><i>The grasslands on the island Rågskär have also been made available for grazing animals (cow and sheep).</i></p> <p><i>The meadows on Långviksskär have been mowed in order to favour flora and fauna biodiversity.</i></p>	4

		4) continue the campaign to control the population of minks. <i>In Bullerö nature reserve around 6 minks have been trapped in 2021. Also, this year hunters with dogs have been hired to exterminate minks in and around the bird sanctuaries and on the adjacent islands. A total of 4 minks where shot. In Långviksskär nature reserve a total of 7 minks have been trapped.</i>	4
	Conditions	1) prepare and adopt by 2020 a new management plan for the Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves, including a simple but comprehensive monitoring system including birds, fish, environmental parameters and visitors; <i>The work to make a National Park and a new management plan is still in progress and is estimated to be finished in year 2025.</i>	3
	Achievements	The recommendations were promoted in 2020 as described above.	
	Shortcomings	<i>A very popular and well-used sauna burned down during the year.</i>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<i>Efforts have been made to extend the available grassland on Bullerö in order to promote flora biodiversity and culture restoration. A new fence has been built, in order to easier control the grazing animals (sheep).</i> <i>Arborists have been hired to restore pollarded trees.</i> <i>Hunters have been hired to enhance the mink extermination.</i> <i>The buildings in the Bullerö nature reserve are in need of maintenance and several measures have been taken to raise the standard.</i>		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided		
Conclusions and action suggested	All recommendations have been well implemented. Some of them need ongoing inputs next years. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website should be enhanced. The competent authorities are urged to		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- prepare and adopt a new management plan for the Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves, including a simple but comprehensive monitoring system including birds, fish, environmental parameters and visitors;- to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information
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No report received

Name of the awarded area	29. Italy Montecristo Island Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	13.06.1988 / 12.06.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)18	1) explore, with the help of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission, the status of the “Montecristo Goat”, the needs for its preservation and if its <i>in situ</i> conservation is needed, the ways and means of its integration and conservation within the island’s ecosystems;	
		2) continue the monitoring of the island’s flora, fauna and vegetation units, and evaluate the management activities that are necessary for the conservation of species and the restoration of native vegetation;	
		3) continue ecological surveillance of the island in order to detect undesirable alien species early enough to ensure their eradication;	
		4) complete the remote surveillance system as far as necessary and feasible in order to be able to detect and prohibit any illegal activities on and around the island;	
		5) explore any sensible arrangements for visitors as a possible alternative to the existing quota of 1,000 per year, including possible improvements to awareness-raising and educational activities targeting the public visiting the island;	
		6) ensure that the resources are secured in a sustainable way to maintain the management of the reserve and to further develop its long-term management plan.	
	Conditions		

	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		

Name of the awarded area	30. Germany Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)2	<p>1) investigate the possible technical methods to connect the aquatic system of the Haidgauer high moor, separated by the trunk road B465, through water channels or other technical measures in order to enable more water flow towards the eastern part of the moor and to ensure water exchange, especially in the Randlagg;</p> <p><i>A wide variety of surveys and site investigations to examine possible nature conservation improvements on this road section have been carried out and relevant technical solutions have been examined. The final feasibility study with corresponding technical solution options has meanwhile been completed and forwarded to the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Transport to examine the subsequent course to be taken.</i></p> <p><i>The Regional Administrative Authority Tübingen commissioned a traffic study via the Ministry of Transport to obtain reliable facts for all the various options. The aim was to clarify whether by passing the fen and demolishing the trunk road through it might be an option. The report is due in spring 2022. The Ministry of Transport will reach a decision based on the facts that will then be available</i></p>	4
		<p>2) draw up a prevention plan to manage invasive species, to be prepared in case of their appearance, according to EU Regulation 1143/2014;</p> <p><i>For years now, the occurrence or presence of invasive species has been observed, and appropriate preventive measures have been taken to systematically combat specific species such as Canadian goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>), glandular balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>), Japanese knotweed (<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>) and giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>). To date it has been possible in this way to limit their further spread.</i></p>	4

		<p>3) pursue the efforts to create an observation tower next to the Torfmuseum to provide an additional attraction in the area without disturbing the ecosystem;</p> <p><i>The construction of the planned tower next to the Torfmuseum requires an exemption from the Protected Area Ordinance. The necessary Habitats Directive impact assessment and study of the influence of the project on the conservation purpose of the nature reserve are currently being carried out and alternative locations in the area are being examined. The necessary building-related studies are also currently being prepared by the town as project owner.</i></p> <p><i>The project will be implemented after the studies and the approval procedures have been completed.</i></p>	3
		<p>4) in co-operation with the aeronautical authority, stop any unnecessary acrobatic flights over the Ried due to their negative impact on the site and especially birdlife;</p> <p><i>The Tannheim aerobatic training school must obtain an exemption from the Protected Area Ordinance from the Regional Administrative Authority Tübingen if it intends to continue using the flight zone. Because the flights are not compatible with the objectives of Natura 2000, such an exemption will not be granted, it is not at present clear whether aerobatic flyers intend to continue using the flight zone.</i></p> <p><i>The Ministry for the Environment has written to the Deutsche Flugsicherung (aeronautical authority for flight zones) and, referring to the undisputed legal position with regard to nature conservation, has requested that the authority do its part to end aerobatic flights. No reply has yet been received from the Deutsche Flugsicherung.</i></p>	3
		<p>5) resume negotiations with landowners in order to acquire land in the outlying areas – mainly near the village of Albers – to limit and further stop the deposition of substances harmful to this sensitive environment, such as livestock effluents or chemical fertilisers. In case of inconclusive results, long-term agreements should be negotiated to reduce depositions;</p> <p><i>In order to protect the climate, the State of Baden-Württemberg is increasingly investing in the</i></p>	5

		<p><i>acquisition of climate-relevant land. In the year under review, the Baden-Württemberg State Administration for Property and Building Construction acquired around 56 hectares of land in the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve through the Ravensburg office.</i></p> <p><i>The State's property management authority has now completed acquisition of 17 hectares of hillside land near Albers. This will enable these areas to be managed in line with nature conservation requirements, thus achieving a significant improvement in the preservation and promotion of fen habitats and species of particular importance to nature conservation.</i></p> <p><i>The exchange of approximately 6 hectares of privately-owned farmland on the western edge of the nature reserve has also been completed. The nature conservation objective is the conversion of the arable land into grassland and its subsequent extensive use.</i></p>	
		<p>6) preserve the integrity of the landscape around the basin of Bad Wurzach and avoid the construction of technical infrastructure on the hills and hilltops in the visual range of the Wurzacher Ried.</p> <p><i>The responsible authorities examine the impact of all building developments in the area on the visual integrity of the Wurzacher Basin and take this into account in all their decisions.</i></p> <p><i>As there are plans to increase the number of ground-mounted solar PV systems in the region, the Baden-Württemberg Ministry for the Environment, the Regional Administrative Authority Tübingen, the Ravensburg District Authority and the town of Bad Wurzach have assembled a catalogue of criteria that elaborates the conditions that apply in this area.</i></p> <p><i>Amongst other things, these conditions stipulate that, as a rule, such systems should only be approved in exceptional cases and should not be planned in protected areas or where they would have significant effects on such areas.</i></p> <p><i>The size and capacity of such systems are also restricted to a maximum of 750 MW and are only possible at a distance of 1000 metres from the defined core zone (moorland) of the Wurzacher Ried. The height of systems is limited to 3 metres and they</i></p>	4

		<i>must be suitably greened in the visual range from the planned observation tower. Higher structures should be avoided in order to protect the relevant bird species at the site.</i>	
	Conditions	<p>1) By 2021, revise the 2007 management plan or draft a new management framework meeting the provisions and objectives of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and complementary to the Natura 2000 management plan in preparation;</p> <p><i>The management plan (MaP) for the FFH and bird sanctuary "Wurzacher Ried und Rohrsee" was completed with effect from 1 November 2019. This management plan presents the occurrences of the habitat types and species of the Habitats Directive on a plot-by-plot basis and specifies the objectives and measures that must be taken to conserve and develop these protected areas of Community interest.</i></p> <p><i>The management plan complements the 2007 maintenance and development plan for the nature reserve. Nature conservation measures in the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve can now be better targeted at safeguarding and developing habitat types and species of Community interest.</i></p>	5
	Achievements	As described above	
	Shortcomings	<p><i>Travel restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a high volume of visitors to the Wurzacher Ried and growing difficulties guiding visitors and ensuring compliance with the Protected Area Ordinance.</i></p> <p><i>In the Haidgau headwater area, two beaver dams led to the overtopping of a Schoenus fen with its colony of yellow marsh orchids (Dactylorhiza ochroleuca). In order to protect these species, pipes were installed in both dams so that the water level in the Scheonetum could be restored to normal.</i></p> <p><i>The environmental education work and nature education projects carried out by the Nature Conservation Centre suffered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during the reporting period. The exhibition could only be re-opened and educational events offered again in mid May of 2021. The restricted opening hours and the limited feasibility of events resulted in fewer visitors and lower revenues.</i></p>	

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>The beaver population (just under 10 families) in the fen remains stable</i></p> <p><i>As well as primary fen habitats work was also stepped up on improving and in places creating new and especially species-rich, secondary fen biotopes and on developing extensive grasslands on the periphery of the Wurzacher Ried.</i></p> <p><i>Agreements were reached with numerous farmers for the maintenance of the reed beds in the peripheral areas of the fen. Wet and hay meadows which are inaccessible to agricultural machinery are mowed with the State Forest Administration's mowing caterpillar.</i></p> <p><i>Illegal paths were blocked off and barriers that had been destroyed were repaired. Regular maintenance work was carried out on various path sections, especially wooden walkways.</i></p> <p><i>Notable breeding birds in the reporting year: Common crane (Grus grus), black stork (Ciconia nigra), black-crowned night heron (Nycticorax nycticorax), Eurasian teal (Anas crecca), spotted crake (Porzana porzana) and cornrake (Crex crex).</i></p> <p><i>The centrepiece of the The Nature Conservation Centre in Bad Wurzach is the innovatively designed permanent exhibition "MOOR EXTREM", which continues to enjoy great success and is an important element in the educational work carried out by the Nature Conservation Centre.</i></p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The annual report is very informative and gives a good idea of the ongoing tasks. All recommendations have been well or partially implemented. Some of them require constant maintenance or additional inputs.</p> <p>The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website should be strengthened.</p>

Name of the awarded area	31. Spain Teide National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1989 / 18.06.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)7	<p>1) undertake further research on the ecology and genetics of endangered and vulnerable species of Ethe national park's fauna and flora so as to assist in their conservation in a rapidly changing climate;</p> <p><i>Research into the effects of climate change on the high mountain scrub habitat has continued, linking herbivory and global warming and its consequences for high mountain vegetation. It has been found that several species typical of the pine forest are penetrating the national park, proof that the surrounding community of conifers is occupying part of the habitat of the retama del Teide or white broom (Spartocytisus supranubius).</i></p> <p><i>At the same time, a seventy-year computer simulation of temperature changes in the island's highlands has revealed that temperatures are rising twice as fast on the western side of the national park as on the eastern side.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the inventory of thousand-year-old Juniperus cedrus trees has continued;</i></p> <p><i>A project has been completed to determine the effect of nitrogen and phosphorus on the edaphic microfauna of mountain systems in National Parks</i></p> <p><i>Regarding herbivore pressure, a thesis on the impact of these mammals on high mountain vegetation has been read at the University of La Laguna</i></p>	4
		<p>2) establish (and annually update) a register of all non-native species which are found within the national park, and either continue, enhance or commence control measures so as to ensure that these non-native species that have become invasive have a minimal effect on the park's native flora and fauna;</p>	4

		<p><i>An IT platform is being designed to update the chorological data on the distribution of the flora in the national park, as a complement to the biodiversity inventories, and with special attention to species such as rosalillo de cumbre (<i>Pterocepalus lasiospermus</i>) which, although native, is becoming invasive. At the same time, the flora of the summit of El Pico is being analysed, in view of the increase in altitude at which they grow due to climate change, especially of some non-native species such as <i>Sagina procumbens</i>.</i></p>	
		<p>3) prepare and implement an action plan for beekeeping within the national park which aims to reduce the impact of honey bees on both the native flora and the native species of pollinators; and undertake research on the guild of native pollinators to determine its species composition and the conservation status (endemic to the Canary Islands, endemic to Tenerife, native, and whether endangered or vulnerable) of the species concerned;</p> <p><i>A project developed by the University of La Laguna on the impact of beehives on the flowering of retama del Teide has been completed, and work is being carried out within the framework of the future Master Plan for Use and Management on a range of measures to limit the number of beehives in accordance with the findings of scientific studies, and to promote yearly set-aside in different sectors.</i></p>	3
		<p>4) maintain and expand (as appropriate) the targeted programmes for monitoring the climate and both the biological and geological resources of the national park;</p> <p><i>Climate monitoring programmes are progressing along the lines of developing computer programmes to assess the degree of warming with maximum precision (50 m) over the entire area of the national park.</i></p>	4
		<p>5) identify and include within the new Master Plan for Use and Management (PRUG) actions which have either not been undertaken or have not been completed;</p> <p><i>Administrative formalities have begun for the new Master Plan for Use and Management, which is</i></p>	4

		<i>expected to be approved in 2022. It includes the actions that were recommended in the appraisal for the renewal of the European Diploma.</i>	
		<p>6) ensure that the new PRUG contains both appropriate management indicators and targets and supports the European Diploma for Protected Areas; management must inform the Council of Europe when the new PRUG has been completed and formally adopted by the Canary Islands Government;</p> <p><i>The new Master Plan for Use and Management includes a set of indicators on conservation, public use, etc., in accordance with the recommendations received.</i></p>	4
		<p>7) demolish all buildings (and other non-natural structures) within the national park which are no longer in use, and restore these areas and their surroundings to as natural a condition as is possible;</p> <p><i>Final approval was granted for the project for the "Demolition of the houses of El Sanatorio and restoration of the area" on 4 June 2021, and work was ordered to begin on 22 November 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Following preliminary planning, work began with the manual removal of elements followed with demolition using heavy machinery planned only for the last part of the work. All the works are expected to be completed in the first half of 2022</i></p> <p><i>The demolition of the houses in El Sanatorio, together with the demolition last year of the public works hut and mountaineers lodge, will mean that the objective set out in this recommendation will be 100% achieved.</i></p>	4
		<p>8) prepare and begin to implement guidelines for public use and mobility within the national park within one year of the new PRUG being adopted.</p> <p><i>Work continues on the project to "develop a mobility system and set up service areas at the access points to the Teide National Park".</i></p>	3
	Conditions	None	

	Achievements	See above Recommendations
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The inventory of thousand-year-old Juniperus cedrus trees has continued; to date, four have been located clinging to the cliff faces. One has been found to be the oldest chronologically dated tree in Europe, at 1,481 years old. An attempt is currently being made to reconstruct the hydroclimate of several centuries ago from the growth rings.	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The annual report is very informative and give a good idea of the many ongoing tasks, including references to many publications. All recommendations have been well or partly implemented. Some of them require ongoing maintenance or additional inputs and are still being worked on.</p> <p>The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website should be enhanced.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	32. Germany Berchtesgaden National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.06.1990 / 18.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)4	<p>1) include in the management plan currently in preparation specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term conservation of threatened or rare species;</p> <p><i>In the National Park Plan, climate change is recognised as one of the most important drivers of change with high importance for nature conservation and management. To collect data how climate is changing and how this affects ecosystems, the Research Department of the national park is operating a network of weather stations and has initiated a biodiversity monitoring. Moreover, a research project has been started which study effects of climate on biodiversity via a space-for-time approach.</i></p> <p><i>Climate change is challenging traditional mountain farming and thus, a new research project has been started evaluating whether changes in pasture management affect biodiversity. Results from these research project will be implemented in conservation and management strategies of the national park.</i></p>	4
		<p>2) abstain from any extension of forest and mountain roads and consider dismantling some of these roads, and abstain from installing additional infrastructure in the park, including wastewater pipes. If no alternative solution exists, infrastructure should be developed on the existing forest roads;</p> <p><i>According to the National Park Ordinance, it is generally forbidden to widen or build new roads. The national park administration and the higher-ranking authorities have already strictly monitored compliance with this rule in the past and are determined to continue to do so in the future.</i></p>	4
		<p>3) continue negotiating with landowners and tenants for the replacement of forest grazing by light grazing;</p>	3

		<p><i>Entitled farmers were granted the legal right by the government to demand the replacement of forest grazing land with the creation of open pastures. This replacement has taken place in large parts of the National Park. However, this right is based on voluntariness. And to date, not all have demanded this replacement of forest grazing. However, the national park administration is in constant dialogue with the right holders in order to make progress.</i></p>	
		<p>4) search, together with the competent authorities, for alternative locations for the police training centre, and at least abstain from further expansions of it, and continue negotiations with the army to reduce the impact of the army training ground to a minimum;</p> <p><i>The planned extension of the Federal Police training centre on Kühroint is still in a planning phase. Currently, there is only a coordinated plan that is to be submitted for approval. In this procedure, the National Park Authority will contribute its views as a responsible body for public concerns.</i></p> <p><i>There has been an established cooperation with the German army administration for many years. Discussions take place at regular intervals with designated contacts in which critical points are coordinated. Critical activities of the army were withdrawn several times this year.</i></p>	3
		<p>5) conduct a scientific study on the red deer population and game regulation, including the plausibility of winter enclosures to gain enough data for future management;</p> <p><i>The Research Department of the national park has launched a research project on the interactions of roe deer, chamois and red deer with their environment. Aims of the project are to better understand how ungulates interact with the vegetation, the role of carcasses in mountain ecosystems and the effects of human activities (hunting, winter feeding and tourism) on the spatio-temporal habitat use. Results from this research project will be implemented in wildlife management strategies of the national park.</i></p>	3

		<p>6) conduct a study on invasive alien species and develop a strategy on how to react to the arrival of these species;</p> <p><i>Neophyte control has been carried out in the Berchtesgaden National Park for many years. There is a list of all species found in the National Park and their locations. Under the supervision of the botanists of the Research Department, these have since been monitored and occurrences mechanically removed. To date, neophytes have only appeared in the management zone.</i></p>	5
		<p>7) ensure that the park administration keeps remains responsible for hunting at regional level;</p> <p><i>According to German and Bavarian law, the National Park Authority is also the competent lower hunting authority for the entire National Park area.</i></p>	5
		<p>8) secure an adequate budget and staffing for the park administration to enable effective and efficient management;</p> <p><i>Funding belongs to the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. The budget of the national park is adequate and secure. In addition, specific projects are financed. The staff body increased in the fields of research, visitor guidance, information and environmental education. For now, management of the park is effective and efficient. The main problem are temporary staff positions. These should be converted into permanent positions in the upcoming years.</i></p>	5
		<p>9) limit the spotlights of the Jenner cable car to reduce light pollution and consider the construction of a path that is accessible for people with disabilities and a viewpoint next to the mountain station of the Jenner cable car;</p> <p><i>The floodlight at the mountain station that shines down into the valley was no longer switched on after these discussions.</i></p> <p><i>In the buildings of the mountain station, the National Park has been given its own room, in which a small information exhibition is currently being set up. From this room you can step onto a viewing platform from which you have a view of</i></p>	4

		<i>the valley and the surrounding mountains of the national park. These facilities are designed to be barrier-free for people with disabilities.</i>	
		<p>10) pursue consequently the conversion of spruce forests into mixed forests, using natural processes and disturbances, for example bark beetle and wind fall areas as foreseen in the new conceptual framework, without enlargement of the bark beetle control zone;</p> <p><i>The essential method is that the planting of beech and fir is only carried out in places with natural disturbances, e.g. windthrow or bark beetle infestation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the zone where the bark beetle is actively controlled has been reduced from 700 m to 500 m. This has led to a reduction of the zone with active human intervention against the bark beetle from 1.881 ha to 1.260 ha.</i></p>	4
		<p>11) make more extensive use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the diploma wherever appropriate, first of all in the visitors' centre and on the website.</p> <p><i>Berchtesgaden National Park will launch its new, official website in 1st quarter of 2022. On the new website the European Diploma will have an own sub site with detailed description, logo and link to the official diploma-website.</i></p> <p><i>Berchtesgaden National Park also communicates the European Diploma on appropriate printed material. The original, framed certificate is presented in the entrance hall of the National Park Administration building in Berchtesgaden.</i></p>	4
	Conditions	<p>accelerate the finalisation of the management plan currently in preparation and attach a scientific research programme to it. The Council of Europe shall be informed upon completion and approval of the document, which should be effective no later than eighteen months after the renewal of the diploma;</p> <p><i>The draft National Park Plan is submitted to the Central Authority concerned for review and approval.</i></p>	
	Achievements	Described above	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>The number of actual employees has increased by 13.</i></p> <p><i>The financial allocations have increased by about 150,000 €.</i></p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	See Recommendation 11	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>All recommendations and conditions have been well implemented. Some of the recommendations require ongoing actions. It is particularly noteworthy that the draft management plan has been sent forward to be reviewed and approved.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	33. Italy Maremma Nature Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.92 / 18.05.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)9	<p>1) develop, in collaboration with the local authorities concerned, an approach to the management of the Ombrone by river basin, pursuant to the EU Water Framework Directive, with a view to attaining good ecological status for the watercourse within the meaning of that directive;</p> <p><i>Maremma Nature Park is working to verify the ecological condition of the Ombrone river final flow and the surrounding habitat; the monitoring about overall the geological type is going on.</i></p> <p><i>The project about the contract of the Ombrone river, with all the local authorities, at the moment has been stopped and it is hoped going to restart soon.</i></p>	2
		<p>2) finalise, within a maximum of two years, the extension of the Park to include the marine environment under conditions to be decided in agreement with local players;</p> <p><i>No change from last year</i></p>	1
		<p>3) designate the Trappola (Ombrona Delta) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;</p> <p><i>No change from last year. Already included.</i></p>	5
		<p>4) considerably increase human resources in the Park responsible for field inspections and ensure a level of funding consistent with the increasing needs of optimum management of the diploma-holding area;</p> <p><i>No change about the level of funding.</i></p>	1

		<p>5) step up technical support for local enterprises involved in developing integrated agro-environmental activities and promoting local products and services;</p> <p><i>-The Park is certified CETS European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.</i></p> <p><i>- Meetings with the local enterprises are constantly organised to update them about the Park events, CETS, Park trademark, news and other.</i></p> <p><i>- Park trademark about quality: at the moment 31 companies are registered.</i></p>	4
		<p>6) develop action to promote the protection and enhancement of the Park's anthropological heritage;</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>	3
		<p>7) prepare a plan for the management of the wolf population.</p> <p><i>There are 3 reproductive groups: we are monitoring them and genetically examine them.</i></p>	3
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<p>To give importance to the points of view of the Scientific Council:</p> <p>At the moment the Scientific Council works constantly to balance the necessity to protect the biodiversity and the landscape of the area, and the necessity of a balanced socio-economic development.</p> <p>It attends in every situation where the Park has to take action about the management of specific areas (forest management, wild fauna management, research plans, and actions against the coastal erosion). In all these cases it's always possible to work together with full harmony, with the Scientific Council.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p><i>The rules to combat Covid 19 have not allowed to organize many initiatives</i></p> <p><i>The Talamone Aquarium and Visitor Center have been closed and cannot yet be open to the public use.</i></p>	
	Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p><i>The Park has started the process of drafting the new Integrated Plan, as required by Regional Law 30/2015. It has entrusted a group of experts with</i></p>	

	<p><i>the drafting of a cognitive framework on the prevailing aspects of the protected area and has identified a scientific coordinator.</i></p> <p><i>It has also started the programme of participation meetings with stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>Many tours were organised during the period it was possible, the accessibility to people with disabilities were improved, new tactile panels were created.</i></p> <p><i>Measures were taken to protect the sea turtles and monitor their nestling areas by the rangers and volunteers.</i></p> <p><i>The Park also organized a campaign for the protection of the Kentish plover nesting, in collaboration with the COT (Tuscan Ornithological Center).</i></p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group of Specialists welcomes the implementation of some of the recommendations and encourages the authorities to step up their efforts to implement all recommendations. However, the report provides little information on the progress made with regard to the recommendations, with the text remaining very similar from year to year.</p> <p>The GoS welcomes the various events and activities that were organised for visitors when it was possible, the recovery measures and monitoring of the sea turtles and also the Kentish plover and that the Park has started the process of drafting the new Integrated Plan and the programme of participation meetings with stakeholders.</p> <p>The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.</p>

Name of the awarded area	34. Portugal Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.05.1992 / 18.05.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)4	1) continue to take all precautions to ensure that no non-native species of plants and animals are introduced;	5
		2) continue to improve the accommodation and the radio/phone system, which provides the capacity for wardens to contact their authorities in Madeira and their families;	5
		3) continue the studies to survey the effect of the eradication of the alien species of the flora and fauna for the next few years;	5
		4) make efforts to eliminate the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull (<i>L. m. atlantis</i>) on Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora;	4
		5) increase the awareness of the importance of the geological heritage;	4
		6) continue the programme of reconstruction of the remaining unrestored rubble walls.	5
	Conditions	1) that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Selvagens Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 15/86 of 21 May 1986.	5
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is an excellent example how successful eradication of important invasive alien species, namely mice and rabbits, can positively affect species richness, habitat quality and ecosystem processes/functions/ecosystems. There are some monitoring schemes aiming at various taxa/ecological groups. 	

	Shortcomings	none
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsible regional authority is working on updating the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve legislation and regulations in order to increase the marine area to 2677km², in an area of 12 nautical miles around the Selvagens Islands. It is in this extension that all existing species will be fully protected from extractive activities, <i>e.g.</i> fishing or the exploitation of inert materials. • There is an impressive list of scientific publications both in peer-reviewed and grey literature. 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The visibility of the European Diploma is quite extensive: all the events and lectures addressed to the public in general and the target groups, as well as the website, Facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels, used to raise awareness about the importance of the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report submitted is highly informative and detailed and the Management Authority considers the European Diploma as a prestige award, helping its staff and enhancing their activities. • The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations. 	

Name of the awarded area	36. Italy Maritime Alps Nature Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.05.93 / 03.05.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)10	1) explore the feasibility of officially recognising the two Maritime and Marguareis Nature Parks as one national park;	4
		2) explore the extent to which small, scattered reserves (Ciciu del Villar, Benevagienna, Crava Morozzo, Sorgenti del Belbo and Grotte di Bossea) which have very different characteristics, can be managed at a local level by municipal or provincial authorities;	3
		3) ascertain that the amendment of the Law L.R.19 29/06/2009 does not jeopardise any of the park conservation regulations;	4
		4) pursue the co-operation and the trans-boundary work with The Regulations for the protected areas managed by the Authority are still in the process of being approved and further explore the setting-up of an Alpi Marittime-Mercantour International Park, to be agreed between the authorities of Italy and France; continue working towards increasing integration.	5
	Conditions	1. secure an adequate annual budget and ensure a reasonable increase in the management and administration staff to be able to carry out all the necessary work related to maintenance, conservation and sustainable tourism;	4
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the fact that the budget for ordinary management had to be reduced, the number of staff remained the same in 2021. The NP Administration has been extremely successful in receiving grants for a huge range of projects from various sources (INTERREG, LIFE, Rural Development Plan, private foundations, etc.) thus buffering the small decline in the budget for ordinary management. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the recent agreement between Italy and France (Quirinale Agreement) together with the operational protocol, there is mention of the establishment of the Alpi Marittime as a National Park and the impetus to be given to the EGTC <i>Marittime Mercantour European Park</i>. The Administration is in contact with the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition. • In 2021 the Park approved the Alpi Maritime Forestry Plan strengthening the conservation and sustainable management within the Parks. • The successful cooperation between the Maritime Alps National Park (I) and the Mercantour National Park (F) has been continuing through the EGTC <i>Marittime Mercantour European Park</i> despite the COVID-19 pandemics and natural disaster (a storm in 2020).
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to restrictions against COVID-19, the budget for ordinary management was slightly reduced. • The small scattered reserves remains under the Management Authority to date because the above transition to a National Park is also crucial for re-definition of the small-size reserves. • Some activities funded from the EU fund are refunded only after have been implemented: therefore, the <i>EGTC Marittime Mercantour European Park</i> had to have bank loans.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The Regulations for the PAs managed by the authority have been still in the process of being approved to be adopted in early 2022.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	no information available	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations. The report is detailed including five attachments. There are huge efforts from the Management Authority and they are on right track to fully meet the recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	37. Austria Wachau Protected Landscape	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)6	1) guarantee a sustainable budget for the managing authorities to ensure that the management plan can be fully implemented without relying on financial resources from projects;	5
		2) encourage the setting up of a long-term institutional management framework for the Wachau Protected Landscape and Jauerling-Wachau Naturpark;	5
		3) ensure the implementation and updating of the management plan in a participatory way;	5
		4) continue the good practice of a global approach to forestry and wild-game management (including co-operation with managing authorities in bordering administrative entities);	5
		5) continue the good practice of maintenance and reconstruction of terrace vineyards;	4
		6) continue efforts to preserve the apricot orchards;	4
		7) develop an integral approach to tourist management;	5
		8) explore optimal solutions for preserving the appearance of the landscape (colours of the protection nets and barriers against rockslides, light pollution and Christmas tree plantations);	5
		9) use the European Diploma logo more regularly on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo.	5

	Conditions	1) abandon definitively the scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma;	5
	Achievements	<p>So far, any plans of constructing a dam or a power plant are definitely abandoned in the Wachau Protected Landscape. Moreover, the free-flowing Danube in the Wachau is one of the most important attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Wachau UNESCO World Heritage site.</p> <p>The construction work for the 1,6 km long new sidearm within the LIFE+Wilderness Wetland Wachau project (LIFE+ Auenwildnis Wachau) was finished in May 2021. The positive co-operation with forestry and game-keeping management has been successfully continuing. In summer 2021 the Management Authority started the WACHAU Sheep-project to maintain dry grassland areas. About 12 ha nature grassland in the region was grazed by almost 100 sheep between July and September. The grazing project should be continued next summer.</p> <p>The groups of the Wachau volunteers also helped mowing and raking smaller and remote dry grassland areas within the region.</p>	
	Shortcomings	none	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Occurrence of the European wildcat (<i>Felis silvestris</i>) was documented in the Wachau region. In autumn 2021 reproduction was registered there as young wildcats were photographed by camera traps.</p> <p>The restoration of native floodplain forests has been continuing. Until December 2021 5,500 Black Poplar and 900 other native trees were planted in the region and 30,000 of neophytes like <i>Robina pseudoacacia</i>, <i>Acer negundo</i> and <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> were eradicated there. 50 breeding ponds for amphibians, particularly <i>Bombina bombina</i> and <i>Triturus dobrogicus</i> have been created within the last years, 7 ponds were built in Rossatz next to the new side arm in 2021.</p>		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma logo is used on all relevant mailings, correspondence and public relations affairs as well as logo tags are installed at various sites and on some official buildings (city halls, etc.).</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations. The Wachau Protected Landscape has been continuing to be a real European Diploma holder due to the progress in the implementation of the recommendations.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	38. Russian Federation Oka National Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.1994 / 05.09.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)11	1) draft and adopt in the next three years a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area. This management plan should include strategic aims, goals and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures. Adequate resources, both financial and human, need to be deployed;	5
		2) secure sufficient resources to ensure the proper conduct of scientific research;	4
		3) ensure the conservation of the habitats of the desman population;	3
		i. extend the reserve south-eastwards in the Lopata zone up to the Pra River in order to include typical water meadow habitats that are not yet represented in the reserve, a number of oxbow lakes and a portion of the Oka River bank; ii. integrate in the biosphere reserve core area the prime desman habitats, currently located nearby but outside the diploma-holding area. Explore the feasibility of the transfer of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra River, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve, as State properties; iii. intensify efforts to regenerate the habitats of the desman in the Oka plain;	

		4) allocate adequate resources to raising the awareness of the general public and strengthening links with local communities, while making full use of the reserve’s assets and the large amount of available scientific data; make suitable educational material available to a young audience;	5
		5) explore the feasibility of making the significant collections of scientific research available to the international scientific community by translating the highlights of findings into English.	3
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Management Plan was elaborated and approved by the respective authorities and has been implemented in relation to funds available.• In 2021, the following events were held: <i>Red-footed falcon - Bird of the Year; Day of Environmental Protection; Day of Crane; Feed the birds in winter; annual conference for schoolchildren on the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Russian Federations, etc.</i> Rich communication, education and public awareness activities among the general public and the target groups were implemented even under nonstandard conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.	
	Shortcomings	Pursuant to the current legislation, it is not easy to extend the reserve. Therefore, boundaries of the reserve in the Lake Lopata area have not been expanded yet and negotiations between the reserve administration and landowners have been underway. The same situation is with hay meadows landowners.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	The research on wild plant and animal species uses modern technologies, <i>e.g.</i> camera traps or high-resolution cameras.		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	no information available		
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing most of recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.		

Name of the awarded area	39. Russian Federation Teberda National Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.09.94 / 05.09.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)10	1) draft and adopt in the next three years a new management plan for the long-term conservation of the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve; include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species; share the draft management plan for comments with the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas prior to its adoption;	3
		2) design socio-economic development plans in the buffer zone of the diploma-holding area that contribute better to preserving the natural features of this area in close co-operation with the local authorities, including the administration of the Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia;	4
		3) develop further awareness-raising activities targeting youth;	5
		4) ensure the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve research programme and activities take into consideration the effects of climate change on the ecological processes inherent to the long-term preservation of the European interest of the diploma-holding area. Explore the feasibility to make popular and scientific publications of the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve available to foreign visitors and scientists in appropriate languages;	4

		5) pursue and step up co-operation with the nature conservation authorities in Georgia with a view to creating a transfrontier protected area; encourage international non-governmental organisations and foundations working in the Caucasus to facilitate this process;	3
		6) ensure by strict enforcement of regulations, the ecological effectiveness of the polygon connecting the diploma-holding area to the Western Caucasus Strict Nature Reserve.	5
	Conditions	none	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2021, the number of NP’s employees has increased by 12 people: thus, there are 216 people in the NP’s staff, a quite high number.• The Teberda National Park has started elaboration of a long-term management plan for the NP taking into account, inter alia, climate change effects on both biota and the abiotic environment: once prepared, the plan will be sent to Council of Europe experts prior to its approval.• At present, the Teberda National Park, together with the administrations of three municipalities in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, is starting to develop a plan for the socio-economic development of the region for a more complete preservation of natural complexes in the cooperation zone.• The National Park uses social media and the Internet to educate young people.• Scientific publications of the Teberda National Park are available to foreign scientists, since more than half of them are published in English and in international journals and printing houses.	
	Shortcomings	The establishment of a transboundary protected area with Georgia is within the competence of the Russian Federation Government.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2021, the Teberda Biosphere Reserve was transformed into the Teberda National Park by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation.• The Teberda National Park has a quite developed communication, education and public awareness infrastructure: there is a nature museum, a children's ecological camp and an information visit center.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Teberda National Park, reintroduce <i>Bison bonasus caucasicus</i> has been continuing: sSince 2012, the number of the European bison in the has increased from 5 to 45 individuals there.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	no information available
Conclusions and action suggested	The report submitted is quite detailed. The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing most of recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.

Name of the awarded area	40. Hungary Ipolytarnóc Protected Area	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2020
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)9	1) further explore the site's high potential for geological discoveries, especially palaeontological excavations. It would be of significant added value if further promotion of internationalisation of research activities took place by making the results of scientific research publicly available;	5
		2) take all appropriate measures to preserve and, if possible, exhibit the site's geological and palaeontological resources. By 2025, engage in a careful (ensuring maximum respect of geological and palaeontological features) renovation/replacement of buildings, primarily the exhibition halls along the geological trail. Additionally, renovate the visitors' centre and other visitors' facilities during the renewal period of ten years;	4
		3) further explore the possibilities of the site taking a central and active role in the integration in the Slovak-Hungarian trans-border Nógrád-Novohrad Geopark, in order to preserve and raise awareness about the natural assets of the region and to further develop the multilingual information point for geo-tourism;	5
		4) continue the gradual replacement of non-native tree species, in particular Robinia pseudoacacia and regionally non-native Pinus species with native deciduous tree species (for example, Quercus) by assisting the natural succession process through ecologically sensitive land management practices. Also take measures to control herbal invasive alien species such as Ambrosia artemisiifolia. Continue the control of game which is causing considerable damage to vegetation and protected animal species;	4
		5) maintain the balance between open spaces and wooded areas on the western side of the conservation area, close to the nearby settlement, to preserve the mosaic structure of the landscapes there. Maintain the use of the regional breed/landrace of Racka sheep because of its	5

		added value from a historical husbandry point of view, and also to increase structural diversity in the herb-dominated vegetation. For agropastoral reasons, maintaining hay-cutting by local farmers and/or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should be encouraged. Limiting management of open habitats to the use of sheep grazing alone would change the landscape into a mosaic of patches covered in woody and herbal plant communities (so-called woodland), which would not comply with earlier recommendations (2010);	
		6) replace the power line that runs between the village and the visitors' centre by an underground structure, respecting the current landscape and exhibitions;	3
		7) explore the feasibility of a video presentation, or documentary film on the scientific, evidence-based process of palaeontological science (paleotaxonomy as well as paleoecology and ecosystem reconstruction/restoration). In particular, the palaeontological method which reconstructs whole animals based on "simple" footprints is astonishing and will interest the general public and scientists in other life sciences;	4
		8) as is already done in the rock park, install more visual markers that make links between present and past (Miocene) ecosystems;	4
		9) improve documentation/reporting on the results of management measures through structured monitoring, as well as of public response (numbers of visitors, appreciation), etc;	4
		10) further enlarge local, regional and transnational public involvement and administrative co-operation, for example on the Novohrad - Nógrád transnational Geopark (to be undertaken by the Bükk National Park authorities rather than the Ipolytarnóc management);	4
		11) consider citizen science projects in order to strengthen involvement and engagement of non-scientific stakeholders;	4
		12) continue to make good and systematic use of the logo and slogan of the European Diploma.	5

	Conditions	none
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on the fossil footprints on the geological study trail has been going on, more than 40 vertebrate taxa have been identified so far, some of them on species level. A volcanological study started to reconstruct the super-eruption, which preserved the palaeohabitat of Ipolytarnóc. • Fossil resources are presented to visitor both in open-air outdoor sites and in indoor exhibitions. Reconstruction and removal of buildings have been continuing there. • As the main gateway to the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark, Ipolytarnoc promotes the geological heritage of the region and advocates its resources to the visitors during special events, <i>e.g.</i> the usual Geopark Week at the turn of May and provides exhibition place to the Geopark. Moreover, in 2021 due to restrictions against COVID-19, the visitor season was restricted and shorter than that before 2020. • In 2021, the forestry activity continued on the rehabilitation of old orchards, enhanced the spreading of native tree species and suppressed invasive alien ones. In the meadows of the border zone and around the buildings on the geological trail the pine tree and acacia spreading have been suppressed. • Sensitive game management was an ongoing activity throughout 2021, the ranger of the site is responsible for it with the assistance of the staff of the BNPD headquarters. • At the buffer zone, close to the local settlement the meadows are leased to local farmers, grazing, hay cutting and bailing activities are ongoing. Tree thinning on forest edges has maintained the mixed vegetation cover of the landscape. Clearings are also maintained as part of game management and along some parts of the state border, the mosaic-like structure of the landscape is well managed. There are two Racka sheep grazing close to the trailhead of the geological study path as an added value to demonstrate the protected ancient breeds of the animal husbandry/livestock heritage. • A new questionnaire was circulated in summer and autumn 2021 as printout and was uploaded to the webpage of the site to check on the quality of services provided by the Management Authority and give field for input to the visitors' opinions. • Since 2021 the BNPD headquarter has been taking a part in the Nógrád County led planning of the Enjoy Park megaproject, which targets the geotourism developments of several geosites managed by the BDNP, including Ipolytarnoc. • The new exhibition in the Ancient Pine visitor center has a movie about the site's game management, which refers to

		<p>the connection between the present game tracks and the fossil ones, the animation of an interactive touch wall leads from the present animals to the beasts of the paleohabitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RiWild Interreg project will make available the 3D scanned paleosurface to the public as an open database from 2023, all of the scientific papers are uploaded to the Site's website and there is developed co-operation with various universities for field practices/stays of students within the ED holder site.
	Shortcomings	none
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GUIDE@HAND smart phone application is available for downloading in the reception building. It has further expanded and available in Slovak and English languages as well in offline format, it contains several Geopark study-trails. • The Enjoy Park project has a section aiming at replacing the power line that runs between the village and the visitors' centre by an underground structure, while respecting the current landscape and exhibitions; the Management Authority seeks for other funds to sponsor undergrounding the power line between the local village and the main parking plot, but not just for aesthetic landscape protection but also from endangered bird protection point of view. • The 3D scanning should lead to the identification of new animal species within two years: the Management authority considers this as an opportunity to extend the reconstruction to an animated presentation of the scientific process, but this may need more resources to make it done. • Email correspondence from the Management Authority concerning fossils is frequent with interested of different backgrounds. • In 2021, the Hungarian Government started to review the Tentative List of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Hungary, the Ipolytarnoc Fossils EDPA is involved in this revalidation. 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma logo is exhibited everywhere within and in the surroundings of the site, including roadside panels leading to the EDPA. All of the circulated media information text mentions the fact about the European Diploma, this prestigious title is well advertised.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The report submitted is highly informative. The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing most of recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	41. Hungary Szénás Hills Protected Area	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)10	1) develop a long-term twenty-five-year management strategy by 2023, including the following aspects: a. objectives for the relative cover of grasslands and woodlands, their ecotones and connectivity between them, and the natural ecological processes and other management measures required to meet them; this should be based on sound evidence of the ecological value of these broad habitats and the ecological requirements of their characteristic species; b. enhanced understanding of the ecological requirements for particularly rare and endangered species; with strategies for appropriate species recovery programmes where necessary; c. an assessment of the potential impact of climate change on priority habitats, species and related ecological processes, together with an adaptation plan where necessary; d. an assessment of future land-use pressures, especially from recreation, tourism and urban development, and potential strategies for mitigating the negative impacts of these; e. the need to determine and implement the range of management options and nature-based solutions necessary to meet the long-term challenges of maintaining the ecological interest of the Szénás Hills Protected Area, especially with regard to long-term ecological trends, including climate change;	3
		2) continue the close co-operation by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate, the Pilis Forest Company and the municipality of Pilisszentiván in the management of the protected area; ensure that nature conservation is the primary consideration in decisions affecting the protected area; and enhance co-operation between the managing authorities and the local municipalities by:	3

		a. establishing equivalent trilateral agreements of co-operation with Nagykovácsi and Piliscsaba; and	
		b. establishing more regular local forum meetings of officers and also the public;	
		3) continue to pursue European Union funding to meet management objectives; ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of project delivery by including the employment costs of the appropriate project staff in the project bids and subsequent budgets;	5
		4) where short-term European Union funding is supporting longer-term needs, secure an appropriate, predictable and sustainable budget to ensure stability of funding;	3
		5) continue effective game management in line with previous commitments, to reduce populations of non-native mouflon and fallow deer to zero; establish a time line, funding and appropriate methods to achieve this eradication within ten years; and continue to manage native large mammal populations, based on effective monitoring by the Pilis Forest Company. Game management can be effective only with the continuous maintenance of the fence around the area and with a combination of control methods (for example, big game drives, shooting, trapping);	4
		6) continue the eradication of non-native tree species, especially the black pine and black locust; especially for the black pine, establish a time line to complete the clearance programme, with funding and appropriate methods to achieve the objective within ten years; and investigate with forest authorities where and how, in appropriate locations, black pine stands as well as other woodland areas might be restored to open grassland, considering appropriate techniques, costs and opportunities, and addressing the regulations which govern such open habitat restoration;	5
		7) enhance the effectiveness of the buffer areas by the inclusion of appropriate regulations in land-use plans to limit inappropriate development; and investigate the practicality of regulating other activities (for example, fly tipping or the introduction of non-native species) in these areas;	4

		8) continue the effective management of visitor access for a range of user groups, including enhancing provision away from sensitive areas, such as horse-riding trails and mountain bike routes, where this can relieve pressure on the protected area.	5
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020, the new LIFE project Conservation of endemic species and dry grassland habitats in the contact zone of Pannonian and Alpine bioregions has been started where the Szénás Hills EDPA is one of the project sites. The following activities of this LIFE project contribute to the achievement of the recommendation. Special attention has been paid to <i>Linum dolomiticum</i> populations and its habitats because the iconic species has been declining at the site: the project allowed to buy modern research equipment. • A new partnership is in process between the Local Government of Nagykovács (the draft contract has already been drawn up between the partners) • From the beginning of 2022, the LIFE project will supplement Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate resources for a few years. • The game population management is a part of the agreement of cooperation between the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company Agreement. Monitoring of changes in number of large game population, involving also game traps, is a part both of the Agreement and the new Life project. • There is a new initiative called « Pilis Bike trail network » which is a good opportunity to divert bike traffic from the most sensitive area. Consultations with the project decision-makers have been ongoing. • Where there is a buffer zone, no building permit can be issued in zone C, neither above the ground nor below. • The Management Authority renewed the partnership with the alternative school in Pilisszentiván and agreed a new one with a nursery school at the same site. • The efforts of the Management Authority under non-standard condition in 2021 (closing during a part of the year, accumulations of a range of activities in a short period) to carry out a lot of events, campaigns and other activities should be appreciated. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Management Authority has been continuing with networking 'companies (volunteers, NGOs, trainees from high schools and universities, mass media, etc.). • In 2021, the Management authority begun to arrange the updating of the nature conservation management plan to replace the plan in 2022.
	Shortcomings	An assessment of the potential impact of climate change on priority habitats, species and related ecological processes, together with an adaptation plan where necessary has not been carried out yet. The same is in the case of an assessment of future land-use pressures, particularly from recreation, tourism and urban development, and potential strategies for mitigating the negative impacts of these.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing more regular local forum meetings of officers and also the public has been limited by measures taken against spreading COVID-19 also in 2021. • The searching for tender sources from the EU funds and the planning of interventions for the maintenance of the area continued also in 2021. • The ASF (African Swine Fever) causes serious problems in the area. Due to this disease and COVID-19, all the driven hunts were cancelled again in the hunting season 2020-2021, unfortunately. It would be important to hold these hunts in order to manage the area. • The fence enclosing the protected area must be maintained in good condition to prevent technical sport activities from encroaching upon it and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation: Maintaining of the fence is also part of the above Agreement. 	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information available	
Conclusions and action suggested	The report submitted is highly informative. The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing most of recommendations.	

Name of the awarded area	42. Belarus Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 11.09.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)13	1) draft and adopt by 2021 a new management plan for the long-term conservation of the Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve for a duration consistent with the renewal of the European Diploma; and include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species;	5
		2) sufficient resources need to be generated both by the government and by the reserve to protect effectively biodiversity and to continue scientific research. In addition to extrabudgetary sources of income, other sources should be tapped. Co-operation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and/or enterprises committed to corporate social responsibility should be promoted;	5
		3) continue the ongoing studies on the dynamics of the mammal populations, fauna movements and their migration between the core and the buffer zones, in order to follow the progress of the effect of hunting on the current situation and to manage the populations accordingly;	
		4) continue with the efforts between the appropriate ministries to ensure that the development of tourism is well controlled;	
		5) in order to mitigate possible risks and hazards connected with climatic change and possible large-scale disturbances on the reserve (contamination by various pollutants, changes of the hydrological regime, invasive alien species, increasing frequency of extreme events, etc.) continuous analysis of the long-term data series should be made in order to detect early the effects on Berezinsky ecosystems. For instance, possible reduction of rainfall,	

		changes in snow cover dynamics, rising temperatures, maladjustments among species potentially due to increasing aridity or to modifications of the annual cycle, etc., should be monitored. The risk of fire should be seriously considered as an increasing danger and additional preventative measures should be considered for implementation.	
	Conditions	1) maintain the protection regime and the ownership of the land;	5
		2) based on the findings of the studies on the effect of the road M3 on the fragmentation of the biosphere reserve, create at least three passages for large fauna above the road by the end of 2022. Vegetate the passages with native plants to improve the natural environment and encourage fauna to use them;	3
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve remains unchanged and thus, there are no changes in the Reserve's current protection status. All lands of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve are protected lands, are only owned by the state and are not subject to denationalization or transfer to private ownership. In 2021, the development of a draft management plan for the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve for 2021-2030 has been completed, the procedure for its public discussions was organized. Taking into account the proposals and comments that will be received during public discussions, the draft document will be finalized and sent for agreement and approval in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus. In 2021, monitoring continued to assess the impact of the M3 road on ecosystems within the reserve, incl. their fragmentation supporting the designation of environmental protection measures to reduce the negative impact of the highway. In order to increase efficiency of protection of the natural systems and to conduct the scientific research, a full range of activities scheduled for 2021 has been performed in accordance with the State Programme entitled as <i>Environment protection and sustainable use of nature resources</i> despite the COVID-19 pandemic. 	
	Shortcomings	Building of minimally three passages for large fauna at M3 road has not started yet, although they should be completed by the end of 2022.	

Other highlights worth to be Mentioned	The reserve staff includes 434 members: in 2021, ten young colleagues were recruited there.
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve extensively uses the logo of the European Diploma. At the official website http://www.berezinsky.by/ in the sections “About the Reserve” and “Our partners” the logo and a brief information on the European Diploma award is given, as well as a link to the Council of Europe website. The original document of the European Diploma awarded to the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve in 1995 is presented in the Museum of Nature Conservation History within the reserve.
Conclusions and action suggested	The report submitted is highly informative. The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing most of conditions and recommendations.

Name of the awarded area	43. Netherlands Nature Park Weerribben-Wieden	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	11.09.1995 / 03.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2021)2	1) continue to monitor the effects of the connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden on mammals and invertebrates, paying particular attention to lighting conditions, vegetation continuity and water quality;	4
		2) design and implement a management plan for fish stocks covering all species and continue monitoring their development, with a particular emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements;	3
		3) monitor the trends in boating activity and their impact on fauna; consider limiting the size and number of boats during peak periods;	4
		4) continue with the designation of adjoining areas as extensions of, or buffer zones to, the protected areas, especially to the north (Rottige Meente) and south-east (Staphorster Veld), and create a connection between the two separate parts of De Wieden Nature Reserve between the Zuideindiger Wiede and the Bovenwiede;	3
		5) continue with the renovation works at the Weerribben visitors' centre in Ossenzijl and raise the attractiveness of both this and the De Wieden visitors' centre to foreign visitors by introducing texts in English, at least, and preferably also in German and French, at all exhibitions;	5
		6) anticipating the decision of Dutch authorities to adopt a new definition of national parks, ensure that the National Park Weerribben-Wieden complies with the new criteria for national parks and continues to benefit from this designation;	4

		7) avoid any use of burning practices when managing reed lands whenever an alternative, equally effective, management approach is available and compatible with management goals;	
		8) give more visibility to the European Diploma logo and raise awareness about its aims and objectives on the website of the National Park Weerribben-Wieden, through social media or information panels in visitors' centres.	
	Conditions	1) the development and use of Lelystad Airport should not jeopardise any of the Natura 2000 targets or the quality of the National Park Weerribben-Wieden;	3

	<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, camera traps revealed that the passage between De Weerribben and De Wieden is used by Eurasian otters, roe deer and other mammals. • In 2021, as a result of releasing the anti-covid measures, namely lockdown, there was an enormous increase in boating in the Weerribben-Wieden, which is difficult to stop and equally difficult to control. Because the zoning is in good order and there are sufficient resting areas for flora and fauna, vulnerable areas are spared and closed during the breeding season. In addition, there is sufficient monitoring to take action in areas where people are not allowed to be and if boats go too fast. • The National Park has been working on a 'smart mobility' app that can provide insight into the visitor flows. For the future, the idea is to be able to steer on the basis of data as well. • Staatsbosbeheer and the municipality of Steenwijkerland are continuing with the development of a European Wetland Centre. In 2021, the brochure <i>Discover the Wieden</i> has been published in English and German and is also available on the Natuurmonumenten De Wieden website in several languages. Information leaflets on the excursion boats are also available in English, French and German. In the former water tower, in addition to Dutch, all texts are also in English, French and German, as well as Chinese. The information boards along the slatted path all have texts in Braille. An English and German language video is available in the Visitor Centre. The website of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park has an extensive English and German section. In addition, information boards with English and German information have been placed in various villages in and around the National Park. • The Weerribben-Wieden National Park will take a more prominent role in new approach of the Dutch Government to National Park. The new work organisation of the National Park will be jointly implementing the already existing project plans and visions. In the coming years, the National Park will work with the area partners on a landscape biography and a landscape ecological systems analysis • There was no burning in the Wieden in summer 2021. Burning reed waste only takes place in the winter during reed cutting. Burning still takes place in the Weerribben although already
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			much less than before. The (summer) hay clippings from the meadows are increasingly being removed and sold as soil improvers to local farmers. Unfortunately, the management fee for disposal is very low. Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten are looking for new sales opportunities together.
	Shortcomings	none	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2021, the Dutch Government has continued to work on the Response report, which responds to the submitted opinions and the Commission's advice for the EIA on the EIA plan and the appropriate broad outlines of the EIA plan. In view of the submitted opinions and the advice of the EIA Commission, the drafting of the Response report and the Preference Decision will take more time and will be completed around the turn of the year (2021/2022) and the activity shall continue in 2022.• A new Fish Management plan will be drawn up with all the authorities concerned. Moreover, it is not yet clear when this Fish Management plan will be ready. It is expected that by the end of 2022, we will be able to explain more about this and perhaps already add a plan.• The plans for the buffer zone between the Weerribben and Rottige Meenthe are being further developed by the Province of Overijssel. In addition to the development plan, the possibility is also being investigated as to whether the municipality of Steenwijkerland can construct a bypass around the village of Ossenzijl: the route has great advantages for nature and the landscape there.• At the same time, discussions have been held and are continuing as to the management of the area between Zuideindiger Wiede and Bovenwiede. The Natuurmonumenten NGO can start preparing for the management of the Whinchat and the Corn Crane in 2022 based on the previous report elaborated by Sovon.• In 2021, the Weerribben-Wieden Foundation started its activities.		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	The European Diploma flag hangs in the management office of De Wieden. The NP Administration refers to the European Diploma annually in a variety of internal and external reports. In the management cycle (internal quality assessment) the European Diploma is mentioned in the nature vision and also in all other quality assessments. The updated information boards in the Weerribben explain what the European Diploma means and show the logo. Reference to the European Diploma is also made via the Visit Weerribben-Wieden website. https://en.visitweerribbenwieden.com/weerribben-wieden-national-park .		
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing conditions and recommendations		

Name of the awarded area	44. Finland Seitsemien National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)8	1) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular five-year intervals;	4
		2) continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity;	3
		3) Metsähallitus should continue to bring together people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster the transfer and exchange of knowledge; scientific research should actively continue;	3
		4) deepen co-operation with local stakeholders, especially in the nature tourism sector;	4
		5) provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed.	4
	Conditions	1) implement the new master plan for the Seitsemien National Park and evaluate by 2014 if there is a need of a new updated management plan.	5
	Achievements	<p>The condition has been met through the implementation of the NP's integrated management plan.</p> <p>The habitat restoration has been continuing: in 2021, 9 hectares of forests were restored.</p> <p>Cooperation agreements were done with 16 local nature tourism companies.</p> <p>The investment project was carried out for continuing the renovation of the recreational facilities within the NP. Part of these new services are made accessible.</p>	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The amount of visitors has normalized after the corona pandemic year 2020.</p> <p>The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	45. Finland Ekenäs Archipelago National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	19.06.1996 / 19.06.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)7	1) make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan;	4
		2) inform the Secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the state of the parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals;	4
		3) continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to – the inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved; and – the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species;	4
		4) continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular: – improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure; – further develop customer service and interpretation; and – raise the public's awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park;	4
		5) review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years;	5
		6) deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators.	4
	Conditions	1. within one year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan	4

		(master plan), which itself will include plans to enlarge the national park.	
	Achievements	<p>The condition and all the recommendations have been met.</p> <p>The planned enlargement area of the National Park, Segelskär, next to national park, was included in the enactment process of nature reserves, for its terrestrial part.</p> <p>Natura 2000 Site condition assessment (NATA) initiating in year 2020 will be finalized in early 2022 after a review in the regional environmental authority</p> <p>New macrophyte monitoring program was launched in the Gulf of Finland.</p> <p>Eelgrass was transplanted in new areas outside of the National Park, because of the success of a small-scale pilot restoration project conducted in 2020 within the Park.</p> <p>The efforts to reduce/eradicate some invasive alien species, <i>e.g.</i> the Japanese rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>), the American mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>), the Raccoon dog (<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>), or the White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>) should be mentioned.</p> <p>National funding for restoration of nature also enabled in year 2021</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>Marine areas including Segelskär were left for further preparation and they are still waiting for the approval.</p> <p>There were no systematic marine habitat inventories in the National Park in year 2021</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Metsähallitus is currently renewing its cooperation agreement system and the agreements will be updated during 2022.</p> <p>The ED site is managed as the EU Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>The report is again data-based, factual and very detailed.</p>		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The logo is in the information boards at the national park and in the National Park brochure. The logo is also on National park webpages (Finnish, Swedish and English pages).</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>Welcome the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations for the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	46. Belarus Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)16	1) maintain a high level of human capacities and a skilled and professional staff;	4
		2) increase and secure the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park budget with State resources, so as to be able to continue to manage the diploma-holding area in an exemplary way, as required by the European Diploma regulation;	4
		3) expand the strict protected zone of the diploma-holding area to the historic Bialowieza forest limits and manage this zone in order to preserve and enhance the ecological and biological natural processes which are key assets of the European interest of the diploma-holding area;	3
		4) totally protect the old-growth tree communities and restore and enhance old natural forest all over the historical Bialowieza forest;	4
		5) pursue the efforts to preserve the ecological character of wetlands and to implement an integrated management of water resources;	4
		6) pursue the efforts to reduce the red deer population (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>) and to remove all winter feeding places from the diploma-holding area (core and buffer zones);	3
		7) assess the state of conservation of the elk (<i>Alces alces</i>) and design a hunting regime accordingly;	3

		8) pursue the efforts to prevent or fight against the spread of invasive alien species in the diploma-holding area, and especially to eliminate <i>Quercus rubra</i> , <i>Solidago Canadensis</i> and exotic fish;	3
		9) create an overall database including performance indicators, covering both natural resources and socio-economic uses and activities in order to ensure the continuous monitoring of the European significance of the diploma-holding area;	4
		10) adopt a clear and sustainable tourism strategy and engage a more active sustainable development policy together with local stakeholders, and if possible with the authorities of Poland, promoting and supporting extensive farming, manufacture and marketing of green products and services, and the preservation and renovation of cultural heritage; include in the forthcoming management plan a specific programme of activities aiming to preserve or restore local cultural heritage, including architecture, local breeds, traditional uses and activities, as well as all other cultural assets of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park and its buffer zone, so as to strengthen sustainable development in the diploma-holding area;	3
		11) ban hunting in the whole Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park territory and minimise hunting pressure in its buffer zone; with reference to the moratorium on wolf hunting established in 2015, and as foreseen in the current management plan, forbid wolf hunting by law on the territory of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, as well as in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;	3
		12) develop a long-term vision for the European bison population and strengthen scientific and technical co-operation with the authorities of Poland in the whole historic Bialowieza forest;	2

		13) consult with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Large Herbivores Commission in order to assess whether the European bison in the diploma-holding area require specific conservation measures.	1
	Conditions	1) by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should meet international standards and take into consideration the recommendations attached to the renewal of the European Diploma; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;	4
	Achievements	<p>Most of the recommendations have been met or activities are carried out to meet them.</p> <p>During year 2021 the new Management plan of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park for the period of 2022-2031 was elaborated</p> <p>Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the amount of funds for the activities of the National Park in 2021 remained the same as in 2020.</p> <p>Restoration activities implemented at 6 wetland sites, while two more sites are in progress.</p> <p>New strategic plan on disturbed wetland restoration in Belovezhskaja pushcha National park for the period until 2030 is developed in 2021</p>	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The elk population is in stable condition</p> <p>Monitoring of the distribution of the most dangerous invasive alien species (<i>Quercus rubra</i>, <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>, <i>Solidago canadensis</i>) has been organized. In 2021, measures have been taken to eliminate <i>Solidago canadensis</i> in the area of 280 ha.</p>		
To what extend the visibility of the	No information provided		

European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in the implementation of the condition and the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.</p> <p>Implementation of the new Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park Management Plan will be crucial.</p> <p>Assessment of whether European bison in the diploma-holding area requires specific conservation measures needs to be done</p>

No report received

Name of the awarded area	47. France Port Cros National Park <i>Does not apply for the renewal of the European Diploma</i>	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997/ 30.09.2022
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ensure that the development of the new Grand Parc consolidates the protection of Port-Cros and that it in no way undermines such protection; and keep the relevant Committee informed about how the situation develops; 2) ensure the early implementation of formal protection for Porquerolles, with its adjoining marine area, which is a vital complement to Port-Cros; 3) consolidate and co-ordinate the protection of the surrounding marine area initiated under Natura 2000, and seek a regional solution to the problem of waste water from boats; 4) actively work on enlarging the Port-Cros National Park by introducing a partnership zone on the mainland and an adjacent maritime zone, and initiate the consultation procedure for drafting the Park's Charter, ensuring maximum involvement by local stakeholders; 5) continue to assess the impact of recreational activities, introduce indicators for environmental load and pressure capacity indicators in order to prevent the tolerance threshold of the land and sea habitats from being exceeded, and monitor the development and impact of new sports activities in order to regulate them as soon as they emerge; define and implement the necessary tools for achieving this objective and involving all partners in their implementation; 6) continue to monitor commercial fishing and regularly adapt the regulations and voluntary agreements with fishermen in order to ensure sustainable use of this local resource; assess the impact of angling and tailor the regulations if necessary; 7) provide visitors with more visible information on the fact that they are entering a natural protected area at the ports of entry and by displaying notices in the shuttle boats, and place greater emphasis on the European Diploma; 	

		<p>8) continue to monitor and control invasive alien species such as <i>Carpobrotus</i> spp., <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>, black rats and feral cats, and actively participate in the Mediterranean alarm network on new high-risk species;</p> <p>9) involve the Park more actively and visibly in measures concerning sustainable development and moderate use of such resources as fresh water and energy;</p> <p>10) clarify the formal and actual responsibilities and tasks of the National Park and those of the other local players such as the municipal, departmental and maritime authorities;</p> <p>11) promote local reappropriation of the Park by developing partnerships with local political, economic and voluntary players.</p>
	Conditions	
	Achievements	
	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?		
Conclusions and action suggested		

Name of the awarded area	48. Ukraine Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	30.09.1997 / 30.09.2022
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2012)1	1) continue efforts to provide the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with more appropriate funding and to raise more additional funds from external sources;	4
		2) accelerate liaison with the authorities of Romania so as to complete the process of establishing a transfrontier Biosphere Reserve within the next two to three years;	3
		3) pay more attention to the elaboration and implementation of clear strategies and actions plans for the development of co-ordinated green activities around the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, working in close co-operation with the local stakeholders and in line with the presidential guidance;	3
		4) provide the Council of Europe with adequate and detailed figures, information and data on the legislation concerning the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in Ukraine and the enforcement of that legislation in the country, especially with regards to Article 6 of the Bern Convention; the State Party should be urged to report on this issue to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention at its next meeting, and encouraged to strengthen its efforts on reducing the poaching activities in and around the Diploma-holding area;	3
		5) devote priority efforts to the monitoring and conservation of the European mink and to the control of the population of the American mink within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve;	3

		6) follow up the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations made in the reports on inventory and monitoring, and on the challenges and solutions for the management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, published in 2008 and 2011, giving the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve the capacity to undertake these;	4
		7) strengthen co-operation with the local socio-economic stakeholders, including the forest and the tourism sectors, and develop specific awareness pilot activities targeted on them; these activities should address the issue of climate change, and promote local adaptation measures to global warming, including alternative socio-economic measures, such as schemes for green tourism, carbon sequestration and payment for ecosystem services.	3
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>Most recommendations have progressively been improved on. Major achievements are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An increase of budget is mentioned. 2. An international conference and a working meeting with the participation of both protected areas on the establishment of a transfrontier Biosphere Reserve have been held in 2021. More meetings from both sides are scheduled for early 2022. 3. There has been a meeting of the Coordination Council in 2021 about socio-economic development of the region and the mechanisms for improving cooperation between the CBR administration and stakeholders. Environmental communication and education actions were continuously taken place in the wider area of the reserve by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's representatives. 4. Monitoring of the wolf population by visual observations or by tracking of the animals is continuing. Recommendations on the regulation of number for the wolves' population and opposing poaching in the area of the reserve are developed. 5. There seems to be progress in European Mink monitoring as the equipment market is planned. This year European mink was not observed in the territory of the reserve, while American mink has never been registered on the territory of the reserve. 	

		<p>6. The active phase of the implementation the 10-year development strategy and the 5-year action plan for the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has begun. The territory expansion project was approved and the draft of the relevant Decree of the President of Ukraine is expected to be signed. The administration of the CBR has launched a new project of the territory expansion.</p> <p>7. Cooperation between the CBR with and the local communities had reached a new, better level and a new agreement on the use of land tax to be received by the communities from the CBR has been achieved</p>
	Shortcomings	The market of the equipment is expected to contribute to conservation of European Mink and to confirm that no individual of the IAS American Mink has ever been observed in the entire history of observations in the reserve.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	CBR actively disseminates information about the European Diploma during all meetings in its presentations, as in the previous years. The European Diploma logo is used in presentations and in information materials, on the reserve's website.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of the recommendations and acknowledge the cooperation with local communities.	

Name of the awarded area	49. Slovak Republic Poloniny National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)11	1) by 2020, develop a prioritised plan for all land in State ownership to be reclassified as levels 3, 4 or 5; and demonstrate significant progress in reclassifying the level-3 forest as either level 4 (with exploitation by a silvicultural selection methodology) or as level 5 (no exploitation);	4
		2) encourage church, association and private landowners to reclassify their land as level 3 or 4, utilising a single-tree or group-selection silvicultural system wherever appropriate;	3
		3) maintain the management of meadows outside the World Heritage Site, preferably by summer grazing with livestock or alternatively by cutting and removing the cut material from the site;	3
		4) liaise with appropriate stakeholders, especially those involved with sustainable tourism, to prepare an inventory of objects of cultural significance within the national park and support a prioritised programme of restoration of these culturally significant objects;	3
		5) develop effective research and monitoring programmes which provide data helpful to the management of the national park's resources;	4
		6) devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national park and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area;	3

		7) maintain co-operation with the other nations which incorporate parts of the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe World Heritage Site, as well as with Bieszczadi National Park in Poland, the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the two neighbouring Landscape Protected Areas – Východné Karpaty and Vihorlat;	3
		8) continue the dialogue with local communities in order to build confidence and foster involvement in the diploma-holding area.	3
	Conditions	1) by 31 December 2021, submit to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe a detailed report, covering the implementation of each of the 52 actions in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan (Appendix 6.6.17 of the Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026);	3
		2) by 31 December 2023, initiate the revision of management and action plans for the Poloniny National Park so that they can be approved (by government resolution, if necessary) before they are due to be implemented on 1 January 2028;	2
		3) deploy adequate resources, both financial and human, in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome of the actions detailed in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan;	3
	Achievements	The park has managed to engage on most recommendations and is reporting on new landmarks on most of these.	
		<p>(1) All forests within NP are reclassified either as level 4 or as 5 ones. The UNESCO World Heritage (WH) Property is almost to be finalized; the process toward designation of three new nature reserves within the UNESCO Property was completed (the governmental ordinance for nature reserves has been adopted).</p> <p>(2) Some management of meadows through cutting of natural self-sowing young shrubs and trees on selected meadows and subsequently mowing has been taken place.</p> <p>(3) Research and monitoring activities has been taken place.</p>	

		<p>(4) A study on current situation in tourism development in the NP has been conducted and measurements which would be taken to stimulate tourism in this region has been proposed.</p> <p>(5) Good contacts with neighbouring protected areas have been maintained</p> <p>(6) Good cooperation with some local communities have been maintained</p> <p>Two of the above-mentioned conditions are on their way to being achieved. More specifically:</p> <p>(1) Amendments to the legal documents (acts) have been came in force towards regulation on sanitary logging in protected areas and assessment of forest management plans.</p> <p>(2) No 2 will be initiated in a due period.</p> <p>(3) The number of employees at the Administration of the Poloniny NP decreased but after the election of the new government in 2020 the status of the Poloniny NP Administration would strengthen and requests for compensations from the state budget have been approved</p>
	Shortcomings	None reported the last year.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	It is not stated specifically how the visibility has improved during last year.	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group welcome the progress in implementing several of the conditions and recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.	

Name of the awarded area	50. Poland Bieszczady National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extend the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)20	1) draw up and implement three-year action plans, within the framework of the management plan (2011-2031), and set up a monitoring mechanism based on performance and conservation indicators;	3
		2) pursue the efforts to include the beech forests of the Bieszczady National Park on the World Natural Heritage list; aim to harmonise the management of the contiguous beech forests and upland meadows with the similar forests and meadows across the border in the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic);	5
		3) manage and control visitor pressure; devise and implement with local stakeholders a sustainable tourism strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed in line with conservation objectives of the area;	3
		4) strengthen co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and municipalities, with a view to forging a common vision and designing common objectives for regional planning and development, taking the biological and landscape interests, and sensitive nature of the site, into account;	3
		5) develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services targeting children and youths;	4
		6) continue the monitoring of the flora, fauna and vegetation units, and evaluate the management activities that are necessary for the conservation of species and the restoration of native vegetation.	3

	Conditions	
	Achievements	<p>There has been further development of the work on the recommendations, and most are followed. Major achievements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The implementation of nature protection tasks for the years 2019-2021 was continued (2) A draft of protective tasks for the years 2022-2025 was prepared and submitted for approval (3) The primeval beech forests of the Bieszczady National Park became part of the serial entry of the UNESCO World Heritage List "Ancient and primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and other regions of Europe". (4) The Park continued to work on the improvement of marked trails and natural environment protection at tourist routes (5) Strengthen co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and municipalities (6) The reconstruction of Ecological Education Center and Natural Museum in Ustrzyki Dolne is started
	Shortcomings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The adoption of a strategy to manage and control visitor pressure should be a priority. Some progress has been done but this must continue. (b) The number of people participating in educational activities was lower than in previous years, because the nature museum and education centre of BNP in Ustrzyki Dolne was closed for complex renovation. (c) Pandemic has forced restrictions on the provision of educational facilities and the organization of certain events, and has result in overcrowding of tourists on the routes
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>It has been improved. European Diploma logo on the official website www.bdpn.pl and on the new information boards which were installed in the park.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing several of the recommendations; - The Group to welcome the continuation in the implementation of the recommendations and urge the authorities to handle the visitors' pressure. 	

Name of the awarded area	51. Slovak Republic Dobročský National Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)12	1) add a chapter on scientific research to the management plan defining clearly the needs of the management of the nature reserve and including a timetable to avoid surveys that are not directly connected to the further development of the area;	3
		2) develop, according the precautionary principle, a strategy on how to deal with invasive alien species, in case of their appearance;	4
		3) prepare a study on the effects of climate change and global warming, both on the nature reserve itself and on the regional forests, including a strategy on how to manage the surrounding forest to avoid negative impact in the nature reserve;	3
		4) explore the possibility of moving the exhibition from the Skalicou cottage to the Forestry Museum.	3
	Conditions	1) conduct a study involving all stakeholders to verify the necessity of a new forest road into the buffer zone and identify measures guaranteeing a least-intervention solution to minimise the impact of the road, provided that the construction is not carried out during the vegetation period and in the breeding season, and that the felling itself does not include heavy machinery; a natural re-cultivation of the road should be foreseen once the forestry work has been carried out; report to the Council of Europe before starting the road works;	1
	Achievements	The majority of recommendations are met. Major achievements include: (1) Research activities were conducted in line with the Management Plan of the National Nature Reserve. Bat species recording data collected during the	

		<p>previous year has been analysed, revealing the presence of at least 12 bat species.</p> <p>(2) Invasive alien species were monitored, showed lower populations relative to the previous year and were eradicated. There is confirmation of the absence of invasive alien species within the Park up to now.</p> <p>(3) The climate change research has started through a research project where measurements of both abiotic and biotic components of the forests are conducted. Reliable results are expected in later years</p> <p>(4) Construction of a wooden summer house in the open-air museum has finished to serve for the exhibition currently located in the Pred Skalicou cottage. The new version of the exhibition adapted for outdoor conditions has been prepared and it will be financed by the State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic.</p> <p>Condition: The road construction is delayed and therefore the condition will not be fulfilled until the time of its construction.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>The Open Day event in the Dobročský prales NNR was not organized due to pandemic.</p> <p>Similarly, guided excursions to the core area of the primeval forest were cancelled.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The local management in the reserve was realized in accordance with the Management Plan of the National Nature Reserve</p> <p>Windbreak and bark-beetle calamity was recorded in the area, and the processing rules of the calamity were arranged and approved.</p> <p>An Education Day for almost 100 pupils in the eco-centre of the Poľana PLA-BR Administration was organized.</p>	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>- The Group to welcome the continuation in the implementation of the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.</p> <p>- Remind the authorities that when the suggested road is planned, the condition must be met with.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	52. Russian Federation Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.98 / 18.09.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)8	1) in co-operation with the Finnish authorities, remove security equipment (wire fences, electric fencing and other devices) on the border between the two countries to optimise links between the two sides of the border and to foster ecological processes;	4
		2) implement individual training plans for field staff in the conservation/management of natural environments and in natural sciences in general so as to broaden the scope and raise the level of skills of such staff in matters which are central to their work;	4
		3) consider the renewal of the management plan for the diploma-holding area for a period that is consistent with the duration of the renewal of the European Diploma and with a view to its updating in the context of the integration of the diploma-holding area in the Kostomuksha Nature Reserve since 2015;	4
		4) finalise by 2022 the project for the establishment of the biosphere reserve including the diploma-holding area. Ensure the strong commitment of local authorities and socio-economic stakeholders to help the authorities of the diploma-holding area to preserve it. This should also help adapt the composition of the diploma-holding area and in particular its buffer zone and if possible extend them, so as to confirm its European significance and the preservation of the diploma-holding area; it is referred in particular to the central area of the Kalevala National Park;	3

		5) ensure the long-term preservation of the natural aspect of the diploma-holding area, which helps to maintain its European significance by the appropriate management of fires and other natural processes as a whole;	3
		6) develop a regional vision for the development of scientific, and/or nature-based tourism so as to optimise the potential of the diploma-holding area and of the Kostomuksha Nature Reserve as a whole; this should (1) be considered with the support of the UNESCO MAB (Man and the Biosphere) programme and of the Council of Europe, (2) involve regional and local authorities and the private sector, and (3) exclude all tourist practices that are incompatible with the natural aspect of the diploma-holding area, such as artificial feeding of wildlife;	3
		7) continue monitoring the pumping of water in the diploma-holding area and provide regular information on its impact on the diploma-holding area in the annual reports on this area.	4
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>Some progress has been carried out towards meeting with the recommendations for the Strict Nature Reserve.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It seems that the cleaning of the territory of metal fences is done, and so the movement of animals between Russia and Finland occurs regularly 2) The staff who participating in fieldwork surveys regularly gain new knowledge. 3) Work is underway to develop the territory of Kalevalsky national park 4) the Kostomukshsky Nature Reserve participate in a project aimed at developing practical tools for forecasting and monitoring forest fires to preserve biodiversity 5) Annual monitoring of the state of water is conducted 	
	Shortcomings		

Other highlights worth to be mentioned	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in the implementation of most of the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.

Name of the awarded area	53. Russian Federation Tsentrarno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	18.09.1998 / 18.09.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)7	1) ensure that the necessary funding for the diploma-holding area is provided for in the federal budget and obtain greater financial support from the Kursk regional authorities;	3
		2) draft and implement a programme to update and renovate the museum;	4
		3) ensure that the current project for the extension of the biosphere reserve is completed as soon as possible and link it by 2022 to a management plan for the buffer and transitional zones in particular, thereby ensuring the European significance of the diploma-holding area and maintaining its integrity;	2
		4) continue and strengthen the international co-operation efforts of the Tsentrarno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve by means of projects that meet the major interests of steppe environments in this part of Europe and which contribute to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity targets.	3
	Conditions	1) clarify by 2020 the status of the three units withdrawn from the management of the Tsentrarno-Chernozemny Strict Nature Reserve (Janskoy, Lycie Gory and Stinky Izgoria) in 1990 and entrusted since then to the Belogorye Strict Nature Reserve; maintain, if possible, these three units within the diploma-holding area given their contribution to its European significance;	4
	Achievements	(1) the basic funding of the reserve has been increased. (2) an agreement with the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant and a contract with Mikhailovsky Mining and Processing Integrated Works for the study of biodiversity were conducted (3) the repair of the Museum of Nature of the Reserve has been completed in 2019.	

	Shortcomings	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The administration of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny State Nature Reserve and the administration of the Nature Reserve “Belogorye” signed an agreement on the validity of the European Diploma stating that the administration of the Nature Reserve “Belogorye” will position the sites “Yamskaya Steppe”, “Lysyye Gory” and “Stenki Izgorya” as having a European Diploma.</p> <p>In 2021, the problem of interaction between the Kursk Oblast Administration and the Reserve's administration in the buffer zone of the Tsentralno-Chernozemnyi Reserve was solved.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information provided	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the condition and several recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged. - Request the authorities to ask for funding from the regional authorities of the Kursk Oblast - Request the authorities to take the necessary measures to obtain borders of the proposed protected areas in a new format (Rec 3) and to submit them to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia; - To strengthen the international co-operation efforts of the Reserve by means of projects that meet the major interests of steppe environments in this part of Europe. 	

Name of the awarded area	54. Netherlands De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	09.09.1999 / 09.09.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2021)1	1) closely monitor the effect of increasing flight activity at Lelystad Airport on birds, the achievement of the Natura 2000 goals, and the recreational interest and general tranquillity of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve core area and buffer zones;	3
		2) preserve the European interest and exemplary management of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve by ensuring appropriate management of the water dynamics, large herbivore dynamics and the grazing regime in order to achieve the Natura 2000 management goals;	3
		3) envisage further extension of the reserve by creating a wide corridor to the Horsterwold, which would contribute to natural population dynamics and ecosystem management;	2
		4) maintain and further strengthen co-operation between the management authorities, the surrounding municipalities and the province in order to limit any impact on the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve when reviewing urbanisation and zoning plans, and ensure sufficient buffer zones around the core area of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve;	3
		5) in co-operation with stakeholders at all levels (representatives of the local and regional authorities, managing authorities, scientists, non-governmental organisations and civil society associations), design a transparent and widely acceptable mechanism to control the populations of large herbivore mammals; continue to raise awareness and inform the public at large about the objectives of such a mechanism, its direct effect on animal welfare and its	3

		long-term effect on the biodiversity of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve;	
		6) following the integration of the peripheral zones – Hollandse Hout, Oostvaardersveld, Kotterbos and Oostvaardersbos - into the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, finalise their management plans and ensure that they are consistent with the management of the core area of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve;	2
		7) monitor the increase in numbers and the impact of visitors to avoid any negative effects either on the quality of the recreational experience or on the natural treasures of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve; take remedial measures if the results indicate negative effects on the intrinsic value of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve;	3
		8) continue to reflect on the creation of the Nieuw Land National Park, encompassing the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, and consider applying for the European Diploma for this national park;	2
		9) give more visibility to the European Diploma logo and raise awareness about its aims and objectives on the website of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, through social media, flyers, brochures and information panels in visitors' centres and in the field.	2
	Conditions	1) the development and use of Lelystad Airport should not jeopardise any of the Natura 2000 targets or the quality of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve;	2
	Achievements	<p>The planned flying-routes have been established respecting the Natura 2000 requirements, meaning that airplanes will fly only at high altitudes over the Oostvaardersplassen and that the upward and downward movements occur outside the nature reserve</p> <p>The reduction of the number of large grazers in accordance with the management plan for Oostvaardersplassen also continued in 2021.</p>	

		<p>New area development and management plans will be included in the management plan for the Oostvaardersplassen and thus form an integral implementation agenda for the management of the entire area</p> <p>There are indications that the social concerns regarding the management of the large grazers has decreased</p>
	Shortcomings	The problem still concerning the EDPA is the planned opening of the nearby airport.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Not clearly stated	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations though the development of the Lelystad Airport as well as the situation of large grazers must be continuously monitored. - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on all communication tools. 	

Name of the awarded area	55. Czech Republic Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)12	1) ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area's staff, including administration, research, surveillance and habitat management;	4
		2) take strong measures to control non-native species in the national nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas. Continue the necessary negotiations with relevant stakeholders aiming at controlling non-native big game populations in the protected landscape area; ensure that the monitoring of the population of fallow deer in the Radejov hunting reserve is continued and regularly validated by Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area staff;	2
		3) continue to implement nature-based solutions and management in the face of climate change, ensuring the continuation of the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of native hardwood forests;	2
		4) evaluate the need, and take the necessary actions, for having a stronger presence of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area during the preparation or review of the urban plans of the major urban areas within or bordering the protected landscape area. Additionally, identify any areas where urban development may become a risk in the near future and evaluate the necessity of drafting an urban plan for these areas (if one does not exist);	3
		5) include the European Diploma logo and information about the European Diploma in all promotion materials produced in the future as well as in any new signposts installed in the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. The website of the	2

		protected landscape area should also include the logo of the European Diploma with a link to the website of the Council of Europe.	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>The majority of recommendations is met. Major achievements include:</p> <p>The budget for the PLA Administration has been stable and has not been decreasing in 2021 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, there currently are 28 staff members - two new staff were recruited thanks to funding from the above LIFE project in 2021.</p> <p>The PLA Administration begun the offence proceedings with the Radejov hunting preserve owner and a fine was imposed. The decision is not final and lawful yet because the accused appealed against it.</p> <p>Special attention to reducing the proportion of the Norway spruce and to increase the share of broad-leaved deciduous trees as nature-based solution related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, has been paid by the PLA Administration. Mainly small owners (private persons, municipalities) efforts are also financially supported by the PLA Administration. In addition, funds from landscape management subvention programmes/subsidiary schemes are also regularly used.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - overpopulated hoofed game poses a serious problem - also a serious problem coniferous, mostly Norway spruce growths, poses risk to the park - the European spruce bark beetle plague is seriously negatively affecting forest ecosystems - the European Diploma logo and information about the European Diploma is not visible on the website of the protected landscape area 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>The procedure to review the current protection landscape boundaries to include also some valuable habitats in the vicinity has started.</p> <p>The elaboration of a new Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. Protected Landscape Area Management Plan taking into account, inter alia, recommendations for the PLA as a European Diploma holder has started.</p> <p>After releasing the strict anti-COVID-19 measures across the country in May 2021, the sharp increase in visitors' numbers in the protected landscape area was recorded in late spring and summer 2020: most tourists were domestic ones including the whole families.</p>		

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ED award is presented on the web page only in one article from 2018, informing on renewal of the ED to the Białe Karpaty/White Carpatians Mts. PLA and the link to the website of the Council of Europe - the ED logo and information about the European Diploma is still not visible on the website of the protected landscape area
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations - Request the continuous reassessment and secure permanent, stable financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan; - Request the continuous negotiations with relevant stakeholders aiming at controlling non-native big game populations in the protected landscape area and the monitoring of the population of fallow deer in the Radejov hunting reserve to eliminate non-indigenous species and to report on the result of the appeal against the offence proceedings with the Radejov hunting preserve owner; - Request the authorities to continue the current forestry policy and activities to reduce the proportion of the Norway spruce and to increase the share of broad-leaved deciduous trees as nature-based solution related to climate change mitigation and adaptation; - Have active role in initiating review of the urban plans of the major urban areas within or bordering the protected landscape area and to have more active role in initiating the identification of areas where urban development may become a risk in the near future and to initiate drafting an urban plan for these areas (if one does not exist); - Include the European Diploma logo and information about the European Diploma in all promotion materials produced in the future as well as in any new signposts installed in the Białe Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. The website of the protected landscape area should also include the logo of the European Diploma with a link to the website of the Council of Europe; - Continue with the elaboration and adoption of Mts. Protected Landscape Area Management Plan and with the procedure of reviewing the current PLA boundaries to include also some valuable habitats in the PLA's vicinity.

Name of the awarded area	56. Czech Republic Karlstejn National Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)11	<p>1) continue the restoration of non-forested areas of forest steppes and xerophilous calcareous grasslands through appropriate management; and make funding available to continue contractual agreements with goatherds and/or shepherds in order to guarantee grazing, and thereby maintenance, in the long term;</p> <p>Goat and sheep grazing management, shrub and tree removal on dry calcareous grasslands and forest steppe localities continued on similar area compared to previous years (conservation grazing on 44 hectares, shrub removal on 3 hectares). In addition, grazing of 8 hectares is funded from agri-environmental schemes. Constant obstacle for long term contracts is that financial funding is always announced only for the current year.</p>	4
		<p>2) continue the restoration of the deciduous broad-leaved forests by gradually reducing conifer presence in the reserve; and monitor the results of these interventions as well as the occurrence of pest species in the area;</p> <p>Dry period since 2015 followed by bark beetle outbreak almost completely killed mature Norway spruce trees in the reserve; the situation is similar with European larch. Their stands have been afforested with broad-leaved species (beech, oak, and lime). No non-native game species has been introduced.</p>	5
		<p>3) improve signposting, notably by including information in English or German, and by displaying the European Diploma logo on the signs.</p> <p>No changes took place.</p>	1
		<p>4) stimulate the development of high-quality visitors' centres and organise environmental education programmes for the wider public; and encourage local authorities to</p>	5

		<p>disseminate information on the merits of the national nature reserve and its position in Europe in appropriate places (such as railway stations, camping sites, municipal halls, museums, etc.);</p> <p>The construction of visitor centre started in 2020 and has continued during 2021. During the year 2021, educational excursions for the public were limited due the Covid-19 pandemic situation.</p>	
		<p>5) ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the reserve's staff, including administration, research, surveillance, education and training, as well as habitat management;</p> <p>In 2021, the budget of the Administration, including the budget for active management of target species and habitats, was provided in a regular extent in accordance to needs and capabilities of the office.</p>	
	Conditions	No conditions were attached to the renewal of the European Diploma.	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazing management on dry calcareous grasslands and forest steppe localities continued on similar area compared to previous years. In addition, grazing of 8 hectares is funded from agri-environmental schemes - No non-native species has been introduced - Construction of a visitor center and educational excursions - Negotiations to decrease number or even eliminate moufflon from the hunting district should be continued. - Request the authorities to explore the possibility of reinforcing the special legal competences of the reserve's staff and other authorities responsible for nature conservation 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constant obstacle for long term contracts is that financial funding is always announced only for the current year. - Signposting has not been improved 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	No information has been provided.
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations and requests the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on the website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

Name of the awarded area	57. Czech Republic Podyji National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)14	1) pursue the collaboration with the operator of the hydroelectric power station at Vranov to manage a nature-friendly flow regime and guarantee a minimum residual flow rate;	4
		2) by 2022, adopt and begin the implementation of the management plan for the period 2020-2029. Prepare this management plan in a participatory manner, taking into account particularly: visitor management in light of the new allocation of quiet zones, the development of leisure activities on the Dyje river, the agreement on water use, the harmonisation of fishing regulations, population control of ungulates in the buffer zone and specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term conservation of threatened and rare species;	2
		3) continue and further develop the established good relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park, in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan;	3
		4) in the management plan, give special emphasis to the issue of extending vineyards on valuable dry grasslands.; and promote traditional, small-scale vineries within the national park;	3
		5) continue encouraging sustainable agriculture, particularly in the buffer zones;	4
		6) continue to strengthen the co-operation with the Thayatal National Park within the framework of the existing twinning agreement;	4
		7) use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European	4

		Diploma more actively, and encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo.	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>Most recommendations are being carried out. Major achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved handling regulations ensure minimum residual flow rate - Most of the tasks of the 2012-2020 management plan have been completed - Preparation of the new management plan is in progress, adoption is envisaged in the 1st half of 2022 - NP cooperated with municipalities in several projects in order to encourage sustainable management - the issue of extending vineyards on valuable dry grasslands and promoting traditional, small-scale vineries within the national park is included in the management plan - encouragement of sustainable agriculture has been promoted in workshop for farmers and several organic farmers got subsidies - regular meetings of Thayatal/Podyjí management and renewal of the agreement of common approach to management 	
	Shortcomings	The next period management plan has been prepared and it should have been approved in the first quarter of 2021 but the approval has been delayed until the first quarter of 2022.	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Invasive fish were removed from two ponds, where localities of endangered species are.</p> <p>About 4 hectares of woodland were actively managed by coppicing or canopy opening to support forest biodiversity.</p> <p>About 70 fruit trees (old traditional varieties) were planted in old orchards to save this land use in agriculture landscape.</p> <p>Control of invasive woody species (black locust, tree of heaven, box elder and green ash) by targeted chemical control methods (drill-fill, hack-squirt etc.) was conducted on an area of 17 hectares.</p> <p>Lighting cut was made in the forest with weakening population of endangered species (<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>) to support its population.</p>		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma	<p>The logo is used in websites of the NP and on information tables in the field. NP uses the logo or the flag in some of their leaflets or other publications and during their lectures and public activities.</p>		

has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Name of the awarded area	58. Romania Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.06.2000 / 20.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)5	1) contribute to the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the Sturgeon (T-PVS/Inf(2018)6) adopted by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and implement a monitoring system to assess the development of the sturgeon population in the Delta;	4
		2) include in the management plan in preparation specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of endemic species;	2
		3) request the responsible ministry to increase the number of staff members to the maximum limit foreseen to enable efficient work and add part-time contracts whenever needed for additional projects;	2
		4) secure a basic budget for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve to enable the authority to fulfil its administrative tasks and allocate project funds fully to the projects themselves;	2
		5) ensure that the responsible authorities work out a master plan for wind farms in the perimeter of the protected area to prevent any impact on the birds and/or bats in the Danube Delta and consider the participation of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve administration in this process;	2
		6) evaluate the rising number of permits for car and boat traffic and public access and define a maximum number of these permits, which should only be exceeded under exceptional circumstances;	2
		7) request that the Ministry of Environment review the appointment system for the management/governor with regard to the minimum length of a working period to enable the manager to develop and guide mid- and long-term strategies for the further	2

		development of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve;	
		8) make extensive use of the European Diploma logo and explain the relevance of the diploma in the information centres and in all information material provided to the tourist sector (boat excursions, accommodation, etc.).	4
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>In 2021 the project “Development of the Monitoring Station for migratory fish: sturgeon and mackerel - Isaccea” was approved, financed from the EU funds under the Large Infrastructure Operational Program 2014-2020.</p> <p>In view to define the maximum number of the permits for the car and boat traffic and for the public access inside the reserve, DDBRA is considering funding a study to determine the support capacity of the various functional areas of the reserve.</p> <p>Steps have been taken to amend Law 82/1993 on the establishment of the DDBR, so that the governor to be appointed for a period of 5 years and selected on certain criteria of competence.</p>	
	Shortcomings	<p>The covid19 pandemic cancelled some plans and activities or postponed them for the next year.</p> <p>Due to covid situation it was not possible to organize a job competition for new staff. By transferring staff from other public institutions, the staff from some deficient services was supplemented. The total number of staff members increased so far to only 122 from a total of 171 persons as required by current legislation.</p> <p>The annual budget allocation is made at the ministry level, depending on the available funds.</p>	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	European Diploma logo is used on each document produced by DDBRA and also on the web page www.ddbra.ro .		

Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations.
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Name of the awarded area	59. Austria Thayatal National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)21	1) set the minimum flow in the river Thaya/Dyje at as large a level as possible; the present minimum levels of 2.8 m ³ /sec (summer) and 3.3 m ³ /sec (winter) should be maintained or increased and become legally enforceable; the flow rate should never be permitted to drop below these minimum rates, except at times of absolute necessity (i.e. during a prolonged drought) which should be on the basis of agreement between the Podyjí National Park (Czech Republic), the E.ON Company and the relevant agencies of national, regional and local government;	4
		2) pursue efforts to bring the river into "good ecological potential" according to the EU's Water Framework Directive; in achieving this aim the fish population needs to be improved and the presence of dead wood (coarse woody debris) in the river should continue to be encouraged and monitored;	3
		3) avoid strong surges of water as far as possible, consistent with the safe operation of the Vranov Hydroelectric Plant; every effort should be made by the operators of the Vranov Dam to flatten out the peaks by more gradual build-up to higher flow rates, instead of sharp peaks in the flow rate;	2
		4) monitor periodically the fish stocks in the river by the national park authorities, in co-operation with appropriate stakeholders; management of the fish stocks can then be agreed on the basis of evidence gathered during monitoring; the results of all monitoring and research, irrespective of who funded it, should be made publically available so	3

		that the data are used for the benefit of all stakeholders;	
		5) set up, in liaison with the Podyjí National Park, a programme for minimising fishing in the Thaya/Dyje River, with the ultimate goal of ending fishing activities there;	3
		6) evaluate the existing agreement on co-operation between the Podyjí and Thayatal National Parks in view of a possible twinning agreement.	4
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<p>- The long-term agreement of minimum flows of 2.8 m³/sec (summer) and 3.3 m³/s (winter) with the operator of the Vranov Dam is being maintained. The hydrological situation in 2021 allowed generally higher flow rates almost throughout the entire year.</p> <p>- The research and monitoring of the fish population and their use of dead wood in the Thaya river is being studied in the current INTERREG-Project “Dyje 2020/Thaya 2020”, the studies will be published in January 2022.</p> <p>- In the reporting period the hydrological situation allowed the Vranov Dam to operate accordingly as agreed and also to provide mostly higher flow rates and therefore sharp peaks were quite rare</p> <p>- A study on the influence of fishing and activities related to fishing on the protection goals of National Parks with the specific focus on the disturbance on protected species from the activities related to fishing was carried out</p> <p>- Strengthened cooperation between the authorities of the Podyjí and Thayatal National Parks; both National Park Directors signed an updated version of the agreement of cooperation between both National Parks</p>	
Shortcomings			
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	From 2021 till 2030 a new management plan has come in effect legally binding after it was unanimously decided by the advisory board.		

	In the past period a multitude of research studies were finalized and published on the conservation assets and necessary management measures, surveys were implemented on a transboundary basis and were published or presented at a joint research conference in October 2021 and are also mostly available online.
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	N/A
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.

Name of the awarded area	60. Estonia Matsalu National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)5	1) continue the co-operation with the local farmers and other stakeholders to improve the management and well-being of the grassland communities of the national park. Liaise with both farmers and others in relation to the use of the cut hay;	3
		2) envisage the setting-up of a scientific advisory group in order to achieve the full potential of the national park for scientific research and education. The group would provide strategic advice and, upon request, review the quality of research proposals and scientific results, and provide other scientific advice;	4
		3) despite the hunting restrictions within the national park, strengthen co-operation with hunters for the management and control of some invasive species;	2
		4) set up a warning system to detect, at an early stage, and enable appropriate action to be taken against alien, invasive species which could threaten the biodiversity of the national park;	3
		5) prepare a climate change adaptation plan for the national park by 2024;	3
		6) ensure that printed guides to the hiking trails and routes in Estonian and translations into the major European languages are available for national and international visitors and assess the opportunity and feasibility of an increase in the number of trails.	3
	Conditions	Ensure that the management plan for 2015 to 2024 is implemented and appropriately funded and revised before the end of the plan's period in 2024.	3

	Achievements	<p>The nature conservation activities planned for until 2021 in the management plan are fulfilled almost 85%. The activities of first and second priority were implemented 100%</p> <p>Informational day for farmers and other stakeholders about wet meadows took place where the scientists presented new research data about predation and tree growth influence on birds on September 15 and 16 2021</p> <p>The cooperation with scientist (Tartu University Maritime Institute of Estonia and Tartu University Institute of Ecology) was set up in frames of renewing regulations of Matsalu National Park.</p> <p>In cooperation with hunters invasive predators' control on some islands has been organised.</p> <p>Detection (monitoring web cameras, footprints monitoring system) and information system (for invasive alien species has been set up. The works for eradication of giant hog-weed <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> took place in four areas in National Park.</p> <p>Project application for research and modelling of climate change impacts on Matsalu area has been prepared. The research on flood areas has started.</p> <p>Visitor infrastructure, webpage, newsletter for entrepreneurs and printed materials are available in English, Estonian and visitor infrastructure also in Russian. Visitor monitoring has been carried out. The results will be published next year.</p>
	Shortcomings	This year not all islands were checked for invasive predators control because of COVID-19 restrictions.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<p>Reconstructions were made on two main trails (Penijõe, Salevere). The garbage sorting system was arranged.</p> <p>Environmental Board and Environmental Inspection merged into one institution from January 2021, under the name of Environmental Board.</p> <p>Renewing process of protection rules Regulation and borders for the Matsalu National Park has started in 2020 with public hearings and this process was continued also 2021.</p> <p>6847,44 ha of seminatural grasslands with 103 partners, 409,31 ha of meadows were restored and erected 6760 m of fences for pastures.</p>	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma	N/A	

has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.

Name of the awarded area	61. Hungary Tihany Peninsula	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	28.05.2003 / 28.05.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)15	1) by 2020, prepare an overarching management document integrating the relevant planning instruments currently applicable to the site; define management objectives for the five main zones;	3
		2) together with the municipal authorities, continue to enforce the ban on new buildings on the site;	3
		3) continue to manage and control visitor pressure; together with the municipal authorities take measures to moderate the motorised traffic in the peninsula;	2
		4) keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas (open meadows, meadows with hedges and bushes, lavender fields with oaks and almonds);	3
		5) encourage farming and wine-growing practices consistent with the conservation of natural and landscape assets and establish a functional buffer zone between the vineyards and the wetland zone;	3
		6) pursue the policy of acquisition of private land;	2
		7) take the necessary steps to improve the water quality of the Belső Lake;	2
		8) continue to control invasive species such as Ailanthus;	3
		9) pursue the co-ordinated management with nearby protected areas such as the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Külső and Felső marshes.	3
	Conditions	N/A	

	Achievements	<p>The draft of the new management plan for the European Diploma holding area was prepared by the expert group of BfNPD and is in the adoption procedure.</p> <p>The development of a machine park for area management to keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas is in progress. Two new wells with complete water supply system have been established by the National Park Directorate financed by Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme to watering the pasture livestock.</p> <p>The cutting down of the former vineyard and turning the area into lawns on about 5 ha started in 2021.</p> <p>In order to improve the water quality of the Belső Lake the natural filtrate system to filtrate the rainwater coming from the village has started working. Water quality is continuously measured with a floating instrument, the spread of seaweed in the Belső Lake is measured twice a year.</p> <p>Chemical extermination of 4 ha of <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> has been carried out in an area not covered by the Life programme.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Activities to manage and control visitor pressure are starting in 2021-2022 but only in the scope of walking and cycling tourism while there is no report about activities concerning the pressure motorized traffic on the peninsula.</p> <p>Because of the very high land prices on Tihany peninsula the National Park Directorate had not been able to buy new land here this year.</p> <p>Relocation of seaweed from the Külső Lake to the Belső Lake was significantly smaller due to the extremely low water level of the Külső Lake.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	N/A	
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma logo is on all the information boards currently on the peninsula (about 40 pieces) and 3 information boards are only about the European Diploma. During the complete renovation of the board system of the study trails on the Tihany Peninsula, 54 outdoor board-plans were graphically designed, all of which feature the European Diploma logo. The tenders for contractors are in progress of applying for the renovation of the board system, study trails will be renovated in 2021-2022.</p>	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	62. Slovenia Triglav National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)3	1) strengthen the inter-ministerial co-ordination regarding the management of the Triglav National Park;	3
		2) pursue the efforts aimed at transforming the zoning towards the first zone (wilderness) and keep the third zone for sustainable use, provided that the central part of the national park does not decrease in size;	4
		3) continue the good collaboration with municipal authorities responsible for land-use planning when preparing land-use plans and implementing them; strictly apply the regulations related to new construction and renovation works;	3
		4) continue to work on solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and mountain huts with intensive human use;	3
		5) develop a funding mechanism to support local development projects of the national park and municipalities within the biosphere reserve;	4
		6) together with local communities, prepare favourable conditions for social acceptance of increased populations of large carnivores such as brown bear, wolf and lynx; further develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep and cattle farming with carnivores in the park;	2
		7) strengthen all measures aiming at converting artificially regenerated spruce forests to climax mixed forests and increase the area of protected forests; apply appropriate mitigation measures specifically adapted to	3

		the national park status after natural disasters;	
		8) in liaison with relevant partners, implement the tourism strategy and continue developing practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation, the development of new technologies and new forms of tourism, especially in seasonal hot-spot areas;	3
		9) prevent the extension of installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as ski jumping; the renovation and upgrading of existing installations should be accepted only if the protection of nature and the landscape are duly taken into account; continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national park, with special attention to the development of new sports (electric biking, for example), and ensure that they remain compatible with conservation objectives;	3
		10) encourage the best possible integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings while respecting the traditional local style; support the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices and their related infrastructure (shepherds, hay racks, mountain shelters for animals, etc.); further develop the park or regional branding system for goods and services;	4
		11) promote capacity building and specialisation among permanent park rangers and hire more seasonal rangers during the peak season; use the European Diploma logo more regularly on publications and appropriate infrastructure and promote the European Diploma for Protected Areas more actively in general.	3
		12) Continue to follow up closely on the transition of land ownership in the park (denationalisation); pursue the active policy of acquisition of land important for nature protection and other park's activities.	3
	Conditions	1) national authorities must guarantee the necessary budget in order to fully implement the Triglav National Park Management Plan, adopted in 2016, including a comprehensive	3

		monitoring scheme, and to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural and cultural values of the park.	
	Achievements	<p>Improved collaboration with sectors and local communities has been done in the field of implementing measures for sustainable traffic mobility, the preparation of the building typology and tenders by the agricultural sector to co-finance individual environmental measures.</p> <p>In 2021, a pre-emption right was exercised on 65,71 ha of land, mostly forest.</p> <p>In 2021 16 out of 36 mountain huts had wastewater treatment plants. Four of six by Triglav National Park owned mountain huts have wastewater treatment plants</p> <p>A new Decree on standards and criteria for supporting and co-financing of projects, investments and implementation of activities in the Triglav National Park was adopted in June 2021. In 2021 financial resources of five million Euros were provided by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning to the local communities.</p> <p>According to the Rules on aid for the preservation and development of agriculture and rural areas in the Triglav National Park total amount of the aid in 2021 was 62.685,15,00 €. To nine aid recipients were.</p> <p>The Triglav National Park Public Institution received 19.000 € from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport for the implementation of the Unesco MAB program in the Julian Alps Biosphere reserve.</p> <p>Project VrH Julijcev (2018-2022; Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014-2020) and some project actions are focusing in improvement of dense spruce stands in Pokljuka and Mežakla plateaus. In 2021, altogether 8.000 trees belonging to several broadleaved species were planted.</p> <p>In Trenta valley were for the first time in Slovenia introduced special speed and noise alert traffic signs. In 2021, smaller parking lots were arranged at some entrances to the Alpine valleys (Zadnja Trenta, Zadnjica and Lepena) in connection with the strengthening of seasonal shuttle lines.</p>	

		<p>In 2021 a handbook of typology of Zgornje Posočje was published. The brand Triglav National Park Quality was expanded to cover also services, goods and schools. Six new Quality mark holders were selected this year and eight schools.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>Some further efforts should be dedicated to the budget to become more operational as its availability is strictly related to the adoption of the Triglav National Park annual programme of work. For this reason, some measures which should be implemented in winter or early spring could not be financially supported.</p> <p>The coordination of the activities of other sectors in the management plan implementation and co-financing of tasks, especially in the field of sustainable development and protection of cultural heritage should be strengthened.</p> <p>Discussions with farmers started within the context of the project LIFE WolfAlps (2013-2018). However, no significant progress in identifying necessary mitigation measures was made so far. A thematic workshop with farmers and experts that was planned in 2020 and also in 2021 was not organized due to Covid19 situation in Slovenia and preventative measures applied.</p> <p>Increased attacks of bark beetles caused severe damage to the forests and intensive interventions were required in order to limit further spread of insects to healthy coniferous stands and several large open areas appeared. It is expected that the natural process of forest regeneration will speed up the conversion of artificial spruce stands to more natural but on the other hand, degraded areas present also a potential site for the introduction of invasive alien plant species.</p> <p>Various online portals are providing digital information on routes and opportunities for experience and people are then using these trails for a variety of different activities. Conflicts arise when suggested routes are not compatible with existing regulations.</p> <p>Park rangers did not attend any special formal training. There were seasonal rangers hired during high season. At the end of November 2021, the number of staff was lower (for 5,25 employees) comparing to the December 2020.</p>
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		<p>In 2021 the following tasks were performed: monitoring of Tetrao urogallus with GPS telemetry transmitters monitoring of Lagopus muta with GPS transmitters, establishing quiet zones at Pokljuka where road gates were installed on several forest roads to prevent traffic of personal vehicles and</p>

	<p>bicycles, in the area pod Petelinom and Mežakla different broadleaved tree species were planted to provide food for Tetrao urogallus, Tetrastes bonasia and to facilitate natural forest regeneration, regular eradication of fish in Double lake, purchase of privately owned forest stands important for the Three-toed woodpecker.</p> <p>The Triglav National Park Public Institution has prepared a comprehensive report assessing the implementation of the management plan for the first five-year period (2016-2020). The realization of the achievement of objectives and the fulfilment of management measures follows the implementation plan, with minor deviations. The indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of the management plan are also largely achieved.</p> <p>In the OMV campaign A green decision for our blue planet, a carbon offsetting project, 600 trees were planted near Bohinj lake in Ukanc which will also facilitate forest regeneration.</p>
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	Diploma logo is used on all important park publications. Diploma was mentioned on all important events
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations.

Name of the awarded area	63. Netherlands Naardermeer Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	05.05.2004 / 05.05.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)12	1) following the withdrawal of the plans for the A6-A9 motorway connection that required the construction of a new stretch of road north-west of the nature reserve, monitor the possible impact on the diploma-holding area and its surrounding environment of the alternative selected route using the existing A1 and A9 highways;	3
		2) finalise the Natura 2000 management plan and the water management plan including the water level agreement for the Naardermeer Nature Reserve by 2020; if necessary, plan and implement additional management lines to ensure the long-term conservation of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve within the context and requirements of the European Diploma;	4
		3) by 2020, draw up a development plan for the recently acquired lands within the buffer zone of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve – the Hilversumse Bovenmeent (De Jong grounds) – in order to ensure the full integration of this area into the reserve buffer zone by 2024;	3
		4) before 2029, secure the necessary funding to acquire the remaining areas within the buffer zone which are not yet the property of the Natuurmonumenten organisation. Alternatively, if the current administrative procedures do not allow the necessary land acquisition, ensure that the management of these areas is carried out in collaboration with the authorities responsible for the diploma-holding area;	3

		5) within the continued monitoring of Bovenste Blik Lake, integrate further research aiming to identify the main reasons for the decreasing water quality in this lake; define and implement appropriate management measures to prevent further water contamination; improve and keep the water quality in this lake at the same levels currently observed in the remaining lakes of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve;	4
		6) initiate studies focusing on the biological control of invasive alien plant species occurring in the reserve and prepare a strategic plan for their mechanical or manual control;	4
		7) strengthen the monitoring programmes and the conservation measures to guarantee the presence of naturally occurring species newly appeared in the diploma area.	2
	Conditions	1) preserve the integrity of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve and avoid, through regional planning processes, further habitat fragmentation within the reserve and in the surrounding landscape; increase the ecological connectivity both within the reserve and between the Naardermeer Nature Reserve and the surrounding natural areas.	3
	Achievements	<p>Naardermeer Natura 2000 Management Plan is effective from November 2nd 2020 and The Water Management Plan including the Naardermeer Water Level Agreement has been approved and should be effective in the first half of 2022.</p> <p>A new plan “de Schil” (Shell) to raise the water levels outside the Naardermeer core area (the part within the dykes surrounding the old Naardermeer) is being adopted in order to prevent the water level becoming too low and to boost the reedbeds and provide new breeding habitat for a.o. Purple Heron, Bittern, Bearded Tit, Savi’s Warbler and Great Reed Warbler. A development plan for the De Jong grounds is a part of this project and should be realised in 2022/2023 and will be fully integrated in the buffer zone.</p> <p>Large property in the south-western part of the Naardermeer Nature Reserve, the so-called De Jong grounds were bought.</p> <p>After the study two reasons for the high level of phosphate in the Bovenste Blik have been identified. First reason was a leaking dam between former</p>	

		<p>agricultural grounds and the Bovenste Blik (leakage has been repaired) and second one was phosphate rich sludge on the bottom of the Bovenste Blik (a large dredging project has been completed).</p> <p>Almost complete eradication of IAS New-Zealand Pigmy Weed has been achieved.</p>
	Shortcomings	<p>It was not yet possible for Natuurmonumenten to acquire the missing 20 ha of lands and this way completing the Naardermeer Recovery Plan but the process of acquisition is ongoing.</p> <p>No special efforts were taken to strengthen the monitoring programmes this year due to covid restrictions. Only the yearly count of Great Cormorant nests and Purple Heron nests has been carried out.</p>
Other highlights worth mentioning	<p>An unexpected bonus of dredging project at the V+Bovenste Bilk was a successful breeding attempt of rare breeding bird in the Netherlands Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>) at the sludge depots.</p> <p>The Purple Heron colony is at the highest number of nests since 1978 due to Better nesting habitat protection by Natuurmonumenten.</p>	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.</p>	

Name of the awarded area	64. Italy Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore e Massaciuccoli	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	15.06.2005 / 15.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)7	1) pursue efforts to integrate the park into the surrounding region; do even more to include the local community, interest groups (farmers, etc.) and nature conservation bodies in discussions; exploit the recent extension of the biosphere reserve to that end;	3
		2) draw up a summary management document covering all activities and setting out all the protection regimes (regional park, reserves, Natura 2000 sites, Ramsar site, Biosphere reserve, marine reserve) and translate this document into English and/or French; review the zoning if necessary, consider the possibility of a continuous site of community importance (SCI) under the European Council Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and envisage extending the diploma-holding area;	3
		3) bring in replacement staff to cover retirements and annual leave. Envisage an increase in staff to meet new demands resulting from responsibility for the marine reserve, the extension of the biosphere reserve and the designation of the Ramsar site;	3
		4) continue research and monitoring activities, and in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - update the vegetation map; - implement and monitor water management measures linked to the drainage of farmland and the Massaciuccoli Lake; - monitor the state of the dune area and continue protection activities there; 	3
		5) continue and, if necessary, step up programmes to combat invasive alien species and control fallow deer and wild	3

		boar populations. Pursue a policy geared to the park's protection regime where the renewal of forest cover is concerned;	
		6) pursue efforts to control sound and light pollution in the park's vicinity; introduce measures restricting motorised vehicle traffic in the park and negotiate the setting up of a public transport system with the competent authorities;	3
		7) pursue efforts to develop sustainable agriculture, inter alia by reducing the use of fertilisers and pesticides, which have an adverse effect on water quality; consider the introduction of a regional label for products and services in connection with the extension of the biosphere reserve;	2
		8) translate the website and public information material into foreign languages so that the numerous foreign tourists attracted by the city of Pisa and its region can appreciate the park's assets; publish and provide to visitors at least a list of the species illustrated on the information panels, with their names in four languages, in addition to the scientific name;	2
		9) maintain and consolidate the network of centres providing information on the region's nature, culture and history. Make more systematic use of international designation logos, particularly that of the European Diploma, providing a suitable explanation;	2
		10) in the context of preparing the new integrated plan for the park, pursue discussions on relocating craft activities from the area around the Massaciuccoli Lake. Include in the integrated plan in preparation specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of species and habitats that are typical of the area.	3
	Conditions	N/A	

	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>The Park has convened a “Council of Associations” with many different stakeholders including local tourist associations and civil initiatives. The Park adhered to the principles of the Charter on Sustainable Tourism and conducted 6 online participatory discussions with all economic actors (tourist operators, local authorities, associations, guides). On the basis of these forums, the Park prepared a final document with actions in the coming years. This document will be shared with all participating interest groups, signed and sent to Europarc.</p> <p>Although the recruitment of agents to replace those who have retired in recent years was not possible, the Parc was able to provide 10 volunteer agents (“Guardie ambientali volontarie”) who will assist the 10 officers on duty. Regarding the technical expertise needed for the marine reserve, the extension of the biosphere reserve and the designation of the Ramsar site the Park in 2021 commissioned a new communications expert and plans for the recruitment of a biologist in 2022.</p> <p>Action plan for the development of all the areas that surround the lake to reduce or prevent nutrient intake into the lake has been prepared. 4 routes designed for controlled access to the beach through the dunes have been renovated. Throughout the summer, associations and Guides lead awareness raising among tourists and the Tuscany Ornithological Centre has prepared fact sheets distributed to tourists and posted on the Park site; a coastal area (where <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> had nested) was delimited and monitored by the Associations in agreement with the Park and the municipality of Vecchiano (owner of part of the coast in the Park).</p> <p><i>Miriophyllum aquaticum</i>: successfully controlled on and management proposals developed in the canals near Lake Massaciuccoli</p> <p>New public information leaflet with general map, visitor centres, translated into English and distributed in all commercial premises in the park.</p>
	<p>Shortcomings</p>	<p>Due to the budget limitations imposed by the Toscana Region the Park has not been able to recruit agents to replace those who have retired in recent years.</p>

		The results of control fallow deer and wild boar are close to the targets set, but the reduction of the population requires even more effort and time.
Other highlights worth mentioning	N/A	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	N/A	
Conclusions and action suggested	The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations. The use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures and on the website is encouraged.	

Name of the awarded area	65. Italy Gran Paradiso National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 18.03.2021
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)3	<p>1) Ensure that funding is primarily provided by the state, regions and provinces, and adequately integrates other sources of funding;</p> <p>The funding by the state has increased by around 10% and is sufficient to cover management costs as well as employment costs of the rangers. The other funding sources are project related. One project was financed by the European Union in which the GPNP participated as a partner with Interreg (PITEM) and the Life Program (GreyMarble). Another project on energy efficiency was funded by the ministry MITE.</p>	5
		<p>2) provide the national park with adequate staff at executive level to enable the director to deal with essential tasks, especially strategic issues;</p> <p>As a result of repeated retirements, PNGP staff in 2021 was reduced to 66, with a sharp reduction in the number of rangers. This means that approximately 25% of the planned units are currently not in service. If this trend continues, the GPNP may no longer be able to carry out its institutional functions, in particular the habitat monitoring and wildlife protection. In 2022 it will be difficult to maintain the current state of protection of the territory, also due to the restrictions due to COVID 19 and the reduction in the number of rangers linked to the refusal to proceed with vaccination.</p>	1
		<p>3) actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town planning proposals and decisions;</p> <p>The main problem is to limit the flow of motorized vehicles at high altitudes: the proposed solutions are to ban the use of these vehicles in limited summer periods and to encourage the use of electric vehicles.</p>	3

		The Park hopes to soon reach an agreement with the local communities, with the aim of definitively closing the traffic of vehicles with internal combustion engines.	
		4) integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans; It should be emphasized that, in the Park Plan, important forest areas have been identified, in which active management is totally excluded, to allow the forest to follow an autonomous evolutionary dynamic. With the financial contribution of the MITE, actions relating to the conservation of chestnut groves (EEC priority habitat) will be implemented, in particular in the southern slopes of the Park.	3
		5) continue to encourage farming activities that are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation; Aside from domestic grazing, agricultural activities are practically absent in the Park. As indicated in previous reports, in the last 25 years, farming activities progressively reduced. According to studies carried out in the region, the abandonment of traditional grazing practices as well as climate change will involve changes in the presence and density of different animal species, with a loss of biodiversity at the local level.	1
		6) avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the national park; To minimize the consequences of water withdrawals, a careful monitoring is carried out by the Park and any other new project of dam building is banned by the Park.	5
		7) establish a scientific advisory council or other mechanism to provide input from the scientific community regarding the management of the park. The identification of the members of the Scientific advisory council is planned for the spring 2022.	3
	Conditions	1) the park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.	5

	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient funding - Banning of new projects on dam building - Planning on banning of motorized vehicles in some areas - Project on chestnut groves - Planning of the establishment of a scientific advisory body 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not sufficient staff - Reduction of farming activities, which is important for biodiversity 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of the role played by scientific research within the GPNP 		
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information provided. 		
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. - 		

Name of the awarded area	66. Romania Piatra Craiului National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	27.09.2006 / 27.09.2021 (Extended until 2024)
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2011)2	<p>1) secure the budget of the national park so that the national park administration is able to manage the park appropriately and has all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis;</p> <p>There is an administration contract with the National Forest Administration (RNP Romsilva) that secures 90% of the national park budget. The rest of 10% comes from the national park administration efforts (visitor fee, selling products at the Visitor Center, guiding fees, approval documentation taxes etc). It is not indicated within the report if this amount is sufficient.</p>	4
		<p>2) complete the construction of the headquarters and other infrastructure, especially the exhibition room and other tourist facilities, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;</p> <p>The Visitor Center was opened in April 2016 and has received until now over 31425 visitors. The tourist facilities were improved with a cycling network (42 routes with over 200 kms) and new marked trails.</p>	5
		<p>3) elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local architecture and landscape; this exemplary programme should be implemented with the help of relevant specialists and contribute to making this region a model for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;</p> <p>The Management guide, which was approved in 2020, includes guidelines on architecture as well as on natural and cultural heritage. No information has been given on the implementation of the Management Plan.</p>	3

		<p>4) pursue the scientific work and monitoring of biodiversity in every sector of the park; those activities should assess the status and trends of species and habitats, considering the national park as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;</p> <p>There are several monitoring protocols, approved by the Forest and Environment Ministry in 2010, targeting especially the species and habitats of European importance. 11. Furthermore, there have been several projects on scientific work and the monitoring of biodiversity such as a project on improving the ecological connectivity between ecosystems and the scientific accompaniment of the establishment of a new Natura 2000 site.</p>	5
		<p>5) regarding both central and local forest authorities, more attention should be paid to the enforcement of the forest law on the national park's fringe and in the surroundings of the park; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;</p> <p>Examination of the implementation of the forest law has been carried out and 143 controls have been made, which is an increase to the year before with 96 controls. The Carpathia Foundation purchased 16.000 ha of forest land for conservation in the national park surroundings. 2.500 ha of this surface are situated inside the national park. The foundation purchased also 2 game management areas in the national park surroundings and the main goal is the conservation of game species.</p> <p>The "Forest Radar" regulation was established in 2014. As a result the illegal logging and transport has decreased since then at national level.</p>	5

		<p>6) pursue the efforts made by the national park administration to address the litter and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities facilitated by this administration; a detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years.</p> <p>In 2021 the Park Administration organized 4 garbage collection campaigns, with the help of volunteers, along the touristic trails, with a total length of 31 kms.</p> <p>The local authorities in Dambovicioara are regularly collecting the garbage, and they also set up some resting areas along the road, containing garbage bins for the tourists.</p>	5
	Conditions	1) complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include local population in environmental programs such as the cleaning of the park - Implementation of scientific projects - Improvement of tourist facilities - Examination of the forest law 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If funding is sufficient is not clearly explained within the report - It was not explained if the management plan has been implemented so far 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>The European Diploma logo was broader used on the Piatra Craiului National Park's printed materials, together with an explanation of the reasons for awarding the European Diploma.</p> <p>All the 3 logos (National Park, European Diploma and National Forest Administration) can be seen on the park official papers and inside the visitor center, on the indoor glass wall.</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.</p> <p>The EDPA welcomes the use of the European Diploma logo.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	67. Romania Retezat National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2008 / 02.07.2023
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2013)4	<p>1) the Romanian authorities should secure a sufficient budget for the national park and allocate the funds early enough in the year to ensure favourable working conditions for the staff, the completion and maintenance of the park's infrastructure, more information for visitors and the improvement of tourist facilities;</p> <p>All activities could be performed without financial constraints due to the financial support of the National Forest Administration ROMSILVA.</p>	5
		<p>2) the competent Romanian authorities should work together to harmonise the different national and international designations in order to achieve efficient joint management and to implement joint scientific research and monitoring programmes;</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests was not able to find a solution accepted by UNESCO to align the situation of the Retezat Biosphere Reserve with the current standards required by the Man & Biosphere Program – MAB (the Seville Strategy and Madrid Action Plan). As a result, in 2021 UNESCO withdrew the status of Biosphere Reserve from Retezat National Park.</p> <p>A small project was funded to develop, on a new basis (by including areas adjacent to the Retezat National Park), the necessary documentation for re-obtaining Biosphere Reserve status.</p>	2
		<p>3) the management plan should be approved as soon as possible, and at least an executive summary should be translated into either English or French;</p> <p>The management plan has been drafted and the plan was approved by Romsilva and LEPA and will be submitted to NAPNA and MEWF for approval. No information was provided within the report on the translation of the management plan.</p>	3

		<p>4) the park, in close collaboration with the mountain rescue services Salvamont, should maintain or renew, when necessary, the tourist infrastructure (trail marking, information signs, etc.); a particular effort should be made to solve the problems of the toilets in the camping areas and near the huts;</p> <p>Since last year 3 panels have been damaged and have not yet been replaced. One new toilet has been set up near the campsite at Bucara Lake.</p>	3
		<p>5) the park should maintain pressure on local communities to prevent construction of inappropriate buildings either in the park or in its immediate vicinity;</p> <p>The law is really strict and there have not been illegal constructions within the park in 2021. Nothing was reported by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests on the construction of buildings in the immediate vicinity.</p>	4
		<p>6) the park rangers should monitor the pastures in order to identify early possible changes due to over grazing and/or under grazing; before the next evaluation, the park should carry out a new study on the pastures; the changes in terms of species composition, erosion, etc., should be analysed in relation to the type and amount of grazing.</p> <p>A number of biological-ecological studies were carried out, among them being one about the support capacity of the pastures.</p>	5
	Conditions		
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient budget - Management plan was approved by Romsilva and LEPA (but so far not by NAPNA and MEWF) - A number of biological-ecological studies were carried out - No illegal constructions within the park - Renewal of tourist infrastructure 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No alignment of the national and the international designations leading to the withdrawal of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information provided on the construction of buildings in the near vicinity of the park - No information was provided within the report on the translation in English or French of the management plan.
Other highlights worth to be mentioned		
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information provided 	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - The EDPA GoS regrets the loss of the status of Biosphere Reserve and encourage the competent authorities to harmonise the status of the Park as a Biosphere Reserve and seek for re-obtaining the Biosphere Reserve status. - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo. 	

Name of the awarded area	68. Bulgaria Central Balkan National Park	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	21.10.2009 / 21.10.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)9	<p>1) implement the new management plan and in particular control the protective measures for the different zones; after five years, make a comprehensive, mid-term assessment and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate;</p> <p>A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the management plan was expected in 2020 but postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis situation. In July 2021 a public discussion on the implementation of the plan was held. The activities in the prolonged period from the official end of the previous Management Plan (2001 – 2010) up to the beginning of the current year has been presented to stakeholders. No information was provided on the implementation of the management plan.</p>	4
		<p>2) take measures to better control poaching in the park and implement as soon as possible the strategic guidelines for the development of the security and control in the Central Balkan National Park, which includes a section on the prevention of poaching. In particular, strictly limit road development and systematically control road usage;</p> <p>According to the report, prevention of poaching (in all its forms) has always been and is one of the main priorities in the daily job of park employees. No information was provided on the road development.</p>	4
		<p>3) maintain strict control on grazing permits and prohibit any increase of grazing animals; maintain the pressure to reduce grazing by horses, which are much more difficult to control, and increase the number of water sources and their access;</p> <p>The Park Directorate continues to spend enormous administrative and human capacity to control livestock grazing.</p>	5

		The Annual plan for grazing and hay use in Central Balkan NP has not changed significantly Since 2018, there are no longer any horse owners supported by an agri-environmental measure.	
		4) set up comprehensive monitoring of the impact of grazing; in general, allocate the necessary funding for more management-oriented scientific research and studies; The assessment of natural habitats subject to livestock grazing commenced to assess the productivity of pastures according to the types of natural habitats and the specific conditions of the environment. In parallel, training was provided to the employees of the Park Directorate.	5
		5) propose solutions at national level to improve the infrastructure related to mountain pastures, like shelters for animals and shepherds or dairy facilities; improve their visual and ecological impact, as well as their sanitary conditions for dairy production; The status of the park – a protected area of second category according to the Bulgarian legislation and the IUCN, as well as exclusive state property, does not allow the creation of new infrastructure, which is why other options are considered such as the renovation of already existing buildings.	2
		6) explore solutions to increase the role of the national park in the management of tourist infrastructure (chalets) inside the park, including their maintenance, the control of their ecological impact and their use as information points; The Park Directorate intends to use the mechanisms of the Biosphere Reserve (see point 7 below) in order to implement, in partnership with the Bulgarian Tourist Union (the owner of almost all high-mountain accommodation base in Bulgaria), projects for the construction of waste management systems and of waste water management systems in the chalets on the territory of the national park. No information was provided on the their use as information points.	3

		<p>7) use the newly established biosphere reserve to reinforce the role of the Public Advisory Council as a link between the national park, the municipalities and civil society organisations around the park; allocate adequate financial and human resources to fulfil the tasks and commitments undertaken at international level with the designation of the park as part of the biosphere reserve and World Heritage property and establish, as soon as possible, corresponding management structures;</p> <p>At the end of 2017, the Park Directorate initiated the first meeting of the partner administrations within the largest and most complexly organized biosphere reserve in Bulgaria – the CBBR. The partner administrations are the Park Directorate, five municipal administrations and the Executive Forest Agency.</p> <p>At the end of 2017, the Park Directorate initiated the first meeting of the partner administrations within the largest and most complexly organized biosphere reserve in Bulgaria – the CBBR. The partner administrations are the Park Directorate, five municipal administrations and the Executive Forest Agency. The local elections in 2019 and Covid-19 crisis in 2020 and 2021 delayed the process of formalizing the partnership, but the informal partnership continued, mainly focusing on the development of information materials, presentation of the biosphere reserve in the media space, festivals in the municipalities from the transition zone (not in 2020), etc.</p> <p>In 2021 has started implementation of project “Creating a comprehensive brand of Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve” financed by UNESCO Participation Programme. The project aims to create commercial logo of the CB Biosphere Reserve and to create network of certified partners in the transition area of the BR.</p>	4
		<p>8) as soon as possible, prepare and adopt management plans for the Natura 2000 areas adjacent to the park.</p> <p>In 2018, a new concept was developed at the national level for the management of Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria.</p> <p>Funding from the ERDF through OPE is provided to develop management plans for all Natura 2000 sites over the next 5 years. The process is expected to begin immediately after the legal</p>	3

		changes that will allow this to happen. In 2020 and 2021 the initiative in this field was seriously delayed due to Covid-19 crisis and internal political crisis.	
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of stakeholders within the management plan process - Control of poaching in the park - Strict control on grazing permits and prohibition any increase of grazing animals - Training was provided to the employees on grazing 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of management plan for Natura 2000 was delayed 	
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	In 2021 CBNPD continued to use the EDPA logo for printing materials as follows: 1 brochure and calendar for year 2022. The logo was used also in all presentations for the CBNP presented by park employees. On the webpage of Central Balkan there is information about the European Diploma of the park and link to the official EDPA webpage.		
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations, and appreciates the information provided on promotion of the EDPA		

Name of the awarded area	69. Armenia Khosrov Forest State Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)14	<p>1) as part of the new management plan, create and fund an awareness and training programme for local people, visitors and members of the staff of the reserve, in particular in relation to the management of litter and other waste, and to the development of sustainable tourism;</p> <p>In 2021 Khosrov Forest State Reserve SNCO organized eco-educational programs in 15 communities of Ararat Province for pupils. No information has been provided on awareness and training programs on sustainable tourism.</p>	4
		<p>2) secure the Khosrov Forest State Reserve administration capacities in the future, with the support of the Armenian authorities and external donors; provide staff with specific incentives to foster their interest in the preservation of the reserve and its value;</p> <p>The management of Khosrov Forest State Reserve SCNO is funded by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and international donors: WWF/ World Wildlife Fund/, CNF/Caucasus Nature Fund, which provides staff with specific incentives to foster their interest in the preservation of the reserve and its value.</p>	5
		<p>3) assess the state of conservation of the wolf population (<i>Canis lupus</i>), both at national level and in the diploma-holding area, and adapt the current legal and administrative regime of protection accordingly; design a “wolf concept” providing a general legal and administrative framework for the management of this species in Armenia, in line with the Bern Convention and the regulation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.</p>	3

		<p>The state of conservation of the wolf population (<i>Canis lupus</i>), both at national level and in the diploma-holding area are assessed by specialists. No information has been provided on the development of the adaptation of the current legal and administrative regime of protection.</p>	
	Conditions	<p>1) by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should also consider a strategic approach for the development of sustainable tourism compatible with the carrying capacity of the Khosrov Forest Reserve and the preservation of its integrity as a strictly protected area; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;</p> <p>The new management plan of Khosrov Forest State Reserve is still in the discussion phase, in which all conditions submitted to the SNCO will be included. The draft management plan will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption.</p>	1
		<p>2) launch a political and administrative process aiming to sustain the preservation of the European interest of the area by means of expanding the territory of the reserve to better preserve the state of conservation of the key species (large carnivores and herbivores); removing the existing 11 enclaves along the border of the Khosrov Forest State Reserve; establishing a buffer zone with a clear protection regime and limits, minimising hunting and the effects of grazing on the reserve; addressing the issue of the “transit routes” that cross the reserve; and working to minimise their general impact on the natural assets of the diploma-holding area;</p> <p>The new management plan expands the boundaries of the reserve, as well as establish a</p>	3

		buffer zone with a clear protection regime and limits, which will ensure the integrity of rare and endangered plant and animal species. It will also reduce the probability of anthropogenic pressures (grazing, poaching) and will improve the effectiveness of conservation of the reserve. No information has been provided on the removal of the 11 enclaves.	3
		3) maintain and sustain the legal regime as a strictly protected area for the Khosrov Forest State Reserve in the future law on the protection of nature currently under discussion in the parliament; The legal regime of Khosrov Forest State Reserve as a strictly protected nature area will be maintained in the future law on the Specially protected nature areas of Armenia.	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eco-educational programs in 15 communities of Ararat Province - Secure the Khosrov Forest State Reserve administration capacities in the future, with the support of the Armenian authorities and external donors - Assessment of the state of conservation of the wolf population (<i>Canis lupus</i>) - New management plan includes the expansion of the borders of the park - Legal regime of Khosrov Forest State Reserve will be maintained in the future law 	
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No information has been provided on awareness and training programs on the development of sustainable tourism - No information has been provided on the development of the adaptation of the current legal and administrative regime of the protection of <i>Canis lupus</i>. - New management plan which should have been adapted in 2020 is still in the discussion phase - No information has been provided on the removal of the 11 enclaves. 	
	Other highlights worth to be mentioned	- Since January in 2018 until today camera traps instilled in Khosrov Forest State Reserve have regularly captured a leopard.	
To what extend the visibility of the European Diploma	No information provided.		

has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts.- Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the EDPA logo.

No report received

Name of the awarded area	70. Ireland The Burren region	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	10.07.2013 / 10.07.2028
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2018)13	1) prepare an overarching management framework document for the Burren Region diploma-holding area, outlining the various management initiatives and their inter-relationships;	
		2) aim both to increase the quality of the natural heritage and to prevent damage to the cultural heritage in those areas of the Burren Region not included within the three Special Areas of Conservation;	
		3) work with other stakeholders, especially those involved in tourism predicated on the farm holdings, as well as the natural and cultural heritage, to support communities living and working in the Burren Region;	
		4) consider the development of further walking trails throughout the Burren Region.	
	Conditions	1) secure a budget from 2022 onwards for the development of a successor programme to the current Burren Programme; share with the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas the details of the successor programme to the current Burren Programme prior to its entry into force;	
	Achievements		
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			

To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	
Conclusions and action suggested	

Name of the awarded area	71. Portugal Desertas Islands Nature Reserve	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	02.07.2014 / 30.06.2029
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area have been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2019)8	<p>1) maintain all necessary precautions to ensure that no plant and/or animal species is introduced into the reserve;</p> <p>Stringent quarantine measures are rigorously implemented to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve. Visiting boats are forbidden to pass any ropes to land and all the food and equipment of the site management staff, or other visitors, are transported in sealed containers. Additionally, during the summer, when the number of visits to the island increases, a cordon of tubes with rodenticide is placed around the only official anchoring place of the island and these are inspected regularly.</p>	5
		<p>2) analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna, following the definitive eradication of all alien species, including recent available data for the three islands;</p> <p>During 2021, local and foreign scientists developed various research projects in Desertas Islands.</p>	5
		<p>3) monitor soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio and, if deemed necessary, implement restoration measures;</p> <p>There is a constant effort to combat soil erosion, considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Reserve.</p>	5
		<p>4) keep the goat population at a very low level and under a strict monitoring scheme to ensure the regeneration of natural vegetation and the success of propagation programmes for threatened or extinct plant species. While 25 years of field experience has led to positive results, continue to explore and test alternative methods for a selective and progressive reduction of the goat population while avoiding animal suffering;</p>	5

		The main actions of the project LIFE RECOVER NATURA involve an evaluation of population densities and distribution of goats; a significant reduction in the goat population and the establishment of a monitoring scheme that allows the evaluation of the success of the management measures implemented to control the goat population; which has been maintained up to present.	
		5) ensure a high level of training for the guides who accompany tourists in the reserve; Visitors are met by the Nature Wardens, accompany them along the informative circuit and then to the reception centre. In the case of maritime-tourist visitors, this guided tour is made by the staff of each company; whose employees have received specific training provided by the site management staff.	5
		6) pursue the monitoring of the yellow-legged gull breeding population and their possible interferences with seabird colonies, in order to ensure early detection of possible negative changes; Although the yellow-legged gull (Atlantic form) <i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i> should not be considered an alien species, there is a constant effort to prevent their breeding on the islands (Ilhéu Chão, Deserta Grande and Bugio). Due to the remoteness of Desertas Islands and to their characteristics this is an easy and forward task.	5
		7) monitor the implementation of the management plan against conservation objectives and initiate its revision by 2024. The responsible regional authority is committed to update the management plan of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve by 2024	3
	Conditions	1) eliminate avoidable causes of non-natural mortality of Mediterranean monk seals. To this end, revise the design and construction of the local fishing gear, the so-called “covos”, to include mechanisms which prevent the capture of young seals and their subsequent death by drowning. Alternatively, replace the fishing equipment that causes these accidents with safer and more sustainable systems which do not interfere with the population of marine	3

		<p>mammals in general, and of the monk seal in particular.</p> <p>The responsible regional authority is working on updating the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve legislation and regulations in order to forbid the use of the local fishing gear, the so-called “covos” in the Reserve’s area.</p>	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stringent quarantine measures to avoid the introduction of new species into the reserve - Carrying out of studies on the flora and fauna - Monitoring of soil erosion - Keeping the goat population at a very low level - Provision of training for tourist guides 	
	Shortcomings		
Other highlights worth to be mentioned			
To what extent the visibility of the European Diploma has been improved?	<p>All the events and lectures addressed to the public in general and target groups, as well as the website, facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels, used to raise awareness about the importance of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo. Due to Covid-19, there was a decrease in the number of visitors and foreign scientists.</p>		
Conclusions and action suggested	<p>The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations.</p>		

Name of the awarded area	72. Georgia Vashlovani Protected Areas	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	03.06.2015 / 03.06.2030
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)8	1) Finalise and start implementing in 2020 a new Management Plan for the next 9-years period. Include specific provisions dedicated to climate change and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term preservation of species and habitats typical from the area; A new nine year management plan is already elaborated and approved by the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia. The new document has been prepared within the support of the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF) and Society for Nature Conservation (SABUKO) with the active involvement of the Agency of Protected Areas, Vashlovani National Park Administration and local stakeholders. No information has been provided within the report on specific provisions dedicated to climate change.	4
		2) Continue to fully implement the Pasture Management Plan as part of the general Management Plan. Carefully monitor the pasture activities and the respect of the lease contracts by the farmers. Secure the corresponding budgets from state and other sources; The project referred to the winter shelters of livestock in protected areas and the nearby located 45 farms of Vashlovani. Within the project, evaluation of pasture productivity has been conducted. Vashlovani Protected Areas Administration and the Agency for Protected Areas have already received applications from the shepherds for the lease. About 60% of pasturelands are already leased. Regular meetings to raise awareness among the farmers are also held by the administration staff of Vashlovani National Park. No information was provided on the budget from state and other sources.	4

		<p>3) Collect all the available scientific data and integrate them into the database under construction. Present a systematic list of habitats with short description and respective coverage in the Vashlovani Protected Areas. Establish a comprehensive list of endemic, rare and threatened species with differentiation between the Caucasus, Georgian and local respective species;</p> <p>According to the work plan approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, as well as within the new 9 year Management Plan of Vashlovani Protected Areas, Administration has the direct obligation to annually conduct biodiversity research and monitoring activities of the onsite represented species. Based on this, the abovementioned data is periodically collected by the natural resources specialists and later integrated into the shared database. Systematic list of habitats with short descriptions is represented as an appendix to the report document. It was not specified within the report if the database differentiates between the Caucasus, Georgian and local respective species.</p>	5
		<p>4) Continue working closely with the local authorities and communities, especially in the field of tourism and sustainable development;</p> <p>The administration of Vashlovani protected areas works closely with the local authorities and tourist service providers such as the Dedoplistskaro Tourism Development Association, which is according to their website, promoting sustainable tourism development in the region.</p>	5
		<p>5) Continue maintaining and improving the visitors' infrastructures in the park; carefully control the motor traffic on the roads inside the protected areas and monitor the visitors' activities;</p> <p>This year seven tourist shelters in Mijnskure and seven tourist shelters in Central Vashlovani have been refurbished. Roads are being repaired regularly. Restrictions on driving motorcycles inside the park were</p>	5

		imposed. Picnic areas and other small infrastructure that was repaired last year is well maintained.	
		<p>6) Pursue and develop international collaboration with the Republic of Azerbaijan, especially focusing on ungulate and large mammals' conservation.</p> <p>Cooperation in the field of biodiversity restoration in Iori-Mingechauri cross-border area is noteworthy, in which the main component is the Gazelle Reintroduction Project.</p> <p>At this stage, the results, methods and other important information of the Gazelle monitoring in the cross-border area are being exchanged on a regular basis.</p> <p>No information was provided on other mammals.</p>	4
		<p>7) Use more the European Diploma designation in promotional activities and display its logo; carefully consider other potential international designations, in order to avoid confusion among local authorities and population.</p> <p>Local and international tourists have the opportunity to get the proper information while visiting the Visitor Center to ensure the high visibility of European Diploma holding area. European Diploma designation and logo is represented on Vashlovani trekking maps as well. Leaflets and brochures are always printed with European Diploma logo on it. This designation is respectively emphasized in every presentation and public speech to highlight the international acknowledgement of Vashlovani Protected Areas.</p>	5
	Conditions	N/A	
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good cooperation with the local authorities, tourism providers as well as with the Republic of Azerbaijan - Management plan has been developed - Improvement on the visitors infrastructure - Lease contract with farmers - Display of the Logo of the European Diploma of Protected areas 	

	Shortcomings	- No information has been provided within the report on specific provisions dedicated to climate change within the new Management plan.
Other highlights worth mentioning	It should be highlighted, that compared to the previous year the establishment of the first ever Biosphere Reserve in Georgia in Kakheti Region is already under the process which will connect Vashlovani Protected Areas and Tusheti Protected Areas to each other. It is worth mentioning, that establishment of Biosphere Reserve will be the first case not only in Georgia, but in South Caucasus Region as well.	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	See point 7)	
Conclusions and action suggested	The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the recommendations and appreciates the adoption of the new management plan.	

Name of the awarded area	73. Italy Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato	Date of the award / renewal of the European Diploma	23.09.2020 / 23.09.2025
	Provide a mark for the compliance with the recommendations and the conditions from 1 to 5 (1 = not achieved, 5 = fully achieved)		
To what extent have the conditions and recommendations conditioning the award of the European Diploma to this area been tackled?	Recommendations CM/ResDip(2020)1	<p>1) enhance the present management of the forest towards a greater natural character, with more diversity of ages of trees, as at present parts of the forest in the park are formed by trees of a similar age. It would also be advisable to leave on the ground – without removal – some trees that may have died as a result of wind or other natural or biological processes so as to favour saproxylic fauna;</p> <p>The Plan, in the preliminary drafting phase, provides targeted interventions on individual forest particles aimed at obtaining a different age forest structure and to increase biodiversity with the creation of ecological islands with maintenance of dead biomass. Covid-19 has hindered the final definition of the management plan of the forest to submit to the approval of the regional government.</p>	3
		<p>2) enhance the control of non-native trees, in particular conifers planted during the 1970s and re-forest, with indigenous trees, the relatively small areas affected;</p> <p>The reforestation efforts at present are relegated to small incorporated portions in the deciduous forest where renaturalization processes are in progress. The results of artificial implants differ from area to area and can be grouped into three types. For each of them, it is possible to carry out differentiated interventions.</p> <p>Type 1 - Failed reforestation Type 2 - Residual reforestation in groups Type 3 - Reforestation with crashes Delay of the management plan due to Covid-19</p>	4

		<p>3) enhance the repopulation of the park with new releases of the Italian hare <i>Lepus corsicanus</i>. The numbers of animals so far introduced do not ensure the long-term viability of the population due to inbreeding depression caused by the founder effect;</p> <p>The Park, according to the provisions of the feasibility study approved by ISPRA and the technical-scientific criteria set out in the Action Plan for the Italic Hare, has launched a program for the reintroduction of the species in different areas of the Park that are still suitable for the hare but from which it extinguished for over a decade. Introduction of 12-15 animals per year (M/F ratio 50%) for three consecutive years with founding individuals coming from the fauna area of the Park and endowed with a good genetic variability to be released in predetermined highly suitable areas. The activity of reproduction in captivity of the <i>Lepus Corsicanus</i> continued also in 2021 but the actions of re- introduction in nature has been stopped by the Covid19.</p>	3
		<p>4) monitor closely the effects of the introduction of the roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus italicus</i> in the park, particularly in the forest. The low density of its only possible predators with the exception of man, the wolf, might lead to an explosion in numbers, which should be avoided;</p> <p>The monitoring of the effects of introduction of Italicus Roe deer did not show an exponential and dangerous growth, such as to cause ecological damage and problems.</p>	5
		<p>5) consider carrying out studies on the effects of climate change on the flora and fauna of the park.</p> <p>Within the project "Actions for the maintenance of flora biodiversity in Basilicata" in collaboration with the University of Basilicata, financed by Regione Basilicata, the Park is carrying on the study project "Evaluation of the vulnerability of vegetal ecosystems to climate changes in the area of Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato".</p>	5

		The study will allow to evaluate the vulnerability of the Park forests to climate change and to determine their capacity to react and recover in response to disturbing climatic events.	
	Conditions	<p>1) the regional authorities should ensure by 2022 a substantial increase in the budget presently allocated directly to the park to enable enough means for a stable management and a long-term consolidation of what seems now to be a very efficient but vulnerable structure;</p> <p>Regione Basilicata has confirmed for 2021 an extra budget of €100.000,00 per year, in addition to the annual consolidated contribution of € 450.000,00, ensured during the past years.</p> <p>This additional budget allows the Park to improve the human resources and management system available, so to reinforce the structure and the whole management system.</p>	5
		<p>2) the regulations for the pre-park area are to be adopted by the regional government before the expiration of the first five years of the European Diploma (2025);</p> <p>Contacts and meetings with the municipal administrations of the pre-park area are in progress, in order to discuss the first draft of the regulation.</p> <p>The pandemic situation has strongly affected the discussion and sharing of the definition process of the contents of the regulations with local population and local stakeholders. We hope to give a new impulse to the definition of this important planning instrument in the next future.</p>	4
	Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a management plan including measures on the management of non-native trees and on the diversity of ages of trees - Study on climate change - Monitoring of the effects of the introduction of the roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus italicus</i> in the park - Substantial increase in the budget - Activity of reproduction in captivity of the <i>Lepus Corsicanus</i> 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of stakeholders and the local population on the definition process of the contents of the regulations of the pre-park area
	Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Releases of the Italian hare <i>Lepus corsicanus</i> has been stopped due to Covid-19
Other highlights worth mentioning	<p>A remarkable change has occurred in the political and administrative structure of the Park.</p> <p>Due to sharp contrasts among the members of the Board of the Park (Consiglio Direttivo), on July 2021 a commissioner in charge of the administration has been put by the President of the Regione Basilicata, instead of the normal governing body.</p> <p>This also led to repercussions on management as the figure of the Director, who by the statute is appointed by the Board, has not been identified. So, starting from 01.01.2021, this role is uncovered.</p>	
To what extent has the visibility of the European Diploma been improved?	No information provided.	
Conclusions and action suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EDPA GoS welcomes the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations, and urges continued and increased efforts; - Request the competent authorities to report on the use of the EDPA logo and information of the EDPA on website, letterheads and printed materials, and to provide pictures demonstrating the use of the logo. - Invites the Board of the Park to swiftly appoint a new director. 	