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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

43<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
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**Group of Specialists on the European Diploma  
for Protected Areas**

2-3 March 2023  
*Strasbourg, France*

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

*Document prepared by the  
Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (66)22 on the award of the European Diploma to the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium);

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2006)6 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)9 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium);

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

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve until 28 March 2031;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

Work towards the finalisation of the management plans for all areas of the Nature Reserve by 2028, facilitate their adoption by the responsible authorities and work towards securing finances for their implementation. Explore the opportunity and feasibility to cluster management plans related to several areas in the future.

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. continue the restoration of the wetland areas and secure human and financial resources to maintain them on the long run;
2. continue to acquire land of significant ecological value to strengthen the connectivity of ecosystems and enlarge the area of the Nature Reserve;
3. continue to raise awareness on the nature reserve's European significance among local communities, peripheral municipalities and decision makers;
4. assess the possibility for the tourist sector to contribute to the maintenance of the wooden trails of the nature reserve;
5. in cooperation with the tourist sector, continue to raise awareness of visitors on the code of conduct within the protected area;
6. consider applying for the extension of the European Diploma of the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve to the Fagne De La Haie Henquinet Et Du Sart Lurô and Rond-Buisson Duret State Nature Reserves;
7. make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the Diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve (France)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (66)22 awarding the European Diploma to the Camargue Nature Reserve (France);

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2006)5 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve (France);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)5 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve (France);

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

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve until 28 March 2031;

Attaches the following eleven recommendations to the renewal:

1. adopt and implement the 2022-2027 Management Plan and then develop and implement a new 10-year plan;
2. adopt the Vaccarès Rescue Plan in agreement with the local stakeholders concerned and swiftly introduce the first measures with rigorous scientific monitoring in particular of the pollution level of incoming water;
3. press ahead with the renovation work on the "pertuis" (sluices with gates between the sea and the lagoons), and in particular create fishways that function even when the gates are closed;
4. improve co-operation and co-ordination with the managers of other protection instruments in the Camargue, in particular the Regional Nature Park and the Biosphere Reserve, to ensure comprehensive and consistent management;
5. explore the possibility of creating, with the state partners (agriculture and environment Ministries), an agricultural co-ordinator's post, to be filled by someone with a background in agriculture with a view to reduce the pollution resulting from agriculture;

6. continue the policy of land purchases through the Conservatoire du Littoral and entrust the management of the land to the Camargue National Nature Reserve; explore the possibility to create a buffer zone fostering sustainable agricultural practices;
7. continue rigorous scientific monitoring, in particular of water quality and water levels, in order to anticipate the consequences of global warming;
8. continue to control invasive alien species, combining appropriate techniques;
9. control the flow of visitors, especially in the seaside area; maintain the level of infrastructure and interpretive signage for visitors and update as necessary; give greater prominence to and visibility of the European Diploma at information points;
10. keep a very close eye on the following possible developments:
  - a. plans to build offshore wind farms in the path of migratory routes and their potential impact on birdlife;
  - b. plans to construct a bridge over the Rhône downstream from Arles, to replace the current ferry service.
11. revive the 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);

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (67)23 on the award of the European Diploma to the Lüneburg Heath (Germany);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2007)6 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)5 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve until 25 October 2032;

Attaches the following twelve recommendations to the renewal:

1. further continue reducing the concession of ground-water extraction and technically and quantitatively co-ordinate with the activities and infrastructures of Wasserwerke Hamburg ground-water extraction for irrigation on farmland ; permanently monitor the ground water situation of the entire Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve using a ground water monitoring network evaluating changes in the eco-hydrological situation due to water extraction and climate change (changes in seasonality of rainfall and atmospheric humidity); use of ground water modelling is recommended to simulate the impact of all factors possibly influencing the groundwater level, the surface waters including streams, the different types of vegetation including forests, the biotopes of red-list-species, and the natural dynamics of the whole ecosystem;
2. strengthen political recognition and increased structural funding of the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve beyond the local level, and continue increasing the public funding to the same level as that provided to Federal Nature Parks; secure funding for a permanent group of employed rangers (Naturwacht);
3. continue ensuring appropriate funding for the rearing and maintenance of the "Grau gehörnte Heidschnucke" and of the "Dülmener Wildpferde" by Lower Saxony and the Federal Republic;

4. implement the broad corridors in woodlands meant to link open heathland habitat, as foreseen in the Management plan of the Natura 2000 sites overlapping with the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve; assess the possibility of creating suitable ecological corridors between the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve and the black grouse biotopes outside the reserve;
5. pursue the restoration of streams and associated wetland biotopes and buffer strips; maintain the efforts to safeguard the diversity of typical landscapes associated with the historical “heidepotstalsysteem” (deep stable culture, so-called "Heidebauernwirtschaft"); further elaborate the on-going and future management projects in light of historical agro-pastoral land-use habits; develop modern, efficient and effective schemes to mimic to the extent possible these historic techniques;
6. continue reducing areas with cultivation of energy-crops within and beyond the borders of the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve to a level that does not affect the nature reserve's flora, fauna, groundwater and the scenic attraction; continue the efforts to maintain, restore or create segetal plant communities, given the mere biodiversity richness and agro-historical value of these rare plant communities in Europe;
7. continue ecological forest management and convert monocultures of spruce and pine into mixed forests, including native tree and scrub species; expand whenever possible spontaneous deciduous forest development in the forested areas according to the rewilding concept, but carefully monitor the succession to detect and avoid further coniferous tree expansion;
8. continue including scientific experiments in regional planning processes and prevent negative impacts on the nature reserve from outside the area's boundary; carry out sufficient and detailed studies taking into account the recommendations formulated by the Verein Naturschutzpark before licensing a wind farm, or any other construction project in the neighbourhood of the reserve; continue the cooperation with scientists and support scientific research programmes within the boundaries of the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve to further underpin the management with evidence-based arguments;
9. in close cooperation with the Lower Saxony authorities, continue the efforts to merge the extensive internal data with external data available (e.g. the database of Lower Saxony concerning Natura 2000) so that all species occurring in the reserve are recorded and mapped to ensure they are considered in regional, national and federal planning procedures; consider outsourcing the development of a data exchange system that will ensure the compatibility of both systems;
10. assess the feasibility of creating buffer zones in the neighbouring areas of the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve with a high protection status in order to mitigate the effects of disturbances on the core zone;
11. continue monitoring invasive alien plant and animal species thoroughly, in order to implement appropriate management measures that minimize their presence and impact on the native species; implement to the extent possible the recommendations of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention regarding invasive alien species; strengthen national and international cooperation in the field of invasive alien species;
12. consider setting up a participatory stakeholder platform to address issues associated with the presence of Wolf in the broader area, and to define consensual measures that are feasible, effective and fundable to deal with the potential impact of this carnivore species protected by European legislation; strengthen national and international cooperation to identify good species management practices.

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park (Italy)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (67)39 on the award of the European Diploma to the Abruzzi National Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2007)1 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Abruzzi, Lazio and Molise National Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)10 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Abruzzi National Park (Italy);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park (Italy) until 26 November 2032;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

Facilitate by all means the finalisation of the adoption of the Management Plan by the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise.

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. reinforce the existing Monitoring Programmes by including existing monitoring protocols under a common approach and scientifically validated methodologies, in order to i) assess the effect of the climate change, ii) early detect undesirable consequences on species (specially the most vulnerable like chamois and brown bear), ecosystems and ecological functions, iii) characterise the rate of changes (if any) using internationally recognised indicators and iv) develop predictive models that could be of help to anticipate possible adaptive management needs;
2. maintain and reinforce the financial resources to increase the scientific knowledge and improve the management and conservation measures, projects and strategies in the National Park;
3. reinforce the human, financial and material resources for wildfire prevention and fight. Continue the criminal prosecution of poison bites and poaching;



4. continue supporting the sustainable socio-economic development without jeopardising the conservation of biodiversity and of the ecosystems, particularly, by monitoring tourism indicators and alert thresholds of excessive human presence, to prevent possible overcrowding and damages to the environment;
5. ensure that the harmonised hunting regulation to be implemented in the peripheral protected area ("Area Contigua") aims to: i) eliminate disturbances to the brown bear during the critical phase of selecting the caves for wintering; ii) contribute to maintain the densities and sex ratio of red deer and wild boar population within acceptable limits that do not affect the feeding habitats of the chamois and the brown bear; iii) select hunting modalities that are more compatible and less invasive of the natural habitats in coherence with the weight capacity of game species within the hunting grounds;
6. explore the possibility to encourage sheep and goat farming, allocating where appropriate specific pastureland sectors for this kind of husbandry, better suited than cattle breeding to the mountain wild vegetation;
7. explore the feasibility and opportunity to apply for the extension of the European Diploma area to the peripheral protection area of the National Park (the "Area Contigua").

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Maremma Regional Park (Italy)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (92) 17 on the award of the European Diploma to the Maremma Regional Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2007)2 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Maremma Regional Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)9 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Maremma Regional Park (Italy);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Maremma Regional Park until 18 May 2032;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. entrust the Scientific Committee of the Maremma Regional Park to consult with the most relevant scientists specialised in geo-morphological, hydrological and ecological dynamics of the Ombrone river basin, with respect to the effects of erosion on the Ombrone delta and adjacent beaches, in order to:
  - I. gather and analyse all the existing scientific information concerning the causes of the increase of the ratio erosion/sedimentation;
  - II. establish a diagnosis of the drivers of deterioration of the delta and coastal areas, including (if relevant) factors associated to the climate change;
  - III. identify possible measures, in different time and space scales, to respond to the identified causes of the deterioration;
  - IV. analyse from the ecological, economic and environmental impact point of views the feasibility of the options for the regeneration of the delta and coastal areas affected by the increase of erosion processes;

2. in liaison with the Scientific Committee, assess the biological value of the marine area adjacent to the Park as a first step, and consider the opportunity to enlarge the existing regional park to the sea, and to create a new terrestrial and marine protected area, in agreement with the local stakeholders, particularly the fishing sector;
3. ensure the adequate level of permanent staff to guarantee the efficient protection and surveillance of the Diploma holding area and ensure the renewal of the existing staff;
4. pursue the efforts to contribute to the socio-economic development of the area by fostering sustainable economic activities and the quality labels. Internationally promote the exemplary model of coexistence of conservation and development achieved with the contribution of all stakeholders;
5. continue the efforts for investigating, restoring and conserving the outstanding cultural and archaeological values of Maremma;
6. draft a management plan for the wolf in light of the experience gained with the management of the species and in correlation with the management of the ungulates;
7. elaborate a tourism strategy in light of the outcomes of monitoring indicators and alert thresholds of excessive human presence in the area with a view to prevent possible overcrowding and subsequent damages to the environment.

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to ResDip(2006)10 on the award of the European Diploma to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)2 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania);

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

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park until 27 September 2031;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure the necessary budget for the national park administration to run and maintain the infrastructure for visitors and to conduct regular monitoring activities;
2. monitor the effect of climate change on species and habitats and ensure findings are considered in the management of the area;
3. maintain and strengthen the good relations with the local and the county authorities, as well as with tourist organisations to work together on future sustainable tourist development in the area surrounding the National Park with special attention to visitors hotspots;
4. continue and strengthen the implementation of the Building Guide in the Sustainable Development Area of the Piatra Craiului National Park;
5. maintain regular control actions for forestry activities and enhance cooperation between owners, forestry authority and the Piatra Craiului National Park Administration;

6. continue the gradual replacement of spruce forest with broad-leaved forest in the middle mountain level and ensure sustainable forest practices are systematically used within the National Park;
7. continue giving appropriate visibility to the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explaining the relevance of the Diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.

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## **Resolution CM/ResDip(2023)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Retezat National Park (Romania)**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2023  
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)2 concerning the award of the European Diploma to the Retezat National Park (Romania);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2013)4 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Retezat National Park (Romania);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 2 and 3 March 2023;

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

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

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Retezat National Park until 2 July 2033;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

Facilitate the adoption of the Management Plan by the responsible authorities without further delay and work towards securing finances for its implementation.

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. strengthen monitoring programmes and secure finances for their implementation. Initiate in particular the monitoring of the effect of climate change on species and habitats and ensure findings are considered in the management of the area;
2. prepare a plan for maintaining and developing the infrastructure (headquarters, potential information points, entrance points, camp sites, shelters, etc.) of the National Park and seek for appropriate financing;
3. maintain and strengthen the good relations with the local and the regional authorities, as well as with tourist organisations to reach an agreement on future sustainable tourist development in the area surrounding the Retezat National Park;

4. strengthen the cooperation between the Administration of the National Park, the National Agency for Natural Protected Areas, and National Directorate of Forests (ROMSILVA) to ensure a coherent and harmonised management of the protected areas under their respective responsibility;
5. pursue the efforts to further enlarge the strict protection zone (zone A) and of the integral protection zone (zone B);
6. consider ways and means for a more sustainable use of forest within the buffer zone of the Retezat National Park;
7. make more use of the European Diploma logo in all information material and brochures, and explain the relevance of the Diploma wherever appropriate, in particular in the visitors' centres and on the website.