

Strasbourg, 13 February 2020
[de11e_2020.doc]

T-PVS/DE (2020) 11

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

18-19 March 2020

Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 17

**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF
THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS
AWARDED TO THE DE OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN NATURE
RESERVE AND TO THE WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN
NATIONAL PARK DISCUSSED IN 2019**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

1. Draft Resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2019)...

..... 201..

Resolution CM/ResDip(2019)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve (Netherlands)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2019
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

Having regard to Resolution Res(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 Res(99)18 on the award of the European Diploma to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve (Netherlands);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2009)6 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve (Netherlands);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 5 and 6 March 2019;

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

Noting that holding the European Diploma implies the maintenance 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 De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, until 9 September 2029;

Attaches the following three conditions to the renewal:

1. in the context of the development of the Lelystad airport, ensure that the flight paths, as determined in 2016, will still exclude overflights of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve if the airport is opened up for larger planes and intercontinental flights in the future;
2. preserve the European interest and the exemplary management of the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve by maintaining a minimal intervention approach to the ecosystem, with limited adaptive intervention in large herbivore dynamics, in order to achieve the Natura 2000 management goals, including appropriate water dynamics management;

3. further extend the reserve by creating a wide corridor for large herbivores, particularly red deer, to Horsterwold, which would contribute to achieving the management objectives based on an approach with minimal intervention in the ecosystem;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. closely monitor the effects 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;
2. maintain and further strengthen co-operation between the management authorities, the surrounding municipalities and the province in order to limit any impact on the nature reserve when reviewing urbanisation and zoning plans, and ensure sufficient buffer zones around the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve core area;
3. in co-operation with stakeholders at all levels (representatives of the local and regional authorities, managing authorities, scientists, NGOs 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, about its direct effect on animal welfare, and about its long-term effect on the biodiversity of the nature reserve;
4. following the integration of the peripheral zones – Hollandse Hout, Oostvaardersveld, Kotterbos and Oostvaardersbos – into the nature reserve, finalise their management plans and ensure that they are consistent with the management of the core area of the nature reserve;
5. monitor the increase in numbers and 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 nature reserve;
6. pursue reflection about the creation of the Nieuw Land National Park, encompassing the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, and consider applying for the European Diploma for the national park;
7. give more visibility to the European Diploma logo and raise awareness about its aims and objectives on the website of the nature reserve, through social media, flyers, brochures and information panels in the visitors' centres and in the field.

2. Draft Resolution regarding the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Resolutions

CM/ResDip(2020)...

..... 201..

Resolution CM/ResDip(2020)... on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden (Netherlands)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2020
at the ... meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

Having regard to Resolution Res(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 Res(95)20 on the award of the European Diploma to the De Weerribben Nature Reserve (Netherlands);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2015)2 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the De Weerribben Nature Reserve (Netherlands) and to its extension to the De Wieden Nature Reserve (Netherlands);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 5 and 6 March 2019;

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

Noting that holding the European Diploma implies the maintenance of the exceptional European interest, the continuance of the exemplary management and the 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 De Weerribben Nature Reserve and to its extension to the De Wieden Nature Reserve, jointly presented under the name "National Park Weerribben-Wieden", until 3 June 2030;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

Urge the responsible authorities to put the development of Lelystad Airport on hold until a solution for the long low flight path is found and that it is ascertained that flight movements above the De Weerribben-Wieden National Park is kept at the lowest possible level with only high flight routes and no holding tracks above the National Park.

Attaches the following eight recommendations to the renewal:

1. Pursue the monitoring of the effects of the connection between De Weerribben and De Wieden on mammals and invertebrates, paying particular attention to light conditions, vegetation continuity and water quality.
2. Design and implement a management plan for fish stocks covering all species and continue the monitoring of their development, with emphasis on eels, to strengthen the ecological function of the reserves and natural reproduction in line with Natura 2000 requirements.
3. Monitor the trends in boating activity and its impact on fauna. Envisage to limit the size of the boats and their number during peak periods.
4. Continue with the designation of adjoining areas as extensions of, or buffer zones to, the protected areas, especially to the north (Rottige Meenthe) 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.
5. Pursue the renovation works at the Weerribben Visitor's Centre in Ossenzijl and raise the attractiveness of both visitor's centers to foreign visitors by introducing at least English, preferably also German and French texts to all exhibitions.
6. Anticipating the decision of Dutch authorities to adopt a new definition for national parks, ensure that the Weerribben-Wieden National Park complies with the new criteria of national parks and continues benefiting of this designation.
7. Avoid at any time burning practices when managing the reed lands whenever an alternative, equally effective management approach is available, and if compatible with the management goals.
8. Give more visibility to the logo of the European Diploma and raise awareness about its aims and objectives on the website of the National Park, through social media or information panels in the visitor's centers.