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**Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe  
in the field of biological and landscape diversity**

**(CO-DBP)**

**Group of specialists – European Diploma for Protected Areas**

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**KUŞCENNETI NATIONAL PARK  
(Turkey)**

**RENEWAL**

Expert report by  
Mr Joe Sultana (Malta)

*Document established by  
the Directorate of Culture  
and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The European Diploma for Protected Areas was first awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park in 1976 and renewed four times. But the Committee of Ministers decided on 17 October 2001 not to renew the European Diploma until some conditions have been met and it recommended to undertake an on-the-spot appraisal in 2003 to assess the progress made towards meeting the conditions and if appropriate make proposals concerning a review of the suspension.

Mrs Françoise Bauer from the Secretariat accompanied the expert on his visit to the park.

Appendix I reproduces Resolution (96) 27 which was adopted when the Diploma was last renewed. In Appendix II the Secretariat presents a draft resolution for possible renewal.

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## 1. Introduction

Kuşçenneti National Park is situated on the northern shore of Lake Manyas. This small 64-hectare park was set up in 1959. Its European importance is mainly due to a major arboreal colony of large waterfowl, waders and palmipeds. Some of the species breeding here, such as the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), the Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and the Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) figure on the list of Europe's endangered bird species. The park has an important role in the preservation of these birds. There are other bird species which breed in the park, some of which are included in Appendix II to the Bern Convention.

The success of the colony, which is located in an area with groves of Willow Tree *Salix alba* in an extensive reed bed, depends on the quality of the water of Lake Manyas as well as on the natural annual fluctuation of the water level in the lake. The water level must be high in spring to prevent predators from reaching the nests and low in summer. These variations are also essential to the vegetative cycle of the willow trees. The foot of the trees must be submerged in spring, while the water must subside in summer to expose the roots. The conservation of the colony, therefore, depends on preserving the lake's ecosystem.

The lake covers 162 km<sup>2</sup> and is eutrophic. It is quite shallow with a maximum of 3 to 5 metres deep. Due to this the water is particularly warm in summer, and hence rich in plankton and with plentiful aquatic animals. The lake's main tributary is the Kocaçay river on the southern shore. The annual inflow is 580 million m<sup>3</sup>. The other tributaries contribute far less water but carry agricultural and industrial pollutants. This is the case with the river Sigirci which flows past Bandırma's industrial district and comes out in the national park.

The river Karadere, on the opposite shore, is the lake's outlet channel. It is controlled by a flow regulator which plays a crucial role in the hydraulic management of the lake and the national park.

## 2. The Conclusions of the Appraisal report of April 2000

[document PE-S-DE (2001) 06]

The Council of Europe Diploma was awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park, Turkey in 1976, and it has been renewed four times, in 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

In April 2000, Mr Francis Roux (France), who had conducted the previous appraisal in April 1995, was asked by the Secretariat to conduct an on-the-spot appraisal to establish whether the circumstances which led to the award of the Diploma and the subsequent renewals still applied and were such as to be able to recommend that the Diploma be renewed for a further period of five years. The renewals were subject to a general condition, some specific conditions and a number of recommendations.

The expert reported that the conditions and recommendations which the Committee of Ministers attached to the previous four renewals have never been comprehensively acted upon and most of them have only elicited statements of intention. He also remarked that he could not objectively state that the conditions of the park, which prompted the award of the Diploma and its subsequent renewals, still exist.

He did not recommend an outright refusal to renew the Diploma as he argued that such a decision would not serve the Kuşçenneti Park's cause and would be a disservice to it vis-à-vis the authorities and the public. He therefore suggested the suspension of the Diploma for a period of three years, which would provide a reasonable period of time:

- (a) for initiating the recovery of the national park's biology and landscape;
- (b) for the authorities to apply, with all the requisite determination, measures conducive to the strict control of the lake's water regime and to reducing pollution;
- (c) for a start to be made on renovation of the educational facilities for visitors.

He recommended that the suspension should be reconsidered after a further on-site appraisal at the end of this three-year period.

### **3. The Conclusions of the Meeting of the Group of Specialists – European Diploma for protected areas in March 2001**

[document PE-S-DE (2001) 15]

The Group of Specialists regarding the European Diploma for protected areas met in March 2001. After deliberating at length on the expert's report the Group decided to opt for non-renewal of the European Diploma, but for a shorter period than that proposed by the expert, that is until the conditions concerning the maintenance of the site's integrity, the re-establishment of its ornithological value, its water management and pollution control had been met.

### **4. Terms of reference**

The Committee of Ministers decided on 17 October 2001 not to renew the European Diploma until some conditions have been met. It recommended to undertake an on-the-spot appraisal in 2003 to assess the progress made towards meeting the conditions and if appropriate make proposals concerning a review of the suspension.

The undersigned was entrusted with this task and was accompanied by Mrs Francoise Bauer of the secretariat. The purpose of the visit was to make appropriate recommendations after examining the progress made in the implementation of the following conditions:

#### **A. General condition:**

Maintain the National Park's biological and landscape integrity within its original boundaries and re-establish the site's ornithological value.

#### **B. Specific conditions:**

- (i) All necessary measures must be taken to prevent any adverse repercussions of human activities on the Lake Manyas ecosystem, in particular by constant monitoring of the water quality and by avoiding fragmentation of the habitat through the construction of dikes. A plan must be implemented to control pollution caused by poultry farming;
- (ii) There must be a water management programme to ensure the natural fluctuations of the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;
- (iii) Any project for development of the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, must be subject to a preliminary impact study, the conclusions of which would be communicated to the Council of Europe;

- (iv) Renovate the educational facilities for the public and install a video system for live transmission of the activities of the bird colony.

## 5. Programme of visit

Our official visit took place on 25 and 26 September 2003 but we also used the following day (27<sup>th</sup>) to gather more information and to visit several spots around the lake. On arrival at Istanbul (on 24<sup>th</sup>) we were met with two officials of the Ministry of Environment, Mr Selim Erdoğan and Mr Mehmet Gölge, who accompanied us during most of our visit.

Next morning (25<sup>th</sup>) we crossed by ferry to Bandırma, where we were welcomed by Mrs Ferah Cakir (Director of Kuşçenneti National Parks) and other Staff members, who took us to the headquarters/visitors' centre of the park. After being welcomed there by Kadir Uzun (Province Directorate of Environment and Forestry), and Nejdett Arslan (Division Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Park), we had the first meeting and discussion regarding background information, problems, actions taken, etc. Present for the meeting were also Mrs Sevgi Gül, Raile Kökdemir and Sühendan Karauz from the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks.

Sevgi Gül, had accompanied the previous expert Mr Francis Roux during the previous on-the-spot appraisal, while Sühendan Karauz, with whom we had long discussions regarding the breeding population of birds during this visit, is an expert ornithologist, who has been responsible for the breeding bird counts for the past four years in the national park of Kuşçenneti.

For the next two days the above-mentioned officials also accompanied us on most of the sites' visits and meetings. We had the opportunity of meeting and discussing problems with

- (a) The Balıkesir Governor
- (b) The Chairman of Bandırma Municipality
- (c) Representatives of
  - (i) the Balıkesir University
  - (ii) the DSI-SHW (State Hydraulic Works)
  - (iii) the Local Environment Division of the Ministry of Environment & Forestry
  - (iv) the Local Directorate of Agriculture
  - (v) the Regional Directorate of Forestry
  - (vi) several environmental, hunting and social NGO's
  - (vii) the villages surrounding the lake, the fishing community and several villagers themselves
  - (viii) the local private economic sector
  - (ix) the press which gave a good local coverage of Kuşçenneti and our visit

We also had presentations by

- (a) Selim Erdoğan, from the Ministry of Environment, on action taken in 2001-2003 regarding problems of Lake Manyas;
- (b) Sühendan Karauz, from the Wildlife Division of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, about her surveys on the breeding population of birds at the national park, and how the installed video cameras work;
- (c) The Captain of the Gendarmes Army Unit responsible for environmental laws enforcement at the lake and the surrounding area, on the unit's raison d'être and its activities.
- (d) Dr Kemal Çelik, Asst. Professor at the Balıkesir University, on the Water Quality Trends of Lake Manyas in the last decade;
- (e) Dr Yılmaz Ari, Asst. Professor at the Balıkesir University, on the geography of the Lake Manyas and on his socio economic studies he carried out in the area.
- (f) Dr Can Bilgin, President of the KAD (Turkish Bird Research Society), on the work of this NGO in relation to the National Park and about solutions to the problems of the park.

## 6. Acknowledgements

This report has been drawn up on the basis of:

- (a) The documents provided by the Natural Heritage and Biology Diversity Division of the Direction of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Council of Europe, which included amongst others the previous appraisal reports by the former experts, the annual reports sent by the Turkish authorities, the 2001 report by the Group of Specialists – European Diploma for protected areas, and copies of the Resolutions related to the site in question;
- (b) The final report of the Ecological Risk Analysis and Management Planning for Lake Manyas, written and published by the Ministry of Environment General Directorate of Environmental Protection, the Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture Department of Landscape Architecture, and the Ministry of Forestry General Directorate of National Parks Game and Wildlife;
- (c) The Regulation for Conservation of Wetlands & 2003-2008 National Wetland Strategy published by the Ministry of Environment General Directorate of Environmental Protection;
- (d) From the presentations mentioned in Section 5;
- (e) From the information acquired during meetings and discussions with officials and representatives of the various entities mentioned in Section 5.

The undersigned would like to thank all the Government officials, representatives of the various entities, and speakers whom he met and are mentioned above. He is grateful to them all, and in particular to Kadir Uzun, Nejdet Arslan, Ferah Cakir, Selim Erdoğan and Sühendan Karauz for the organisation and programme of the visit, and for their co-operation in answering numerous questions with detailed information. It would have been impossible to prepare this report without their help. Thanks are also due to Mrs Françoise Bauer of the Natural Heritage and Biology Diversity Division of the Direction of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Council of Europe for her continuous and unfailing support during the whole visit.

## 7. Discussion, Conclusions & Recommendations

### 7.1 The breeding birds population

The breeding birds population constitute a significant part of the national park's ornithological value. For example, it is the colony of the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, one of the breeding species in the park, which gives the reputation to the site on a European level. The whole lake is considered internationally as an Important Bird Area, according to BirdLife International's criteria for IBA's, and the national park's breeding birds population contributes significantly for the whole area to satisfy this criteria. Unfortunately there has been some confusion in the past when estimating the breeding numbers particularly those of the Dalmatian Pelican. In some cases the number given for individual birds of this important species was interpreted as breeding pairs and so the decrease, which in fact did take place in recent years, was exaggerated, at least with regards to this important species. There has been also some misunderstanding about numbers of breeding birds for the whole of Manyas Lake (Kuş Gölü). For some species, the breeding pairs for the whole lake seem to have been attributed to numbers breeding in the National Park, which is only a 64 hectare area. Manyas Lake has an area of 15,700 ha. Table 1 gives the number of breeding pairs of 9 species (those of the Dalmatian Pelican are highlighted in bold) in the National Park for the years 1990,1995, and 2000-2003, as provided by Sühendan Karauz .

**Table 1**  
**Number of breeding pairs at the National Park in 1990, 1995 and 2000-2003**

Species	1990*	1995*	2000**	2001**	2002**	2003**
<b>Cormorant</b> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1000	2000	1500	850	1560	2250
<b>Pygmy Cormorant</b> <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	0	150	80+	10	40	45
<b>Dalmatian Pelican</b> <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	20+	35	69	20	39	47
<b>Night Heron</b> <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	50-100	150	100+	80	0	120
<b>Squacco Heron</b> <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	?	100	21+	7	15	80
<b>Little Egret</b> <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	30	35+	14	5	50
<b>Grey Heron</b> <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	50-100	250	64+	101	160	95
<b>Glossy Ibis</b> <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	105	10	8 (?)	5	30	34
<b>Spoonbill</b> <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	200	200	29+	22	31	38

\* from census carried out by DHKD (Doğal Hayati Koruma Derneği)

\*\* from census carried out by Sühendan Karauz in the years 2000-2003

It is worth mentioning the fact that in recent years a sub-colony of the Kuşçenneti large waterbirds colony has established itself at the Koçocay Delta on the Lake Manyas' southern shores. Population bird counts have been carried out there by Sühendan Karauz during the last three years and the results are presented in Table 2. Looking at the two tables one notes that there are instances where birds seem to have shifted from one colony to the other. The Dalmatian Pelican, however, has not been recorded breeding in the Koçocay Delta.

**Table 2**  
**Number of breeding pairs at the Koçocay Delta in 2000-2003**

Species	2001	2002	2003
<b>Cormorant</b> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	560	350
<b>Pygmy Cormorant</b> <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	150	50	148
<b>Night Heron</b> <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1200	410	1100
<b>Squacco Heron</b> <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	126	200	200
<b>Little Egret</b> <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	210	240	120
<b>Grey Heron</b> <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	12	20	20
<b>Glossy Ibis</b> <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	25	55	38
<b>Spoonbill</b> <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	20	37	27

Biodiversity management needs data to assess the status and importance of sites and species, and to monitor environmental trends. Birds are excellent bio-indicators and they are particularly good for environmental monitoring. The ecological requirements of many bird species are such that their presence more or less guarantees the existence of particular environmental conditions.

The low figures in year 2001 (Table 1) reflect the mismanagement of the lake and that there was something ecologically wrong in the national park. On the other hand the numbers, which started to increase in 2002 and continued to do so in 2003, show clearly that the proposed actions which were and are being implemented by the authorities, particularly in controlling pollution as well as managing properly the water levels, are already bearing fruit.

## 7.2 The Re-establishment of the Ornithological Value of the site

- The re-establishment of the willow plantation is still an ongoing process and several thousands have been planted with an overall success of 80%. Many trees are now in an advanced stage of growth.
- The pelican breeding platforms have also been repaired and new ones have been constructed.
- Most important of all is the fact that due to the pressure by the Ministry of Environment, the DSI (the State Water Works Organisation) opened the outlet at Ergili, prepared a new water management plan, and the water level has been managed according to natural fluctuation for at least the last three years. A protocol between the DSI and the Ministry for the Environment ensures that the desired water levels are maintained. It seems therefore that a water management programme is in place, thus ensuring the natural fluctuations of the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer.

When taking in consideration the breeding population numbers of the last two breeding seasons (as presented in para 7.1) and the above commendable actions it seems to me that the re-establishment of the ornithological value of the site is on the right track.

## 7.3 Management Plan for Lake Manyas

A management plan for Lake Manyas, entitled "Ecological Risk Analysis and Management Planning for Lake Manyas" has been published in March 2001. Its main objectives in relation to the national park are, amongst others,

- to improve the water quality of the lake;
- to manage the water regime in harmony with its natural process; and
- to improve the breeding areas in Kuşçenneti National Park.

According to the annual report of 2001 the implementation of several proposed actions of the Management Plan in relation to

- pollution,
- industrial waste water treatment,
- impacts of wastes of poultry farms,
- the restoration of the park amenities and its educational programme

has already started and is an ongoing process. An official committee, under the Chairmanship of the Governor of Balıkesir with representatives of ministries/directorates responsible for water management, environment, agriculture, health and tourism, has been set up to oversee its implementation. Recently the Ministries of Environment and of Agriculture and Forestry have been amalgamated and implementation of the plan would be more effective.

#### 7.4 Monitoring the water quality

The basic water quality data for the past 10 years which was compiled from several previous studies have just been analysed and compared to the set of samples collected this year (2003) by Balıkesir University. The present analysis started in March 2003 and it will end in December 2005. The samples are taken from three stations (Sığircı Creek, mid-lake, and Kara Dere Stream) to measure the main water quality data pH, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids (TDS), chlorophyll a, and NO<sub>3</sub>.

According to Dr. Kemal Çelik, of Balıkesir University, the dissolved oxygen concentrations of Sığircı Creek have increased 12 times since 1995. This is an indication of the improvement of water quality of this heavily polluted tributary. The mid-lake DO values have not changed much, but with regard to dissolved oxygen concentration, Lake Manyas seems that it has never had a problem. With regards to NO<sub>3</sub> concentrations, there is about a tenfold increase both in Sığircı and Kara Dere Creeks, probably either due to an increase in fertilizer usage in farmlands or some industries might be discharging nitrogen rich waste to the tributaries. Furthermore, apart from the breeding bird populations, the Lake is also visited by large numbers of birds, and no doubt these contribute to the organic loading significantly. Chlorophyll a concentrations do not seem to be changing too much, but nonetheless they tend to be in a declining trend.

Comparing the 2003 data to those of the past studies, Manyas Lake seems to be at a turning point of the recovery.

#### 7.5 Development & Pollution control

During the official meeting which was held in the regional Directorate of Forestry in Balıkesir with delegations from the Balıkesir University, the DSI-SHW (State Hydraulic Works), the Local Environment Division of the Ministry of Environment & Forestry, the Local Directorate of Agriculture and the Regional Directorate of Forestry the undersigned was informed that:

- There will be no fragmentation of the lake habitat as no dike projects are earmarked in the future;
- Any project for development at or surrounding the lake, and its tributaries, are already subject to an environment impact study;
- The Directorate of Rural Affairs constructed sewage treatment plants for all the 6 villages which are close to the lake's shore, and that others are being planned for other surrounding villages;
- There are 81 industrial bodies (industries and poultry farms) close to Sığircı and Koçocay rivers. 37 of these do not discharge water into the creeks. The rest are either recycling their own water or have a waste treatment plant.
- The waste of poultry farms does not go into the lake but is collected for processing as a compost fertilizer. The marketing potential of this fertilizer is being further investigated.

#### 7.6 Law Enforcement

The environmental regulations in the lake and its surrounding area falls under the responsibility of an army platoon consisting of a captain and 3 teams, each with a compliment of 6 gendarmes. This enforcement unit was set up in December 2002, through a protocol signed by the Army and the Ministry of Environment. The unit carries several inspections daily to see that industries and farms are abiding by the regulations. Hunting and fishing, as well as the Lake's water related regulations also fall under the unit's remit. Up to the end of September 2003, that is in 10 months, the unit took the necessary action regarding 150 cases of violations of the environmental regulations.



### 7.7 Renovation of the educational facilities

During our visit we have noticed that new, pleasant landscaping of the entrance area have been carried out. An NGO (Turkish Bird Research Society) has been given facilities to cater also for visitors and to carry out bird ringing studies close to the park's managerial and interpretive building. The big observation tower has been rebuilt and a video system with three cameras, which can be controlled from the interpretive centre, transmits live pictures of the birds in action in the breeding colony and along the shore.

The museum section at the interpretive centre, however, still needs a total overhaul to make it more educational and attractive. The presentation and exhibits should be set up in a way that would give the opportunity to visitors to participate themselves in learning about the ecology of this bird paradise.

### 7.8 Enlargement of the area of the Park

During our visit officials from the Ministry of Environment and from the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks informed us that steps are being taken to enlarge the area of the park which would encompass the whole lake. There is no doubt that this will enhance the status and the ecological values of the park and would afford more protection to the biodiversity of the whole lake. This move is highly commendable and it is hoped that the highest authorities in Turkey will approve of this plan.

### 7.9 Recommendation

According to the previous appraisal report the conditions and recommendations which the Committee of Ministers attached to the Award of the Diploma and its renewals had never been comprehensively acted upon. However, the suspension of the Diploma by the Committee of Ministers seems to have brought about a change of heart vis a vis the conditions that had been set. The above discussion shows that the authorities are now making commendable efforts to save the site from any further degradation and to re-establish the park's ecological values. I would therefore recommend the renewal of the Diploma on the following conditions:

**A. General condition:**

To maintain the National Park's ecological and landscape values.

**B. Main Specific conditions:**

- (i) To continue the process of re-establishing the site's ornithological value and regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park.
- (ii) Any project for development of the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, must be subject to a preliminary impact study, the conclusions of which would be communicated to the Council of Europe ;

**C. Other Specific conditions:**

- (i) To monitor continually the water quality of the Lake and of the streams flowing into it;
- (ii) To implement the necessary actions to control pollution caused by poultry farming;
- (iii) To ensure the natural fluctuations of the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;
- (iv) To overhaul the museum section in the interpretive centre and set it up with exhibits and representations in a way that would give the opportunity to visitors to participate themselves in learning about the ecology of this bird paradise;
- (v) To implement all actions and conditions proposed in the management plan of the lake.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

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#### **RESOLUTION (96) 27**

#### **ON THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA AWARDED TO THE KUŞCENNETI NATIONAL PARK (TURKEY)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 June 1996  
at the 569<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma;

Having regard to Resolution (76) 15 awarding the European Diploma to the Kuşçenneti National Park,

Renews the European Diploma awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park in category A until 14 March 2001;

I. Attaches to the renewal the following conditions:

1. general condition: the biological and landscape integrity of the national park must be maintained within its original boundaries;

2. specific conditions:

2.1. all necessary measures must be taken to prevent any adverse repercussions of human activities on the Lake Manyas ecosystem, in particular by constant monitoring of the water quality and by avoiding fragmentation of the habitat through the construction of dikes;

2.2. there must be a water management programme such as to ensure the natural fluctuations of the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;

2.3. any project for development of the lake, its shores and tributaries must be subject to a preliminary impact study. The findings of this study will be forwarded to the national park authorities as well as to the Council of Europe;

2.4. the educational role of the visitor centre must be developed, in particular by renovating the exhibition rooms and installing a video system transmitting live the activities of the bird colony;

II. Attaches to the renewal the following recommendations:

1. that the biological and landscape integrity of the shores of Lake Manyas;

2. that, for the future Lake Manyas National Park, a scientific committee be set up to include biologists specialising in the environment, and in limnology and the biology of waterfowl populations in particular;

3. that, for this future park, a management committee be set up on which the various categories of lake and lakeside users will be represented;

4. that the Ramsar Convention's declaration concerning Lake Manyas be extended to the whole lake.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Turkey)**

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, as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (76) 15 awarding the European Diploma to the Kuşçenneti National Park;

Having regard to the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers on 17 October 2001 not to renew the European Diploma to the Kuşçenneti National Park until certain conditions have been met;

Taking into consideration the on-the-spot appraisal's report aimed to assess the progress made towards meeting the conditions and if appropriate make proposals concerning a review of the suspension which was submitted to the Group of Specialists – European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 12 and 13 January 2004;

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the Field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP);

Recognising the commendable efforts of the authorities to save the park from any further degradation and to re-establish the national park's ecological values;

Decides to renew the European Diploma to the Kuşçenneti National Park until .....;

Attaches the following conditions to the renewal:

#### **I. General condition:**

To maintain the National Park's ecological and landscape values.

#### **II. Main specific conditions:**

- (i) To continue the process of re-establishing the site's ornithological value and regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park.
- (ii) To submit for a preliminary impact study, any project for development of the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, the conclusions of which would be communicated to the Council of Europe;

#### **III. Other specific conditions:**

- (i) To monitor continually the water quality of the Lake and of the streams flowing into it;
- (ii) To implement the necessary actions to control pollution caused by poultry farming;
- (iii) To ensure the natural fluctuations of the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying-up of the shoreline in summer;
- (iv) To overhaul the museum section in the interpretive centre and set it up with exhibits and representations in a way that would give visitors the opportunity to participate in learning about the ecology of this bird paradise;
- (v) To implement all actions and conditions proposed in the management plan of the lake.