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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES



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MUDDUS NATIONAL PARK
(Sweden)

ON-THE-SPOT-APPRAISAL

by

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1. Introduction

The category A European Diploma was first awarded to Muddus National Park in 1967 and has since been renewed three times. The last inspection was made in July 1980 by Mr.M.A. van Wijngaarden (SN-R-DP (80)32) and Mr.P.Baum.

In accordance with the diploma regulations (Resolution (73) 4), Dr.P. Baum and myself carried out the inspection for a fourth five-year renewal on 2 and 7 July 1985. We were shown round by the head of the national parks in Norrbotten, Mr.Hans Furmark, and by Mr.Stefan Malmberg of the Environment Protection Board. At the introductory talk on 2 July we had also a chance to meet the staff of "Fjällnheten".

2. A Brief Description of the National Park

Muddus National Park covers an area of 49 00 ha, it is part of the community of Gällivare and was established in 1942. The southern part of the park consists of vast untouched woodlands interrupted by rocky ravines. The northern part consists of extended moors. The middle part around Lake Muddusjaure is a bird sanctuary where access is prohibited between 1 March and 17 July. Only the southern third of the park is provided with marked hiking trails, shelters, a bird-watching tower, etc.

3. Problems of the National Park

If we speak of "problems" in the following they cannot be compared to problems in other regions which suffer under considerably higher pressure from civilisation. Muddus National Park is a vast area of largely untouched moors and woodlands. The only major exploitation is the keeping of reindeers by the Lapps.

3.1. Administration

Since the last renewal of the Diploma the administration of the park has been improved considerably thanks to the establishment of "Fjällnheten" - the mountain unit council - in Jokkmokk by the National Environment Board and the County Government of Norrbotten. This new organisation is, amongst other things, responsible for the administration of the seven national parks in the north of Sweden. Most of the investments for the establishment and the maintenance of the equipment of the national park have been financed with means of the Labour market.

However, these means are, as it seems, not secured for the future, and thus the administration of the national park is facing serious financial problems.

3.2. Management Plan and Information Concept

A management plan for Muddus National Park has been set up and is now being discussed. From the point of view of the expert it would be desirable if the question of information about nature protection could, in relation to this plan, be considered especially. A concept of information at different levels could be worked out, giving ample information about all seven national parks in the north of Sweden in one central place (e.g. in connection with the planned ecological museum in Jokkmokk). There the nature values of the north of Sweden could be drawn to the attention of the many visitors passing by, with the aid of an exhibition, audio-visual means, the selling of documentation material about nature conservation and possibly locally made crafts. The entrances to the individual parks could be pointed out, too. For Muddus National Park a minor information centre (perhaps a mobile one) on the much frequented Jokkmokk - Gällivare road with a parking and a resting place can be recommended. At the moment the southern part of Muddus National Park is annually visited by approx. 2 000 people. Considering the immediate proximity of Jokkmokk, the number of visitors to the park could be increased, if desired, through better information about approaching roads to the entrance of the park from the Jokkmokk - Gällivare road.

3.3. Peregrine Falcons Hatching in and Close to the Boundaries of the Park

At the moment one couple of peregrine falcons are hatching in the national park and another one just outside it; they constitute $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total population of peregrine falcons in Sweden. The nests are supervised in an exemplary way in collaboration with private nature protection. A national programme for the conservation of peregrine falcons including the rearing of young birds has been started in 1984.

4. Conclusions

In accordance with Resolution (82) 4 the authorities are requested to meet two conditions for the Diploma to be renewed: a constant supervision of the hatching peregrine falcons and no extension of the road system. Both conditions have been met; in addition to that parallel marked paths have been given up. The southern boundary of the park has been moved to the river Stora Luleälv.

The team of Hans Furmark and the National Environment Protection Board are to be highly praised for the exemplary work they do and for their great efforts in applied nature protection.

Based on the observations made during our inspection, I propose in accordance with Resolution (73) 2 that the category A European Diploma be renewed for another five years. In section 5 some recommendations concerning the renewal of the Diploma are added.

5. Recommendations

1 - the financial resources which the national park needs for the continuing of administration, maintenance, supervision and research are to be secured.

2 - The responsible authorities are to be invited to draw up an information concept within the frame of the management plan for the national parks in the north of Sweden in general and for Muddus National Park in particular.

3 - The protection of the peregrine falcon nests is to be secured in collaboration with private nature protection.

Vaduz, 2 August 1985

Mario F. Broggi