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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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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
of Protected Areas**

**EKENÄS ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK
(Tammisaari, Finland)**

RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

Expert Report by

by Mr Eckhart KUIJKEN
(Belgium)

The European Diploma was awarded to the Tammisaari National Park in 1996. It is the first renewal.

The secretariat did not accompany the expert on his visit to the park.

Appendix II contains Resolution (96) 30, which was adopted when the Diploma was awarded. Appendix III contains a draft resolution prepared by the secretariat for the purpose of the renewal.

I. Introduction

In order to enable the Council of Europe to decide on the renewal of the European Diploma through its Group of Specialists on Protected Areas (PE-S-ZP), we present in this report the conclusions of the on the spot appraisal, carried out on 10 and 11 July 2000.

Our sincere thanks go to the Metsähallitus personnel, especially Mr. Hannu Hormio, Park Director, who organised the stay in Finland in a most efficient and pleasant way, bringing us in contact with relevant authorities and institutions. His personal knowledge on the ecology of Finnish nature and on the situation of nature conservation in his country was extremely helpful.

The responsible team of the Ekenas National Park (South Finland Natural Heritage), dr. Stig Johanssen and his staff managed our visit most effectively; we were kindly assisted by Mr. Hannu Hormio, Mrs. Marica Linden and Mr. Hans-Eric Nyman. We are also grateful for the contacts with the Tvärminnen Zoological Station where we could stay overnight and discuss with scientists about their work in the Archipelago (a.o. Riggert Munsterhjelm and Kaleri Keynäs).

During the introductory visit of the Information Centre in Ekenas, the geographical situation and natural values of the Park became explained. The results and problems of management and research could be observed in the field during a most interesting field trip by boat. Concluding remarks were discussed in the centre after the field visits; there was no meeting with the press organised.

II. Objectives of the appraisal

In order to assess the actual state and ecological conditions of the Diploma area, as well as the realisations and problems in the fields of management, research and education, we examined the annual reports of the National Park, describing the progress of management and the follow up of the recommendations at the time of the awarding of the Diploma. The National Park Master Plan and information on education and scientific research information were discussed, as well as the regulations concerning land use, tourism, hunting and fishing and the views of local authorities and government responsible on the future development plans of the National Park. Five year after the Diploma was awarded, this visit is the opportunity to test the effects of this important pan-European instrument.

III. General Situation of the Tammissaari Archipelago National Park

Location, ownership, boundaries, status and objectives:

The archipelago is situated in the southern Baltic, about 100 km west of Helsinki, in the western part of the Gulf of Finland, near the city of Tammissaari (Ekenas). The National Park has been created from two formerly existing nature reserves, covering at present an area of ca. 5000 ha, mostly marine habitat and some 200 small islands totalling only 500 ha are of land (no mainland is included in the Park). Almost 1/3 is state owned and managed by Metsähallitus (South Finland Natural Heritage).

The National Park regulations are based upon the Nature Conservation act of 1923 (!) and were laid down in 1992: *The Park has been established for the purpose of preserving a representative part of the archipelago and marine ecosystem, and to promote environmental research and nature study. It includes two strict nature reserves that already existed before. The National Park further provides opportunities for boating, teaching and research.*

In the principles of the Act 485/89 (1989) the safeguarding of the needs of professional fishing is also given prominence. In certain representative places, heritage landscapes and the buildings belonging to the government will also be preserved (Rödjan, Jussarö). Parts of the area are under military regulations.

The actual boundaries of the National Park are still rather artificial; the recommendation (1996) on this aspect to expand the perimeter of the Diploma area has not yet been realised. However, the expansion of boundaries of the National Park as well as the more strict legal measures (e.g. hunting) are subject of considerations in the framework of the designation of the site as Special Area of Conservation in the EU-Habitat Directive (see further).

It is hoped that an active policy in this regard will continue to improve the coherence of the Park. Some 18 smaller private plots are geographically situated within the Park, but the regulations do not imply here. Exchange of these plots with land outside the park (mainland or other islands) could improve the conservation status of the whole. The acquisition of 'annex' or 'satellite' sites of high biological interest is under process and will extend the National Park up to the mainland (e.g. Näsebyfladan, a shallow bay with peat land habitats meeting former brackish water, Kopperöfladan, including Nabbfladan). This is actually under realisation as a result of the Natura 2000 strategy and with Life funding application.

Ecological characteristics:

The National Park includes the ecological gradient from the open sea (marine zone) over the outer and inner archipelago towards the mainland (actually outside the park). The salt water gradually turns to brackish and fresh (dystrophic or oligotrophic) in small pools and lakes on the larger islands. The variety in abiotic and biotic features results in a specific biodiversity of outstanding importance. Notably the specific Baltic habitat types called 'flada' (small coastal lagoons) and 'glo' (isolated former lagoon, only flooded by very high tides). (See further summary description of habitats, flora and fauna, presented in our former report, Kuijken 1995).

Land-use and public access

In most restricted areas (such as Jussarö and Storträsket) visitors are only allowed to use nature trails during guided tours. Some islands with vulnerable habitats or rare species are strictly inaccessible, which is announced by clear signs visible from the water; we have been able to evaluate the most positive results of ecological development in such closed site, the island called Aggolskär). The park service can also establish temporary restricted plots (for breeding birds, research etc.). Further land use is strictly regulated. Boating especially is subject to constraints in basic parts, with some exceptions in marked navigation channels (the route from Helsinki to Hanko passes through the park). Some service areas are situated along these channels where the only access points are. Most of other activities (walking, collecting berries and mushroom, skiing, canoeing, swimming etc.) are permitted in basic parts of the park.

Supplementary to the examples of regulations and restrictions mentioned above, the outermost (marine) parts of the national park belong to a military protection area in which foreign visitors only exceptionally have entrance. During our visit we could not investigate if the military activities on some islands still disturb breeding birds or vegetations in some degree.

Apart from land-use restrictions, some activities or sports (hunting, fishing) using natural resources are subject to regulations that will be reviewed in the framework of the Natura 2000 designation as part of the management plan.

Since Finland entered the EU only recently, this process of integration in conservation Directives requirements will have priority above the Diploma, but offering opportunity for improving also the status of the Diploma area through LIFE instrument (7-8 mio FM for priority sites). This will also strengthen the link between the National Parks and other Nature 2000 sites.

The land use and harvest regulations in the past did take into account the specific needs and privileges of local people living within the archipelago, in order to reduce excessive pressure from visitors. These are matter of discussion under the Natura 2000 regulations.

Nature education and outdoor recreation

The visitors centre is situated in the yachting harbour of Tammissaari, the building is owned by the city. It presents information about all aspects of geography, history, environment and wildlife in this part of the Baltic with very attractive audiovisual and exhibition displays (with some translation of Finnish comments and map legends in Swedish and English folders). Information is also available on a website.

The 'information point' at the historic Rödjan site, with exhibition panels on wildlife and restoration of authentic culture in a small museum-like house is most functional to inform visitors on manifold values of the site. Also on the island of Jussarö with its virgin forest an information point will be located in a former farm site (part of the island is still Military area).

The number of visitors of the Park is about 200.000; 20.000 visitors (5% are foreigners) pass through the visitors centre from April-December (2-300 daily; 10% concerns visits in groups).

The surveyance and control of visitors, speed limits of boats etc. is effectuated also by coast guards using sophisticated cameras.

Research and nature management

The National Park offers several opportunities for environmental research. The University of Helsinki and notably the Tvärminne Zoological Station has a long tradition in this field. Also cooperation with the regional Finnish Environment Centre is recommended. Integrated environmental monitoring is to be (re-)established in permanent plots. Due to lack of funding, integrated monitoring in Algö has not been continued; many other research projects and long term projects are at present undertaken and provide basic information on fundamental ecological processes and for nature management. Staff members of Metsähallitus are actively involved in making inventories of flora and fauna.

Many aquatic or wetland-ecosystems almost need no active nature management, except the prevention from eutrophication (blue algae bloom since 1997!). The semi-natural herb-rich meadows at Rödjan and Jussarö (Kullakoja) need mowing or grazing management and partly even the removal of spontaneous forest succession invading these grasslands in order to prevent overgrowing of specific valuable situations, endangered species or habitats.

Some working camps of WWF are organised in order to help cleaning up the Park.

Nature management and research activities are well covered in the National Park Master Plan; this has to be revised and completed in the framework of the NATURA 2000 operation, including newly-acquired sites of the National Park.

Personnel and budget

In 1995 the Forest and Park Service had only a limited number of staff working exclusively for the National Park: 4 (temporary) guides, 1 part-time warden and 1 maintenance man. The seasonal aspects of the personnel requirements depend on the number of visitors and tourists. The annual budget was 0.5 mio FMark (80% salaries) with a supplementary 1.0 mio FMark for the visitors centre. Here the need for 1 permanent biologist (training and research), 1 education officer and extra guides was mentioned in order to inform 25000 visitors.

The actual number of staff of the visitors centre is still very limited but improved; employment money is coming from the National Park (see table): 1 volunteer high-school trainee, 2 nature guides and 1 manager

EKENÄS ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK									
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Budget (1000 €)	129	114	108	68	59	58	50	61	61
<i>Invest</i>	103	52	51	15	1	1	0	2	3
<i>Salary</i>	20	29	41	42	45	47	40	47	52
<i>Rest</i>	6	33	16	11	13	10	10	12	6
Labour (months/year)	8	12	19	18	18	19	15	17	19
<i>ordinary</i>	5	7	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
<i>seasonal employment</i>	3	5	7	6	6	7	3	5	7

Summarising conclusions

- The Tammissaari National Park is of outstanding international importance from both biogeographical and biodiversity point of view.
- The National Park has great social importance; increased synergy with the visitors centre activities could be envisaged
- Research and monitoring schemes offer basic knowledge for management and balanced land use as described in the National Park Master Plan, of which a revision is recommended.
- The recommendations (Res. 96.30) have been guiding principles as far as the Park authorities were concerned; as most of the future development since 1996 was focussed on the Natura 2000

needs, some Diploma recommendations will be reformulated

- Matters of military use were not discussed as they did not seem to cause problems.

IV. Proposed recommendations

1. The boundaries of the Diploma area are to be revised covering the whole area of the expanded National Park, including the newly acquired Natura 2000 sites; detailed maps are to be presented to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

2. The hunting regulation (especially Eider spring shooting) is to be harmonised with the EU directives through the Nature Conservation Act in the whole of the National Park, within the new boundaries as agreed under the Natura 2000 network.

3. - Scientific research is to be stimulated at structural basis, a.o. by intensified relations with the Tvärminnen Zoological Station and the Environmental Research Station in order to increase broader ecosystem knowledge which is also applicable for nature management and presented in vulgarisation publications as well. Funds are needed for restoring the permanent monitoring sites such as existed at Algö.

4. The National Park Masterplan 1990 is to be revised/updated taking into account the new boundaries of the National Park, as has been included in the Life-funding applications: revision of zoning, facilities for tourism, management and restoration areas.

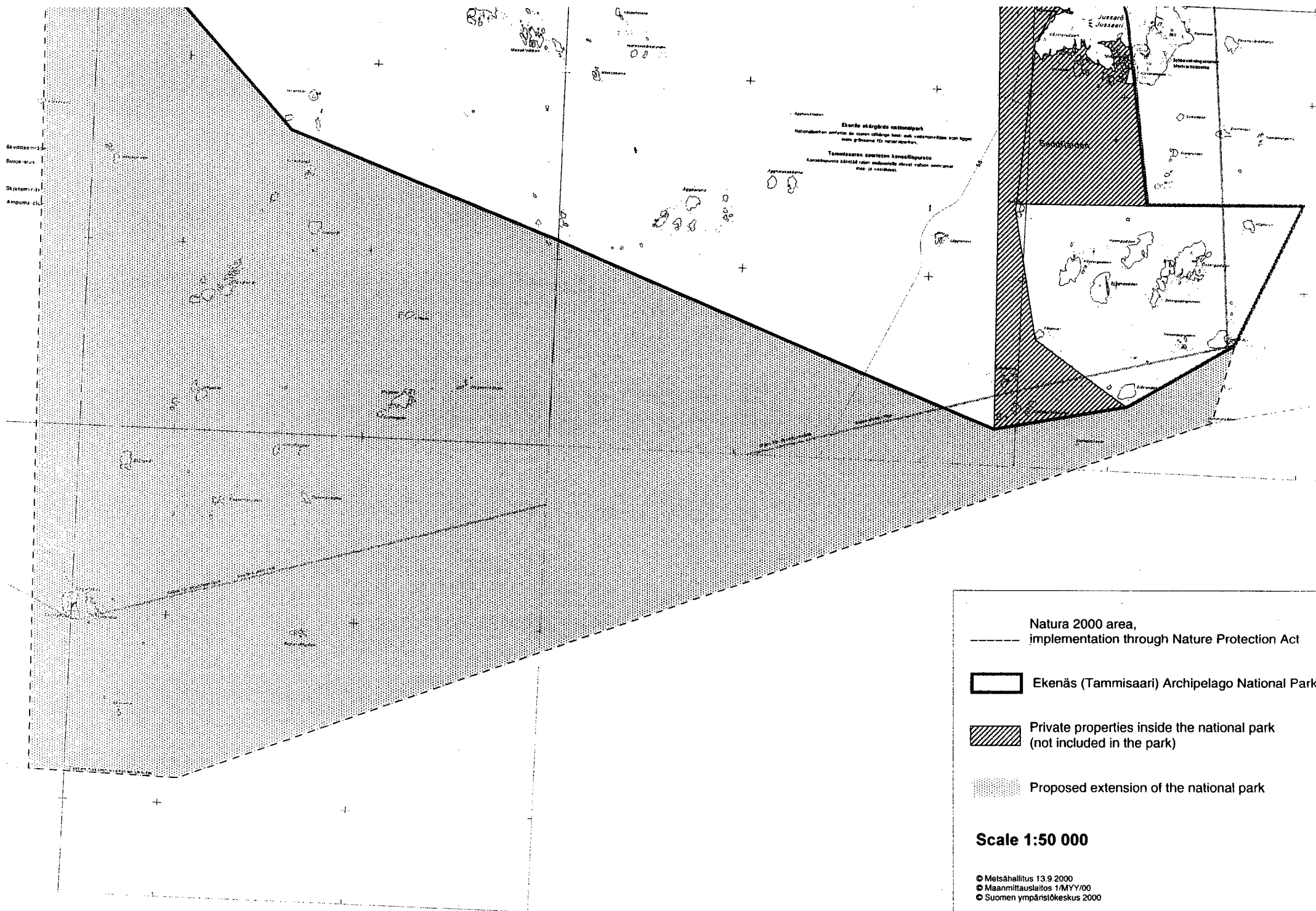
5 - Additional budgets are to be allocated to the functioning of the visitors centre
- Further increase of trained personnel for education, information and survey is needed in order to meet the needs of increasing visitor numbers.

V. Final conclusion:

Taking into account the great biological importance of the National Park, the balanced management of landscape, cultural and ecological values, the specific efforts in the field of research, education and training and the sustainable level of recreation and tourism, we strongly recommend the renewal of the European Diploma.

A P P E N D I X I

Map of the area



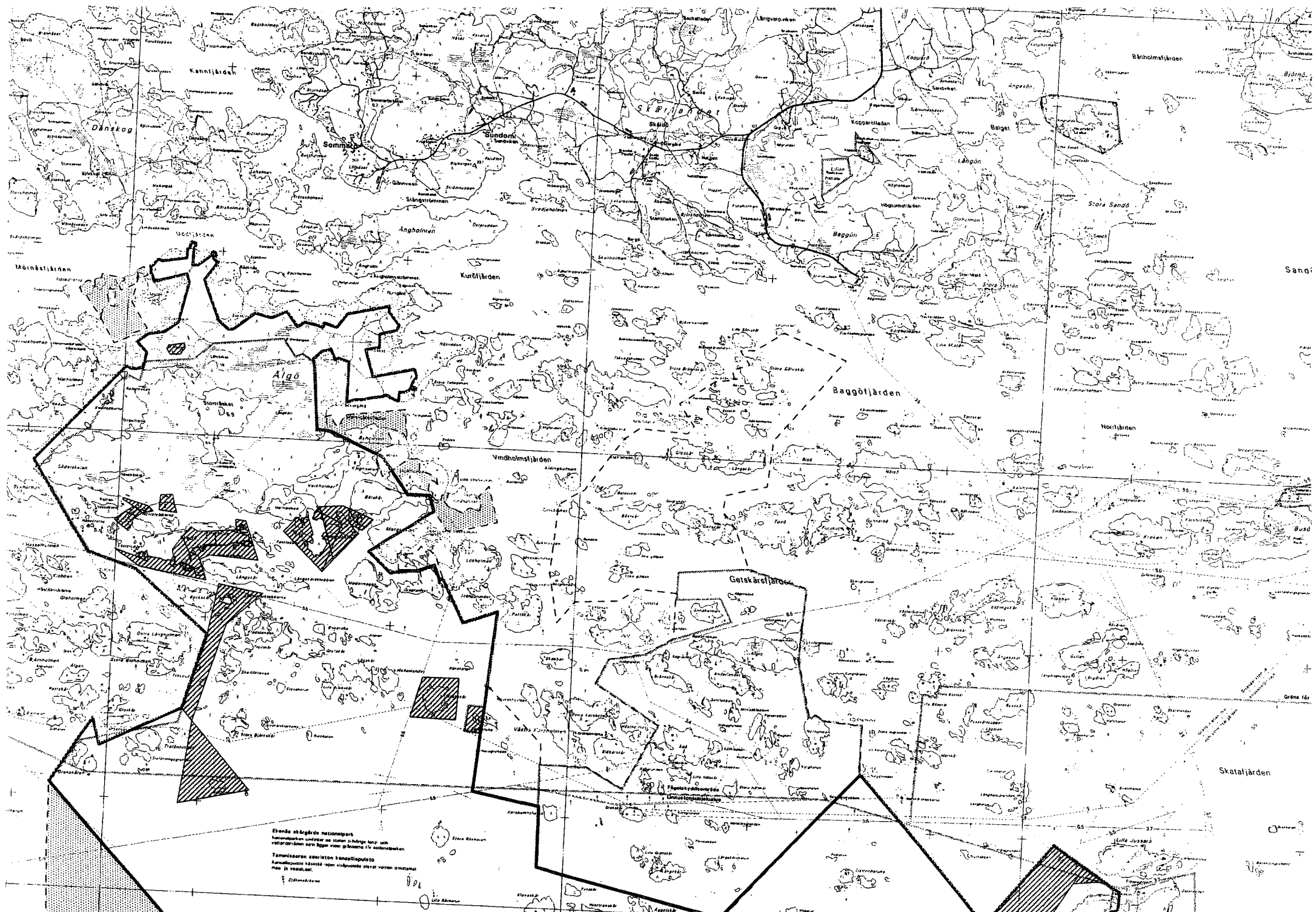
Ekenäs edelläkärä kansallispuisto
 Natura 2000-alueita ja suojelualueita koskeva lainsäädäntöön perustuva
 kansallispuiston laajennus.

Tammisaaren seutukunnan luonnonsuojelualue
 Kansallispuiston laajennusalueeseen kuuluvat seuraavat alueet:
 - Kallio

- Natura 2000 area,
implementation through Nature Protection Act
- Ekenäs (Tammisaari) Archipelago National Park
- Private properties inside the national park
(not included in the park)
- Proposed extension of the national park

Scale 1:50 000

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 © Suomen ympäristökeskus 2000



Etelästä alkajaisesta
 haitausalueen ulkopuolella on jätetty vähäiset laivat ja
 veneet, joihin ei ole ollut mahdollisuutta.
 Tämän alueen sisällä on haitausalueita
 haitausalueen ulkopuolella on jätetty vähäiset laivat ja
 veneet, joihin ei ole ollut mahdollisuutta.
 ? Olfundatum

APPENDIX II**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

RESOLUTION (96) 30**ON THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA
TO THE TAMMISAARI ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK
(FINLAND)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 June 1996
at the 569th 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 noted the agreement of the Government of Finland;

After deliberation,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma, category B, to the Tammissaari Archipelago National Park
in accordance with the Regulations for the European Diploma (Resolution (91) 16);

Places the aforesaid park under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 19 June 2001;

Attaches the following recommendations to the award:

1. to stop the spring shooting of the eider as soon as possible;
2. to extend the south-west limits of the national park; to inform the Secretariat of the Council of Europe of any modification to the present boundaries of the park through maps showing the greatest possible detail;
3. to intensify the scientific research and the publication of their results with supplementary financial resources;
4. to manage the natural habitats whilst respecting the needs of the indigenous species;
5. to develop the supervision, information and education of the visitors, chiefly in summer;
6. to study the "sponsorship" opportunities for undertaking certain short-term activities, as the financial resources granted to this park are relatively modest.

A P P E N D I X I I I

DRAFT RESOLUTION

on the Renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Finland)

The Committee of Ministers, under 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 (96) 30 on the Award of the European Diploma to the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park;

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

Bearing in mind the consultant's report submitted to the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma for Protected Areas at its meeting on 1 and 2 March 2001;

Renews the European Diploma to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park until 19 June 2006;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. The boundaries of the Diploma area are to be revised covering the whole area of the expanded National Park, including the newly acquired Natura 2000 sites; detailed maps are to be presented to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

2. The hunting regulation (especially Eider spring shooting) is to be harmonised with the EU directives through the Nature Conservation Act in the whole of the National Park, within the new boundaries as agreed under the Natura 2000 network.

3. - Scientific research is to be stimulated at structural basis, a.o. by intensified relations with the Tvärminnen Zoological Station and the Environmental Research Station in order to increase broader ecosystem knowledge which is also applicable for nature management and presented in vulgarisation publications as well. Funds are needed for restoring the permanent monitoring sites such as existed at Algö.

4. The National Park Masterplan 1990 is to be revised/updated taking into account the new boundaries of the National Park, as has been included in the Life-funding applications: revision of zoning, facilities for tourism, management and restoration areas.

5. - Additional budgets are to be allocated to the functioning of the visitors centre
- Further increase of trained personnel for education, information and survey is needed in order to meet the needs of increasing visitor numbers.