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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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Room 15, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden)

RENEWAL

Expert report
by Mr Hervé Lethier, EMC²I Agency (Switzerland)

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

The European Diploma for protected areas (category A) was awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks in 1967 and has been renewed since then.

The Secretariat did not accompany the expert on his visit to the site.

Appendix 3 reproduces Resolution (97) 15 adopted when the Diploma was last renewed. Appendix 4 sets out a draft resolution prepared by the Secretariat for the purpose of extending

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present report has been drawn up on the basis of appraisal information gathered on the spot by the expert.

The views expressed are solely those of the author, who thanks all the individuals he met on his visit for their valuable assistance, particularly Jan Stuge¹, Asa Lagerlof² and Bengt Landström³, who accompanied him throughout his visit.

St Cergue, 26 November 2001

¹ Mountain unit.

² Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

³ Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens Län.

GENERAL POINTS

The aim of the visit was to make an appraisal for the renewal of the European Diploma held jointly by the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks, Sweden⁴.

It took place from 9 to 12 August 2001, and followed the terms of reference assigned to the expert by the Council of Europe⁵.

In keeping with the recommendations of the Group of Specialists⁶, the expert concentrated on the following points:

- the question of over-grazing by reindeer;
- the decline of the lynx and wolverine populations.

These two issues are closely related to the recommendations made by the Group of Specialists for the appraisal concerning the renewal of the Diploma held by the Muddus National Park, carried out two days earlier. The two reports will therefore contain common information gathered by the expert during his visit.

INTRODUCTION

The Sarek National Park was created in 1909. Its 1,970 km² of territory features alpine ecosystems formed of barren high plateaus and some 200 summits, some of them above 1,800 m; there are around one hundred glaciers. It is one of the very last mountain reserves in a completely natural state in Europe and, like the Rappa valley lying at its heart, offers a landscape of a rare authenticity. Sarek is in Lapponia, the immense 9,400 km² expanse classified by UNESCO as a world heritage site in December 1996, which also includes, from south to north, the national parks of Muddus, Sjaunja, Stora Sjöfallet which borders Sarek to the north-east and Padjelanta which adjoins it in the west. Sarek has little in the way of tourist facilities and offers no accommodation; it has just one trail⁷, crossing its southern part.

The Padjelanta Park was created in 1962 and extends over 1,984 km². In terms of mean altitude it is lower than Sarek, although its highest peak, the Jeknaffo, stands at 1,836 m. Padjelanta comprises sub-alpine lakes and grasslands forming open landscapes of great beauty. Virtually the entire park is above the tree-line. Padjelanta is more easily accessible than Sarek and offers a network of light facilities appreciated by hikers, trails, refuges and small trade outlets. Unlike Sarek, Padjelanta is occupied all year round by Sami herders and fishermen, living in several villages on the western fringe of the Park at the edge of the large lakes - from north to south - of Akko⁸, Vasten⁹ and Viri¹⁰.

The two parks form a continuous mountain reserve to which the European Diploma was awarded in category A in 1967 and six times renewed¹¹, the last time in 1997.

The previous expert reports provide further details of the ecological interest of the Diploma area, which is a habitat, all year round, for three large predators - the bear (*Ursus arctos*), the lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*).

⁴ Visit programme, Appendix 2.

⁵ Letter referenced FB/GMS of 11 June 2001.

⁶ Doc. PE-S-DE (2001) 15, p.10.

⁷ King trail

⁸ Akkastugoma.

⁹ Läddjakka.

¹⁰ Arasluokta and Staloluokta.

¹¹ Last three renewals by Resolutions (87)8, (92) 15 and (97) 15.

I BACKGROUND

I-1 Review of the conclusions of the earlier appraisals

Table 1 summarises the recommendations set out in the resolutions adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers for previous renewals of the Diploma held by the Diploma area.

Decisions to award and renew the Diploma	Recommendations
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the mountain unit must be provided with sufficient financial resources for the administration, maintenance and surveillance of the national parks; • the regulations banning motorcycles in Sarek and Padjelanta must be enforced; • dialogue must be increased with the Lapps enjoying ancestral rights to carry on traditional activities inside the national parks; • priority must be given to improving information as part of the management plan; • more applied research must be done, including a programme on changes in the various methods of running the national parks, and a carnivore programme including study of the impact of large predators on the ecosystem;
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the plans featured in the <i>Nationalparksplan för Sverige</i> concerning the enlargement of Padjelanta and Sarek make for better protection of both these parks, and it would be advisable for the Swedish authorities to carry them through to completion as quickly as possible and to keep the Council of Europe informed; • formally drafted management plans for both parks would be a valuable aid to their conservation and would also permit consultation with the Sami people (Lapps) and open the way to their involvement, thus demonstrating that decentralised management will not impair the high standard of conservation for which the parks are noted; • information campaigns on the Sami people (for park visitors) and for the Sami people (to increase their awareness of the value of the natural heritage within their territory) would have long-term beneficial effects for both parks. Cooperation with the Jokkmokk museum could be stepped up for this purpose; • research on the major predators should continue so as to assure their conservation, since the presence of the species in the region represents a very significant European asset.

Table 1 Recommendations attached to decisions to renew the Diploma in 1987 and 1992.

I-2 Review of the conclusions of the last appraisal¹²

Five recommendations were made by the Committee of Ministers, namely that:

- the plans featured in the "*Nationalparksplan för Sverige*" concerning the enlargement of Padjelanta and Sarek, which are likely to enhance the protected heritage of these parks, be carried through to completion as quickly as possible, and the Council of Europe be kept informed;
- it be ensured that budgetary resources are sufficient to maintain the high standard of the state of conservation of the parks;
- the management plan for Sarek National Park be finalised in consultation with the Samis;
- the Samis be fully involved in activities to protect this heritage, which is equally that of the Samis, Sweden and Europe;
- research be continued, in particular as regards the monitoring of animal populations; it would be desirable to study the impact of certain human activities on these populations.

II CURRENT SITUATION

II-1 General

The technical conditions for the visit were excellent, thanks to the means made available by the Swedish authorities; the use of a helicopter combined with long walks on the ground considerably facilitated my appraisal in the very brief time allotted to the visit.

On the whole the Diploma area seems to be in an excellent state of conservation and the facilities made available to visitors, particularly in the Padjelanta Park (laid-out trails, bridges, walkways, picnic areas, refuges etc) are of a very high standard and very well maintained. Signposting is of high quality. The tourists encountered on the ground confirmed their high degree of satisfaction.

Responsibility for managing the Parks lies with the County authorities of the Norrbotten region¹³. The Parks do not yet have their own management plan despite the Committee of Ministers recommendations for the renewals in 1987, 1992 and 1997 but a plan is being drawn up for the management of Lapponia.

The extension in the south-west sector of Sulitelma recommended in 1997 has not taken place either since the last appraisal and seems to have been more or less abandoned in favour of an extension of Sarek in the Laiddauredeltat sector; negotiations with the land-owners are in progress.

The Parks have no staff exclusively assigned to them, nor do they have their own budget. They are managed on an everyday basis by the "Mountain" unit of the County authorities, made up of a small team of scientists and ground staff allocated by district; the unit has a global budget which covers all the costs of the facilities and running of the County's national parks; Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the budget and recent changes in it.

Type of expenditure	Period 1997/2000 (in M SKR)	Year 2001 (in M SKR)
Salaries	3,2-4,	4,2
Misc. Expenditure	1,8-2,4	2,5
Administration	0,8-1,0	1,0
Network of paths	0,9-1,5	1,0
Bridge maintenance	0,5-1,5	0,5
Studies and inventories	1,0-1,5	1,3

Table 2 Changes in the Mountain unit budget since the last appraisal (in millions of Swedish kroner).

¹² See note above: Res. (97) 15.

¹³ County administration board.

Further financing comes from European Union structural funds and a number of study grants.

Four wardens are currently assigned on a part-time basis to the parks of Sarek, Padjelanta and Muddus.

The large predators are monitored at national level; the populations of bear¹⁴ and lynx¹⁵ are regarded as remaining stable since the last appraisal and the wolverine population appears to be on the increase in terms of the number of dens occupied, estimated to have risen from 15-20 in the period 1996-2000 to 30 in 2001¹⁶.

Hunting, fishing, wood-cutting and mining are prohibited in the parks in principle, but the Samis are authorised to hunt elk in Padjelanta and permit-holders may fish in lakes and water-courses within a 1 km radius of a refuge. The gathering of mushrooms and berries is permitted for personal consumption.

Although the number of visitors recorded in the refuges of Padjelanta was distinctly down for the year 2000, certainly owing to weather conditions, the level of tourism in the Diploma area seems to have been stable over the last five years and is perfectly acceptable from a conservation point of view. Moreover, it is heartening, for an outside observer who is lucky enough to travel Europe and the world, to see the visitors behaving in an exemplary manner towards the natural environment. This points to a high level of environmental awareness; the general running of the parks and the facilities they offer certainly go some way towards explaining this, as does Swedish culture in general.

II-2 Specific aspects

II-2-1 Questions relating to the terms of reference assigned by the Group of Specialists

A Reindeer population control

The Sami people¹⁷, to whom the law grants exclusive reindeer herding rights on nearly half the national territory¹⁸, are given quotas set by the County; although the number of Samis living off this activity has fallen in recent years at national level (from about 2,000¹⁹ to 800 in the Norrbotten region alone, including 350 split into two groups²⁰ in the Jokkmokk sector) the number of head of reindeer has continued to grow over the same period²¹, yielding larger herds and an overall total of 300,000 head, 200,000 of them in Norrbotten.

Since the beginning of the 1960s, though, the trend has gone the other way in the Norrbotten region, towards a steady decline. In the Jokkmokk sector, which contains Muddus Park, the herds are located in three main areas²² and currently number about 20,000 head, compared with their previous level of 50,000.

There have been no changes in the law as regards reindeer herding since the last appraisal. The annual reports show that, notwithstanding the above information, the situation has not greatly changed since 1997.

¹⁴ 2-3 reproductive females in Sarek, occasionally in Padjelanta.

¹⁵ 8 to 10 pairs for the whole of the Diploma area.

¹⁶ Personal count (to be compared with the figures in the annual report for 2000 which put the number of reproductive females in the area at between 4 and 6, plus a few males).

¹⁷ Gunsley, N., 1999.

¹⁸ about 40%, or 165,000 km².

¹⁹ Anon.

²⁰ Compared with 17,000 Samis living in Sweden, including 2,500 reindeer-herders split into 600-700 families.

²¹ Wallsten, P., 1997.

²² Villages of Circas and Unna Cearus (winter), and Gällivar (summer).

Obvious signs of over-grazing were visible during the visit, within Padjelanta, along the trail from Läddejakkä to Arasluokta, but assessing the seriousness of the situation on the scale of the entire Diploma area is not helped by the fact that there is no programme to monitor and assess all the various effects of herding. The kilometres of fencing demarcating the grazing areas and partitioning the territory are a potential hindrance to the movements of large fauna but it appears that this has never been studied.

The conflict between reindeer-herding and large predator conservation (essentially the wolverine) was mentioned several times during my visit, as was the poaching of wolverines. Predation by fauna – wolverine and lynx in equal proportions in the Norrbotten region – is said to have accounted for 1.7% of the herds during the financial year 1989-90, compared with an average level of 2.8% observed for the entire territory; this is clearly a phenomenon of real economic importance.

The Samis used to receive compensation for losses caused by large predators, under a dual system:

- in about half of the cases, the animal's owner was identified and awarded compensation, as was the village where the loss was recorded;
- if the owner was not identified, it was the Sami village where the loss was recorded that received the full amount of compensation.

Applying this scheme posed a number of problems:

- it was often difficult to find the animals killed by predators;
- the origin of the loss had to be determined with certainty, which was seldom possible;
- there was a risk of double-counting of animals found dead by different individuals, which could result in more than one compensation pay-out;
- certain differences in predation levels between villages could not be explained by differing densities of predators or by significantly different herding methods;
- compensation payment was slow and had to be made in several instalments in order so that compensation was not unduly delayed, with the balance paid to the herder at the end of the procedure;
- there was no ceiling limit for compensation.

The Swedish authorities decided to drop the scheme and replace it with one based not on the losses recorded but on the density of predators estimated for the year in question, with the direct involvement of the Samis and coupled with the possibility of population control beyond a certain threshold per herding area²³.

The new scheme, set up in 1996, has a number of advantages over the previous one:

- no longer requiring that a killed animal be found;
- preventing any dispute over the origin of the killed animal, which in one of every two cases is difficult to establish;
- providing an indirect incentive to herders to round up their animals;
- avoiding situations in which individuals wander away from herds;
- fixing a compensation ceiling limit;
- attaching a certain economic "value" to the predator in terms of its conservation.

Whereas there was a distinct increase in the number of dens declared by the Samis in the initial years (see Table 5), the scheme was hampered by a mathematical reduction in the amount of the allowance paid, since the overall budget earmarked for compensation for damage caused by wolverines had not been updated²⁴.

²³ Wolverine culling may be authorised in cases where more than five or six wolverine dens are established in the same village area.

²⁴ Nature and Environment, no. 115, p 21.

B Trends in lynx and wolverine populations

Sweden's lynx population is estimated at 1,500 individuals which are in contact with another 500 or so individuals in neighbouring Norway. Although certain authors believe it necessary to reduce the number of animals in the north of the country²⁵, the numbers located within the reindeer herding grounds remain low on the whole and the overall lynx population has declined drastically in recent years in the Norrbotten region specifically²⁶.

Sightings of the lynx are rare in the Diploma area and, for that matter, the biotope is not particularly favourable and certainly a good deal less so than the more heavily forested zone at the edge of Sarek, in the Njätasjåkkä valley; suggesting figures for this species is a haphazard venture.

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Norrbotten	9*	17*	18*	44	46	35	37**	23

*Partial inventory

**Probably an underestimate, owing to the difficult weather conditions

Table 3 Trends in lynx (*Lynx lynx*) births recorded in the Norrbotten region for the period 1992-99.

The number of wolverines present in Sweden is estimated at about 270, while the neighbouring populations in Norway and Finland number 230 and 60 individuals respectively. Their number is constantly increasing at national level²⁷; wolverines are constantly present in the Diploma area, where the number of reproductive females was estimated at between 4 and 6 in 2000, to which several solitary males should be added²⁸. The Diploma area as a whole and the Sarek sector in particular is probably the only protected area in Europe where a viable wolverine population can develop. The area, designated as a site of Community importance under Community Directive 92-43, is of undeniable importance for this species.

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Norrbotten	15	22	26	33	50	47	40	37	28

Table 4 Trends in the number of breeding pairs of wolverines (*Gulo gulo*) recorded in the Norrbotten region for the period 1992-2000.

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Norrbotten	98	102	107	114	135	147	152	163	168

Table 5 Trends in the number of wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) breeding sites recorded in the Norrbotten region for the period 1992-2000.

These estimates are arrived at by direct sightings and, in winter-time, counting snow-tracks left by lynx and hibernating dens occupied by wolverines.

It is difficult to identify the trends for these two species at the level of the Diploma area with any greater accuracy. Developments are without doubt worrying at the level of the Norrbotten region, which is home to both populations, showing a decline of 30% and 40% respectively since 1996²⁹. Views differ as to the causes of the decline; but two hypotheses, linked to the available trophic resources, are advanced as a partial explanation:

²⁵ Carnivore Commission, 1999.

²⁶ County administration board internal memo, 26/9/2001.

²⁷ Nature and environment, no. 112, p 54-55.

²⁸ See note 16 above.

²⁹ Annual report for 2000.

- the reindeer culls carried out in the region in recent years;
- the natural fixing of the lemming population at an extremely low level for some fifteen years now; an exercise to monitor rodent populations is to begin this winter.

Winter-time poaching, facilitated by the use of skidoo snow scooters, is also regarded as one of the prime causes of this decline. The local authorities have attempted to limit the use of these vehicles and it seems that the new regulations have actually achieved a distinct reduction in their use, which is now authorised only for herders and park wardens. Even so, this remains a real problem and requires stronger enforcement of the regulations by the authorities³⁰.

A further problem where the lynx is concerned is what is certainly an excessive number of kills by hunters at the edge of the protected area.

Clearly, the future of the lynx and the wolverine – and for that matter that of the bear – closely hinges on the management of these species throughout the Norrbotten territory, since the existing protected areas are not enough to guarantee viable populations of each in the long term, with the possible exception of Sarek Park where the wolverine is concerned. It is at this regional level, therefore, that protection of the large carnivores should be stepped up to reverse the current trend of decline.

II-2-2 Action taken on the recommendations made during the last appraisal

A Means of intervention:

The human resources assigned to park surveillance remain extremely limited³¹, namely one individual part-time, who is also responsible for maintaining the Park's infrastructures. For information, the Mountain unit, which covers all the national parks in the Norrbotten territory, is in charge of maintaining 2,250 km of laid-out trails, 30 refuges and chalets and 230 bridges; maintaining these facilities is certainly expensive³². But overall, the funding allocated to the management of the region's parks has increased very little over the period 1997-2001 (cf Table 1), and just one warden's post has been created. Progress is most apparent in the work carried out for the Laponia area where the Diploma area is located³³, which has been geared to public relations.

The direct involvement of the Samis in the management of the region's national parks and their facilities is also an interesting development. The local managers we met³⁴ confirmed that the Sami population wished even greater involvement and the development of high-quality (but not mass) tourism, but also pointed out that the Samis needed training in these new occupations.

B Biodiversity and landscape conservation

The conservation of the natural environment speaks for itself. The Parks' natural landscapes are in a remarkable state of conservation and a special effort is clearly made to integrate the facilities and other visitor infrastructures in the Padjelanta sector.

The villages retain a number of traditional structural elements of great architectural interest such as the Stalaluokta church but their overall development does not follow a harmonious pattern. More care might be taken to promote the Sami culture and its wealth of traditions, which are not easily accessible for visitors owing to a lack of public relations at local level.

³⁰ Personal comment.

³¹ See p.6 above.

³² By way of example, protecting the paths with wooden duckboards costs between KSR 1,000 and 2,000 per metre depending on the Swedish or Norwegian technique used, and the building of a bridge or walk-way over a river costs an average KSR 15,000 per unit and may cost up to KSR 600,000. The average cost of building a refuge is about KSR 500,000.

³³ KSR 3 million have been spent on this work since 1996, when Laponia received its designation.

³⁴ In particular Katarina Parfa, tourism coordinator for the village of Stalaluokta.

C Studies and research

Scientific work has been carried out in conjunction with the Universities of Stockholm³⁵, Lund³⁶, Umeå³⁷ and Uppsala³⁸ and also with the SEPA for the monitoring of large carnivores.

In addition, the County authorities that manage the Parks have taken the following decisions:

- to cooperate with the neighbouring countries on large carnivore inventories and management for northern Scandinavia;
- to provide assistance for the preparation of research projects on the large carnivores;
- to train volunteer wardens;
- to improve cooperation between the County departments, police and customs in combating poaching;
- to revise the duties of the wardens;
- to improve cooperation between the local authorities and the Sami villages, where one individual is designated as a correspondent for counting large carnivores;
- to contribute to lemming population monitoring.

This set of measures, while neither solely nor specifically concerning the Diploma area, is a step towards improving knowledge and conservation of its biodiversity.

III APPRAISAL

III-1 European interest of the Diploma area

The Diploma area retains the European interest that gained it the Diploma in 1967. It is still a protected area of particular importance for the conservation of biological diversity in Europe, within the meaning of paragraph A.1 of the general criteria set out in Appendix 2 of the rules.

Its management is deliberately geared to the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and of the ecosystems within it; tourist activity remains virtually absent from Sarek and moderate in Padjelanta, where facilities are kept to a minimum to ensure that pressure from human activity remains at an acceptable level without significantly affecting natural balances.

III-2 Protection of the area – regulations and characteristics

The area enjoys strong legal protection meeting the requirements of paragraph B of the general criteria set out in Appendix 2 of the rules. That protection now forms an integral part of the management of the area designated as a world heritage site and will soon be enhanced by management measures being prepared for it.

As regards the concerns of the Group of Specialists, I would add the following points:

III-2-1 Regarding the first concern over legislation on reindeer control

This remains an issue and the efforts made by the authorities to evaluate and monitor the effects of herding on the natural environment have remained unchanged since 1997 despite repeated recommendations accompanying previous Diploma renewals.

I can but reiterate and stress the importance of very quickly setting up a permanent observatory for the Diploma area to accurately monitor these effects, both direct and indirect.

³⁵ Arctic fox, raptors, rodents, climatic change, glaciology etc.

³⁶ Volcanism.

³⁷ Sedimentology.

³⁸ Tundra.

III-2-2 Regarding the second concern over the conservation of lynx and wolverine populations

Action plans for the conservation of these species published within the framework of the Council of Europe's Bern Convention in 2000 provide sufficient guidance for the management's general efforts in this sphere.

Future work should focus on closer monitoring of the populations, stepping up measures for effectively combating poaching and increasing the funding earmarked for compensating losses, particularly those caused by wolverines; this question is particularly important for the two parks forming the Diploma area in view of their significance, at the scale of the Norrbotten region, for the monitoring of the survival and development of the large carnivores.

III-3 Other measures

At present, conservation efforts in the Diploma area face three constraints of varying magnitude, linked to:

III-3-1 the way in which the area is managed

The lack of an analytical approach to managing the region's protected areas makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of this management, particularly in terms of conservation and biodiversity. It is sometimes difficult to obtain accurate information on the human and financial resources directly allocated to the Parks; the future management plan for Lapponia will have to make it possible for the region's parks to be autonomously managed and therefore facilitate future appraisals.

III-3-2 the lack of human resources

The number of staff assigned to the surveillance and maintenance of the Park is scant, to say the least; the number of wardens should be increased to levels where patrols could be organised, particularly for obvious reasons of safety, which is not adequately ensured by the radio-telephone equipment currently provided. This is a recommendation that has been reiterated in each appraisal and should ultimately prompt a response from central and/or local authorities.

III-3-3 existing knowledge of the Park and resources allocated to conservation

The resources allocated to the study of biodiversity remain fairly modest and have not substantially increased since the last appraisal despite the recommendations made to the Swedish authorities in connection with the last renewal (see Table 2); they even seem to have been cut back in recent years.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the European Diploma awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta Parks be renewed for a further five-year period, subject to the following recommendations:

- practice day-to-day park management based on analytical methods (staff, investment, operations); the park manager could usefully keep an ongoing activity chart, which would help to plan activities and to monitor and evaluate them;
- substantially increase the number of staff assigned to park surveillance and infrastructure maintenance; greater efforts to combat poaching and stronger enforcement of the regulations on the use of skidoos would certainly aid protection of the species particularly affected by snow, namely lynx and wolverine;
- step up study and research work on the Parks' biodiversity and its trends, with a view to ultimately establishing a permanent observatory providing information and data on the Parks;
- pursue current conservation strategies;

- quickly initiate a programme to study and monitor the impact of reindeer herding on the natural environment;
- start up a programme to provide assistance and advice for the Sami population regarding its involvement in park management;
- undertake a programme to promote Sami culture and provide information on it to visitors.

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APPENDIX 1

MAP OF THE PARK



APPENDIX 2**VISIT PROGRAMME**

- 06/08 Departure from Geneva
Arrival in Lulea via Stockholm
Lulea/Jokkmokk (car)
Welcoming dinner with Hans Anderson and Jan Stuge
- 07/08 Departure for Muddus/Skaite
Park Visit on the Skaite/lake Muddus trail
Lunch in a refuge (Muddus falls) with Dag Nilsson
Observations from the tower (end of the trail)
Night in the refuge
- 09/08 Departure from Muddus for Sarek (helicopter)
Overflying of the southern and central parts of Sarek
Lunch in Stora Sjöfallett
Overflying of the northern part of Sarek
Night in the refuge at Läddejäkkä
- 10/08 Visit to Padjelanta (hike on a trail)
Night in Arrasluokta
Arrasluokta/Stalaluokta (by boat)
Night in a refuge at Stalaluokta
- 11/08 Visit to Padjelanta/contd. (hike on a trail)
Stalaluokta/Tuottu
Visit to the area surrounding Tuottu
Night in a refuge at Tuottu
- 12/08 Departure from Tuottu (helicopter)
Overflying of the Njatsasjakka valley as far as Kvikkjokk
Kvikkjokk/Lulea (car)
Lulea/Geneva via Stockholm
Arrival in Geneva

APPENDIX 3

RESOLUTION (97) 15

ON THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA AWARDED TO THE SAREK AND PADJELANTA NATIONAL PARKS

(Sweden)

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 30 September 1997
at the 602nd 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 (67) 23 awarding the European Diploma to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks;

Having regard to the proposals of the Bureau of the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (BU-DBP),

Renews the European Diploma, awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks in category A, until 27 October 2002;

Attaches to the renewal the following recommendations, that:

1. the plans featured in the *Nationalparksplan för Sverige* concerning the enlargement of Padjelanta and Sarek, which are likely to enhance the protected heritage of these parks, be carried through to completion as quickly as possible, and the Council of Europe be kept informed;
2. it be ensured that budgetary resources are sufficient to maintain the high standard of the state of conservation of the parks;
3. the management plan for Sarek National Park be finalised in consultation with the Samis;
4. the Samis be fully involved in activities to protect this heritage, which is equally that of the Samis, Sweden and Europe;
5. research be continued, in particular as regards the monitoring of animal populations; it would be desirable to study the impact of certain human activities on these populations.

APPENDIX 4**Draft resolution
on the renewal of the European Diploma
awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden)**

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 (67) 23 awarding the European Diploma to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of specialists – European Diploma for Protected Areas on 28 and 29 January 2002;

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),

Renews the European Diploma awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks until 27 October 2007;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

- practice day-to-day park management based on analytical methods (staff, investment, operations); the park manager could usefully keep an ongoing activity chart, which would help to plan activities and to monitor and evaluate them;
- substantially increase the number of staff assigned to park surveillance and infrastructure maintenance; greater efforts to combat poaching and stronger enforcement of the regulations on the use of skidoos would certainly aid protection of the species particularly affected by snow, namely lynx and wolverine;
- step up study and research work on the Parks' biodiversity and its trends, with a view to ultimately establishing a permanent observatory providing information and data on the Parks;
- pursue current conservation strategies;
- quickly initiate a programme to study and monitor the impact of reindeer herding on the natural environment;
- start up a programme to provide assistance and advice for the Sami population regarding its involvement in park management;
- undertake a programme to promote Sami culture and provide information on it to visitors.