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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

31st meeting
Strasbourg, 29 November – 2 December 2011

**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS
EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED
AREAS**

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Ministers' Deputies CM Documents

CM(2011)

1118e Meeting, 6 July 2011
Sustainable Development

**Standing Committee of the Bern Convention
Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of
Protected Areas (T-PVS/DE)**

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The Bureau of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention met on 11 April 2011 in Strasbourg. The Secretariat has informed the Bureau of the conclusions drawn by the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 14 and 15 March 2011.

The Bureau examined the draft resolutions concerning the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the awarded areas, as set out in the table of contents, and decided to submit the attached resolutions to the Committee of Ministers for possible adoption.

The Committee of Ministers adopted on 6 July 2011 the draft resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas (appendices 1-10).

Appendix 1

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 2 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2006)10 on the award of the European Diploma to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

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

Renews until 27 September 2021 the European Diploma of Protected Areas to Piatra Craiului National Park;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.

Attaches the following six recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure the budget of the national park so that the national park administration is able to manage the park appropriately and has all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis;

2. complete the construction of the headquarters and other infrastructure, especially the exhibition room and other tourist facilities, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;

3. elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local architecture and landscape; this exemplary programme should be implemented with the help of relevant specialists and contribute to making this region a model for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;

4. pursue the scientific work and monitoring of biodiversity in every sector of the park; those activities should assess the status and trends of species and habitats, considering the national park as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators to keep the national park administration aware of important changes to this ecosystem;

5. regarding both central and local forest authorities, more attention should be paid to the enforcement of the forest law on the national park's fringe and in the surroundings of the

park; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;

6. pursue the efforts made by the national park administration to address the litter and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities facilitated by this administration; a detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years.

Appendix 2

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 3 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and the Vanoise National Park (France)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip (2006) 9 on the award of the European Diploma to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy);

Having regard to Resolution (19) 14 on the award of the European Diploma to the Vanoise National Park (France);

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

Taking into consideration the expert's reports presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Welcoming the wish of the two parks to strengthen their co-operation in the field of biodiversity and landscape conservation and to consider their European Diplomas as "twinned" Diplomas;

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park and to the Vanoise National Park until 18 March 2021

Gran Paradiso National Park

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. the park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. ensure that funding is chiefly provided by the state, the regions and the provinces, and that it is properly integrated with other resources;
2. provide the park with adequate staff at executive level to enable the director to deal with essential tasks, especially strategic issues;
3. actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town planning proposals and decisions;
4. integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;

5. continue to encourage farming activities that are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation;
6. avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the national park;
7. establish a scientific advisory council or other mechanism to provide input from the scientific community regarding the management of the park.

Vanoise National Park

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. define a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park.

Attaches the following six recommendations to the renewal:

1. pay close attention to natural and landscape issues when development projects are carried out on the periphery of the park and avoid any direct or indirect impact on the core area;
2. co-ordinate the park's "core" and "optimal buffer zone" objectives with the "green and blue infrastructure objectives";
3. ensure that nature and landscape protection interests are fully taken into account when making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydropower concessions;
4. actively pursue diagnostic and management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses mesh harmoniously with, and are in synergy with, protection of its natural assets;
5. continue to strike a balance between the reception and service functions of refuges and refuge gates on the one hand, and their information and awareness-raising functions on the other hand, by pursuing the development of facilities for categories of visitors who require special attention, such as people with disabilities;
6. supervise and strictly regulate air sports so as to reduce their adverse impact on fauna.

Both national parks

Ask the two parks to consider submitting a joint annual report.

Appendix 3

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 4 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (86) 18 on the award of the European Diploma to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany);

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 14 and 15 March 2011;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bayerischer Wald National Park until 18 June 2021;

Attaches the following six recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non-intervention in large areas of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring;
2. pursue consequently a non-intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the older part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the newer part, thus working toward the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the national park by 2027;
3. continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone);
4. pursue and develop the dialogue with local communities; develop synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the re-establishment of the Biosphere Reserve in accordance with the Sevilla strategy;
5. pursue the collaboration with the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, both national parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border;
6. maintain the public transportation "Igelbus" network, secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in co-operation with Šumava National Park.

Appendix 4

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 5 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve (France)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Camargue National Reserve (France);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. guarantee the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2016.

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. study the possibility of reviving co-operation with other deltaic sites that have been awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania);

2. grant sufficient additional resources, both financial and human, in particular with a view to the future setting up of a perimeter of protection as laid down in the law of 10 July 1976 on nature conservation, so as to guarantee management, surveillance and scientific monitoring of the reserve;

3. ensure the strict application of limits to the discharge of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon, and pursue co-operation with rice growers in accordance with sustainable development principles, as well as to ensure the implementation of the five-year action programme as agreed by the different stakeholders;

4. initiate studies for the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as *Jussiaea repens* (*Ludwigia peploides*) or *Baccharis halimifolia*, and provide the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control;

5. give a higher profile to the European Diploma and the work of the Council of Europe, particularly in information provided at public reception points and in leaflets on the Camargue National Reserve;

6. control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve;
7. prepare a plan for adaptation to climate change, including the rise in sea level.

Appendix 5

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 6 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşcenneti National Park (Turkey)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 14 and 15 March 2011;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Kuşcenneti National Park until 14 March 2021;

Attaches the following four conditions to the renewal:

1. finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;
2. submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;
3. regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Sığircı Delta and Koçocay Delta;
4. continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it.

Attaches the following three recommendations to the renewal:

1. increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement;
2. ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;
3. set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area.

Appendix 6

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 7 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 30 awarding the European Diploma to the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park (Finland);

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) until 19 June 2021;

Attaches to the renewal the following condition:

1. within one year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan (master plan), which itself will include plans to enlarge the national park.

Attaches to the renewal the following six recommendations:

1. make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan;
2. inform the secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the State of the Parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals;
3. continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to :
 - the inventory of marine habitats and the development of the methods involved;
 - the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species;
4. continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular:
 - improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure;
 - further develop customer service and interpretation;
 - raise the public's awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park;
5. review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years;

6. deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators.

Appendix 7

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 8 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Seitsemisen National Park (Finland)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 29 on the award of the European Diploma to the Seitsemisen National Park (Finland);

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the secretariat and the site manager as well as the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Seitsemisen National Park until 19 June 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. implement the new master plan for the Seitsemisen National Park by 2014 and evaluate if there is a need of a new updated management plan.

Attaches the following five recommendations to the renewal:

1. inform the secretariat of the results of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report on the State of the Parks) which will be made at regular period five-year intervals;
2. continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity;
3. Metsähallitus should continue to bring together people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster the transfer and exchange of knowledge; scientific research should actively continue;
4. deepen co-operation with local stakeholders, especially in the nature tourism sector;
5. provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed.

Appendix 8

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 9 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium);

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the secretariat and the site managers as well as the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end.

Attaches the following five recommendations to the renewal:

1. pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the European Union's LIFE programme;
2. continue to acquire privately owned plots of land inside the reserve and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly owned nature reserves;
3. continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve's European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision makers;
4. continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse population in co-operation with the relevant European partners;
5. ensure the sustainability of the measures taken under the LIFE Programme, which have had a very positive effect by providing the reserve with a guarantee of sufficient financial and human resources.

Appendix 9

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 10 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (71) 21 awarding the European Diploma to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany);

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the secretariat and the site manager as well as the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve until 21 September 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. to draw up a management plan within three years in order to guarantee the preservation of the reserve and its cohesion within the larger area of the nature park.

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. in case of changes in the management of the area, the leading role of the VVS (*Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge*), whose work to date has been fully satisfactory in the eyes of the Council of Europe, should be maintained;

2. develop a new financial plan together with local communities and the Rhein-Sieg-District;

3. continue the provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government;

4. maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads;

5. minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area and consider the setting up of a system of public transport for visitors;

6. continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area so as to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity of the Siebengebirge as a protected area;

7. encourage the continuation and extension of scientific research.

Appendix 10

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011) 11 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011
at the 1118e 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 for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 on the award of the European Diploma to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom);

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the secretariat and the site managers as well as the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. complete the review of the national park management plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies it contains;

Attaches the following 11 recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes, particularly through advice and brokerage the brokerage of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations;

2. halt and reverse the past degradation of heather moorland and blanket bog through moorland management plans, agri-environment schemes and with help from the Moors for the Future Partnership;

3. step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species, particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland;

4. negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites;

5. implement with partners programmes to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, 2011-2020;

6. maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on land owned by the National Park Authority; in addition, implement

measures on authority-owned land to maximise its contribution to nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives;

7. carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach;

8. implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner organisations, local communities and English Heritage to achieve targets;

9. continue to provide encouragement to small-scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit;

10. only authorise extensions of existing mineral quarries to meet essential national needs, for example, if the minerals are not available elsewhere or are needed to provide traditional building materials in the park; seek restoration of mineral quarries to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the national park;

11. continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and the environment and supports the local economy; ensure that the National Park Authority meets the requirements of an application for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel.