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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**GROUP OF SPECIALISTS -EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS  
9-10 FEBRUARY 2012, STRASBOURG  
ROOM 14, PALAIS DE L'EUROPE**

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**RESOLUTIONS 2008**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity*

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When the Committee of Ministers adopted the draft Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma on 2 July 2008, a legal error led to irregularities in the Diploma renewal procedure in respect of the following protected areas:

- Dobocsky Natural Forest National Nature Reserve (Slovakia)
- Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere National Park (Russian Federation)
- Kostomuksha State Nature Reserve (Russian Federation)
- Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxembourg)
- Tihany Peninsula (Hungary)
- Matsalu National Park (Estonia)
- Thayatal National Park (Austria)
- Biezczy National Park (Poland)
- Poloniny National Park (Slovakia)
- Maritime Alps Nature Park (Italy).

In the case of the above-mentioned parks, the validity of the Diploma was renewed for five years, which means that the next renewal will fall in 2013, whereas the relevant rule stipulates that renewal is for 10 years. Article 9 on the extension of the period of validity of the Diploma, as set out in Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, reads as follows: “During the fifth year, unless the state concerned decides otherwise, the Committee or its Bureau shall consider extending the validity of the Diploma for a further ten-year period in the light, in particular, of the annual reports. (...) After the first renewal, the Diploma will be automatically renewed every ten years, without any prior appraisal, except where there is an express request from the government of the country concerned or in the case of a recognised threat to the area”. In order to comply with this legal framework, therefore, the period of validity of the Diploma must be extended to 2018. Consequently, fresh draft Resolutions must be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for consideration.

The Secretariat has prepared the draft Resolutions in question.

The Group of Specialists is invited to:

- present a request to the Committee of Ministers to extend the period of validity of the Diploma to 2018 for each of the aforementioned parks;
- examine the new draft Resolutions with a view to forwarding them to the Committee of Ministers.



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**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)19 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Dobročský National Nature Reserve (Slovakia)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (98) 28 awarding the European Diploma to the Dobročský National Nature Reserve (Slovakia);

Taking into consideration the different reports sent to the secretariat by the managers of the diploma-holding area;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Dobročský National Nature Reserve until 18 September 2013;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

– pursue the process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests, mainly in the buffer zone of the Dobročský National Nature Reserve, in compliance with the management plan;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. promote awareness-raising activities, mainly:

– updating the exhibition on the Dobročský National Nature Reserve in the Pred Skalickou cottage;

– in co-operation with the forestry authorities, installing the information point on the Dobročský National Nature Reserve in the Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská Valley, near Čierny Balog;

2. implement other activities listed in the management plan, particularly research and monitoring.



**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)10 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (98) 25 awarding the European Diploma to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve until 18 September 2013;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. provide sufficient resources to ensure proper functioning of the reserve. Financial support is needed to carry out basic research and establish infrastructure for the development of ecological education, as well as for strengthening the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve protection capacity;
2. carry on systematic efforts to extend all the Reserve territories, especially their buffer zones and to establish and/or restore ecological corridors between these territories;
3. continue efforts to search for new valuable steppe territories which could be joined to Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve or constitute stepping stones or ecological corridors between the existing territories of the reserve;
4. encourage further co-operation projects with international participation – such as the “Yaroslavna” project – in the sphere of nature and landscape conservation and sustainable development;
5. continue work on the optimisation of territory of the Belogorye Biosphere Reserve. This reserve might be expanded through incorporation of new steppe ecosystems, which would strengthen the interest of the diploma-holding area. Possibly consider the extension of the European Diploma to the Belogorye Reserve.



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**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)9 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve (Russian Federation)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (98) 24 awarding the European Diploma to the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve (Russian Federation);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve until 18 September 2013;

Attaches the following conditions to the renewal:

- as the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve has no buffer zone and the woodland north-east of the reserve has been given to logging companies, create a 200- to 300-metre wide protective zone where no felling is allowed along the boundary of the diploma area, especially the north and east boundaries of Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve;
- support the reserve in its efforts to create a system for remitting part of the money due for the water intake from the reserve. The clear water taken for municipal purposes amounts to 8 to 9 million cubic metres per year and Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve does not receive any compensation. Compensation in the form of subsidies for nature conservation should be granted to the reserve;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. continue work on optimising the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve area, which could be expanded by incorporating unmanaged woodland along the state border and adjacent to the south and west boundaries of the reserve, including parts of the Kamennoye and Minozero lakes. In exchange for the forest tracts along the state border (sections 4 to 14 and 27 to 29), the reserve could give the local authorities the woodland adjacent to the motorway and railway as land suitable for the development of road and rail services;

2. provide sufficient resources to ensure the proper functioning of the reserve. Financial support is needed to carry out fundamental research and strengthen environmental education activities. Special funds are needed to publish a special jubilee edition to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve, and to build new tourist paths in the reserve.



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**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)8 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxembourg)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (73) 33 awarding the European Diploma to the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxembourg);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Germano/Luxembourg Nature Park until 25 October 2013;

Attaches the following conditions to the renewal:

- at the initiative of the states concerned, resume the work of the intergovernmental committee as soon as possible;
- engage in an in-depth analysis of the mission, the medium-term objectives and future structure of the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park;
- define specifications and a road map for the drawing-up of a global management plan for the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park incorporating those of the nature parks on its territory; prepare the management plan before the next renewal of the European Diploma falls due and ensure the funding required for its implementation;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. maintain and step up consultation and collaboration between the parties concerned by the Our and Sure basins, focusing on relations between the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the Rhineland-Palatinate *Land*;
2. pursue public awareness-raising and information activities;

3. encourage the swift creation of the Müllerthal-Kleine Luxemburger Schweiz nature park and incorporate it as far as possible in the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park;
4. find a solution allowing aquatic fauna to pass or circumnavigate the obstacle of the Vianden hydroelectric dam;
5. maintain vigilance with regard to leisure and sporting pursuits (camping, rock-climbing, canoeing, etc.).



**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)7 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the volcanic phenomena of the Tihany Peninsula (Hungary)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2003)18 awarding the European Diploma to the volcanic phenomena of the Tihany Peninsula (Hungary);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the volcanic phenomena of the Tihany Peninsula until 28 May 2013;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. translate the management plan into more detailed and practical measures;
2. strongly enforce the ban on new buildings on the site;
3. pursue the planning and construction of the visitor centre near Lake Belsö;
4. continue to manage and control visitor pressure;
5. keep the balance between closed forested areas and open areas (meadows with hedges and bushes);
6. encourage farming and wine-growing practices consistent with the conservation of natural and landscape assets;
7. encourage the transfer of management rights on fishing in Lake Belsö to the Balaton Uplands National Park;
8. encourage the transfer of state properties to the Balaton Upland National Park and pursue the acquisition of private land;
9. continue to control invasive species such as the *Ailanthus*;

10. develop co-ordinated management with nearby protected areas such as the reed beds on the shore of Lake Balaton and the Külső and Felső marshes.



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**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)6 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Matsalu National Park (Estonia)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2003)17 awarding the European Diploma to the Matsalu Nature Reserve (Estonia);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Matsalu National Park (new name) until 28 May 2013;

Attaches the following conditions to the renewal:

- the ongoing land reform process shall not in any way change the present characteristics of the national park or be detrimental to the park's biodiversity;
- maintenance of the meadows, particularly the coastal ones, shall continue to be given high priority;
- the national park's management shall have the necessary funds to continue its monitoring, enforcement and environmental education activities;
- private open land shall not be developed in any way that would be incompatible with the aims of the park;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. co-operation with farmers should continue, and where possible increase, particularly in the form of support for traditional uses like grazing or mowing;
2. the national park's management should continue to play a social role to help the local people within the park's boundaries develop activities compatible with the aims of the park, such as bird-watching, handicrafts and restoration of the historical heritage;

3. potential external threats from industry, agriculture, tourism and development should be continuously monitored and a buffer zone in which hunting is prohibited should be established around the national park;
4. continue the programme for the elimination of alien species;
5. reinforce the programme of scientific studies.



**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)5 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Thayatal National Park (Austria)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2003)16 awarding the European Diploma to the Thayatal National Park (Austria);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Thayatal National Park until 28 May 2013;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. as soon as the results of the study on the ecology of the Thaya River and how it is affected by the Vranov Dam operations are received, the Thayatal National Park, as well as the Podyji National Park in the Czech Republic, should undertake to translate the proposed measures into action. The ideal flow rate of 2.4 cubic metres per second already set by the Czech experts must be achieved;
2. in view of the four or five artificial sills across the Thaya, consider renaturalisation work to recreate rocky rapids over a longer stretch of the river. In terms of priority, the sill immediately upstream is most in need of improvement;
3. ensure that transfrontier projects and activities involving both the Thayatal and Podyji national parks are increasing in scope and are well funded and intensified, particularly with a view to taking essential measures on the impact of the Vranov Dam;
4. given the spontaneous establishment in the park of new species such as the otter and beaver and the current study on the wild cat, there is a need to document the presence of roving animals as fully as possible and consider the full potential of the park's habitats;
5. develop the use of the Kaja Castle ruins in the park's education programmes as an example of how historical monuments can be incorporated into education on the environment.



**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)4 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bieszczady National Park (Poland)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (98) 27 awarding the European Diploma to the Bieszczady National Park (Poland);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bieszczady National Park until 18 September 2013;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

– the government concerned shall undertake to adopt a management plan for the diploma-holding area, within no more than two years of the renewal of the period of validity;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. extend the perimeter of the diploma-holding area by including in the park the territory currently separating its two cores;
2. implement a programme to study and monitor the status and development of large predators throughout the Bieszczady National Park and the three neighbouring parks of Cisniansko-Wetlinski, Dolina Sanu and Nadsanski; recruit for the purpose a zoologist who will report on this programme to the diploma-holding area's scientific team;
3. step up co-operation between the management of the Bieszczady National Park and the municipalities with a view to forging a common vision and setting common objectives for spatial planning and development, taking account of the biological and landscape significance and sensitive nature of the sites;

4. draw on the activities and expertise of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, particularly for the application of its articles on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (4), spatial planning (5) and forestry (7);
5. consider strengthening co-operation between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities.



**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)3 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny National Park (Slovakia)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (98) 26 awarding the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park (Slovakia);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny National Park until 18 September 2013;

Attaches the following conditions to the renewal:

- finalise and adopt the management plan for the park within two years of the renewal;
- start work on devising a new blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the diploma-holding area, taking greater account of the biological imperatives dictated by its European significance, within one year of the renewal. The national authorities shall supply a strategic plan for the sustainable development of the woodland during the next period of validity of the diploma and inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made. This blueprint shall include revision of the current hunting allocation in the diploma-holding area, ensuring that the functional units each cover a surface area of 3 000 to 4 000 hectares, consistent with the biology of large herbivores;
- create a functional network of protected areas during the next period of validity, meeting international standards in this area and complying with the national Law on Nature and Landscape Protection (notably sections 28 and 30);
- pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a future purchasing plan with specific objectives, indicating the funding to be assigned to this purpose each year;
- set up a scientific programme inventorying and monitoring the large carnivore populations in the diploma-holding area; the national authorities shall submit the scientific protocol for that programme for opinion to the Group of Specialists on the Diploma within one year of the renewal;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. give the management of the diploma-holding area greater responsibility for forestry and hunting matters and involve it in the corresponding decision-making process;
2. consider the signature of a simplified agreement between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities;
3. pursue efforts to upgrade human resources, in particular by taking on more technical staff and wardens, and very substantially step up funding, at least doubling the annual ratio per hectare for the period of validity of the diploma;
4. give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park;
5. strongly consider the designation of a hunting district within the park as a strict cynegetic reserve;
6. pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style; the park might devise a charter of architectural rules for local authorities;
7. start experimenting with the selective felling of beech forest in a state-owned woodland unit; the national authorities shall inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made.



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**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)18 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Maritime Alps Nature Park (Italy)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 at the 1031st 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, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (93) 20 awarding the European Diploma to the Argentera Nature Park (Italy);

Taking into consideration the different reports sent to the secretariat by the managers of the diploma-holding area;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas, awarded to the Maritime Alps Nature Park (new name) until 3 May 2013;

Attaches the following conditions to this renewal:

- following the environmental impact studies carried out in the framework of the project to build a micro-hydroelectric power plant in the Meris Valley, keep watch over possible further development of the project and, if the project is to go ahead, the Council of Europe Secretariat must be immediately informed and no decision taken before a special on-the-spot appraisal has been carried out;
- the same condition for the project concerning the piping of hot spa water from Terme di Valdieri down the valley;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. pursue co-operation efforts to secure financial support for research work on biodiversity protection and sustainable development;
2. examine the opportunity to ensure the protection and the management of the park's adjacent areas, in particular the territory of the municipality of Vinadio and the special nature reserve of Phoenician Juniper, by setting up a "contiguous area" in accordance with the national law on protected areas (Law of 6 December 1991, No. 394), and step up, as far as possible, a territorial management project for the area;

3. organise information and awareness-raising activities for local stakeholders, particularly on sustainable tourism. Development projects, even those located outside the park boundary, should be avoided if they have a potentially negative impact on the protected area, since the priority is conservation and sustainable tourism throughout the whole area;
4. pursue co-operation with Mercantour National Park (France) in order to set up a transfrontier protected area.