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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Specialists  
on the European Diploma of Protected Areas  
24 March 2014, Strasbourg**

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**APPRAISAL REPORT  
Karadag Strict Nature Reserve  
(Ukraine)**

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## BACKGROUND

The mission aimed to appraise the **Karadag Nature Reserve (KNR)** suitability for the award of the European diploma.

The visit took place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 ; according to the Council of Europe requirements<sup>1</sup>, the appraisal was based on the Regulations of the European Diploma of Protected areas (**Res. (98)29, annex 3**).

The expert spent 3 days visiting the area and meeting with local experts and officials (**Annex 1**).

## INTRODUCTION

KNR is located in Ukraine (**Map 1**), in the South Eastern part of Crimea, at around 150 km from Simferopol, in the Sudak district, nearby the small town of Feodosia, between the villages of Kurortnoe and Koktebel, along the Black Sea coast (**Map 2**).

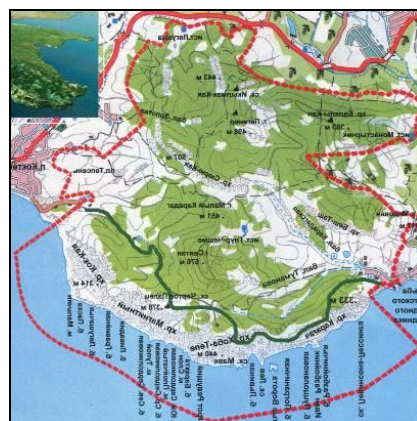
The nominated area covers a surface of 2 874 ha<sup>2</sup>, including 809 ha of marine area (**Map 3**).



**Map 1** – Ukraine, ● location of KNR (Source : KNR administration).



**Map 2** – Location of KNR in Crimea (Source : KNR administration).



**Map 3** – Delimitation of KNR (Source : KNR administration).

The marine and coastal parts of KNR were designated wetland of international importance, in 2004<sup>3</sup> (224 ha), based on criteria 4, 7 and 8 of the Ramsar Convention (**Map 4**). Karadag is also identified as an international bird area (IBA)<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Mail dated 20 February 2012.

<sup>2</sup> 2 855, 20 ha according to the Emerald data base.

<sup>3</sup> Aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag (site n°1394).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=2048>.



Map 4 – KNR Ramsar site (Source : Ramsar Bureau).

Historically, Karadag was visited in **1901** by Dr T.I. Vyazemsky, Professor at the Moscow University, who was impressed by the beauty of this area ; on his initiative, a research station was set up in **1914**, managed by the Karadag Department of the Institute of Biology of Southern Seas, Academy of Science of Ukraine.

In **1979**, this area was established as the “**Karadag Nature Reserve**” (KNR)<sup>5</sup> to protect its biological and geological features.

In **1997**, KNR became an autonomous legal entity<sup>6</sup> and was renamed “**Karadag Nature Reserve of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine**” (as it is still today).

The nominated area is a low elevation volcanic mountain, oriented W-E, covered with mixed woodland on 45% of its surface, mesophil grasslands, as well as spectacular cliffs and rocky shores ; it does include also a marine part, with many sea inlets along the sea coast.

All uses and activities within KNR are either forbidden, or regulated. Hiking is the only socioeconomic activity which is allowed. The few existing gravel roads are closed to public traffic and, in absence of facilities within the reserve, the access to the nominated area is very limited. Consequently, KNR is protected from most anthropogenic pressures and benefits from an effective high level of preservation.

For more details, please refer to the application document.

## I APPRAISAL

The information hereafter follows Res. (98)29 of the regulation of the European diploma of protected areas, appendix 3.

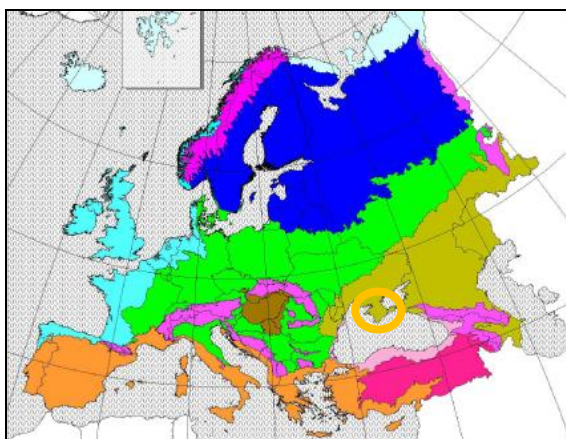
### I-1 EUROPEAN INTEREST

KNR is located totally within the Emerald bioregion “**steppic**” (Map 5) and contains many elements that are representative of biological and landscape heritage, in accordance with the European diploma regulation and meets several criteria for the award of the diploma ; this site has been nominated for the Emerald network.

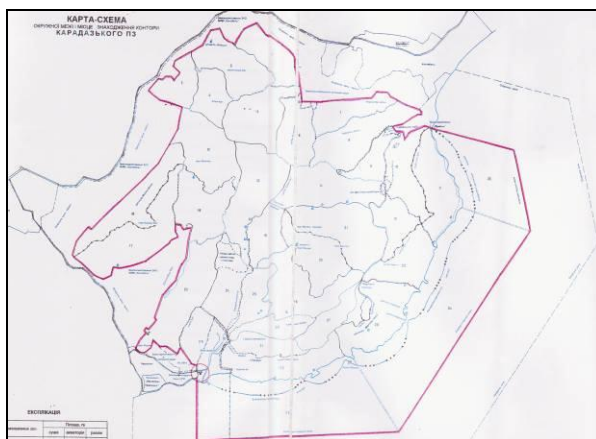
<sup>55</sup> Resolution of the Council of Ministers of Ukraine № 386.

<sup>6</sup> Decision of Presidium of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine.





**Map 5** – Emerald bioregions, location of KNR  
(Source : CoE).



**Map 6** – Plan of KNR (Source : KNR administration).

### I-1-1 BIOLOGICAL HERITAGE

According to the information available, KNR hosts:

- more than 3 000 flora species, growing on steppic and forest habitats dominated by *Carpinus orientalis*, *Quercus petraea* and *Q. pubescens* (**Picture 1**), as well as *Juniperus excelsa* (**Picture 2**), *Pistacia atlantica* (**Picture 3**) and *Pinus nigra pallasiana* (**Picture 4**).
- 1 176 species of vascular plants of Ukraine ; 131 of them are included in the red data book (RDB) of Ukraine, and 23 species are orchids ; 34 flora species are listed on the European RDB, 22 on the IUCN RDB and 23 on the annexes of the CITES Convention ; **8 flora species, some of them strictly endemic from Karadag, are listed on annex I to the Bern convention**<sup>7</sup> ;
- more than 5 500 fauna species, including 400 vertebrates, amongst them 32 mammals, 236 birds, 4 amphibians and 8 reptiles; 206 fauna species are listed on the RDB of Ukraine, 34 on the European RDB, 44 on the IUCN RDB and 63 on the annexe of the CITES Convention; **206 fauna species are listed on annexe II to the Bern Convention**<sup>8</sup>.

The nominated area contains many key **Emerald habitats**<sup>9</sup> ; KNR is a spawning site for many marine species, as well as an important wintering, nesting and resting area for migratory birds<sup>10</sup>, most of them being in an unfavourable state of conservation at European level<sup>11</sup> ; it is known finally as an important underground area for bats in Europe<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Ex. : *Onosma polyphylla*, *Crambe koktebelica*, *Ophrys ostrifera*, *Orchis punctulata*, *Peonia tenuifolia*, *Himantoglossum caprinum*, *Nitraria schoberi*, and *Zostera marina*, in marine habitat.

<sup>8</sup> Ex. : 22 mammals, 146 birds, 7 reptiles and 2 amphibians, 3 fish and 10 insects.

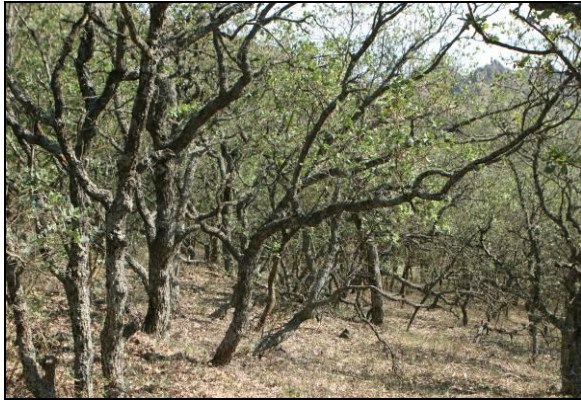
<sup>9</sup> See Rés. N°4 (1996) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (ex.: n°11.25 to 27, 11.3, 12.7, 17.3, 31.7, 34.5, 34.9, 41.2, 41.7z, 42.A).

<sup>10</sup> Wetlands International Black Sea programme Kiev – 2011. Wintering Waterbird Census in the Azov- Black Sea Coastal Wetlands of Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey, 52 p.

<sup>11</sup> KNR is listed on Annex 2 to the AEWA agreement (Aquatic-cliff complex of. Karadag. 29/07/04).

<sup>12</sup> Especially for *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Myotis blythii* and *Myotis emarginatus*, all species listed on annex II to the Bern Convention

([http://www.eurobats.org/sites/default/files/documents/Underground\\_sites/Ukraine\\_sites\\_rev1.pdf](http://www.eurobats.org/sites/default/files/documents/Underground_sites/Ukraine_sites_rev1.pdf)).



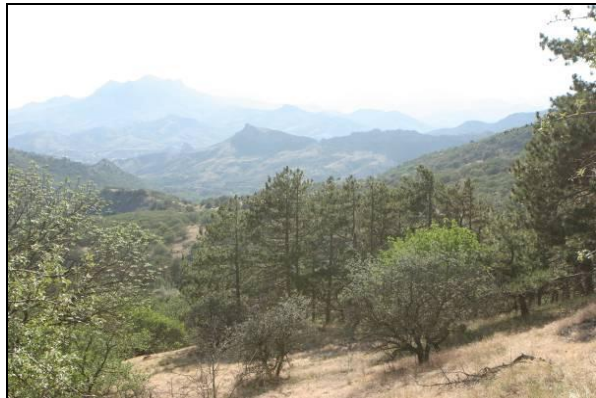
**Picture 1** – *Quercus pubescens* (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 2** – *Juniperus excelsa* (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 3** – *Pistacia atlantica* (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 4** – Thermophilous mixed forest with *Pinus nigra pallasiana* (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 5** – Bottle nose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 6** – Ranunculaceae (*Nigella taurica* Stev.) (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 7** – Meadows with *Paeonia daurica* (Source : KNR administration).



**Picture 8** – Orthoptera (*Isophya taurica*) (Source : EMC2I).



**In conclusion, the nominated area comprises representative elements of biological heritage, species and type of habitats, which are of exceptional European importance and, for those reasons, it meets the general criteria for the award of the European diploma.**

### **I-1-2 GEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

The complex of Karadag is very well known in Europe as an important and spectacular area from the geological point of view ; historically, this mountain range consists of volcanic and sedimentary mountain rocks, building various formations consisting of laminated streams of lavas, mixing with spectacular layers of tuffs and very diverse mineral deposits (**Pictures 9 and 10**).

It is the only area in Anatolia where the complete volcanic activities during the Pliocene and Quaternary periods can be witnessed.



**Picture 9** – Volcanic formation along the coast  
(Source : KNR administration).



**Picture 10** – Inland volcanic formation (Source : EMC2I).

**Those geological characteristics contribute widely to the European interest of the nominated site which was set up partly to protect this physical heritage that can be considered as being of European importance, in the sense of the criteria for the award of the European diploma.**

### **I-1-3 LANDSCAPE INTEREST**

The landscape of the nominated area is also magnificent and even outstanding, for the three main following reasons :

- its **diversity (Pictures 11 and 12)** : as mentioned here above, the biological and ecological features of KNR are reflected in its landscape that consists both of terrestrial and marine landscape units and gives the nominated area an unusual and spectacular interest ;
- its **aesthetic (Pictures 13 and 14)** : KNR associates diverse types of geological volcanic formations from the Jurassic period, about 150-160 millions years old ; this area includes spectacular coastal cliffs and rocks up to 120 m high, spreading from the sea level up to 576 m of elevation which build landscapes of exceptional beauty ;
- its **integrity (Pictures 15 and 16)** : thanks to its strict protected regime, the nominated area has maintained to date a strong integrity, although in some specific areas of the terrestrial part of KNR, degradation from rural and forest activities performed prior its establishment, are observed. The biggest danger comes from the vicinity of the protected area where anthropogenic pressures are growing.



**Picture 11** – Terrestrial part of KNR  
(Source: EMC2I).



**Picture 12** – Coastal and marine part of KNR  
(Source: EMC2I).



**Picture 13** – The Golden gate, KNR (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 14** – Aesthetic of the volcanic formations of KNR (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 15** – Integrity of KNR (Source : EMC2I)



**Picture 16** – Integrity of KNR (Source : EMC2I)

**In conclusion, the nominated area offers magnificent types of natural volcanic landscapes which are typical from this part of Crimea and not frequent to meet in the rest of Europe.**

## **I-2 PROTECTION MEASURES**

KNR is a strictly protected area (IUCN category I a)<sup>13</sup>.

All uses and activities are forbidden within the nominated area, and only those compatible with the maintenance of its ecological and landscape characteristics can be allowed.

**The site has been preselected for designation as one of the areas of Ukraine of “special conservation interest” under the Emerald network. However, this process has not been fully completed so far and KNR and other areas selected in Ukraine have still to be designated officially by the State party.**

<sup>13</sup> MD n°P-341, 13 September 1958.



## **I-2-1 MERITS AND PROTECTION SYSTEM**

### **a. Administration and management of KNR**

#### ***a.1 Organisation***

KNR is an autonomous institution, placed under the authority the Academy of science of the Republic of Ukraine.

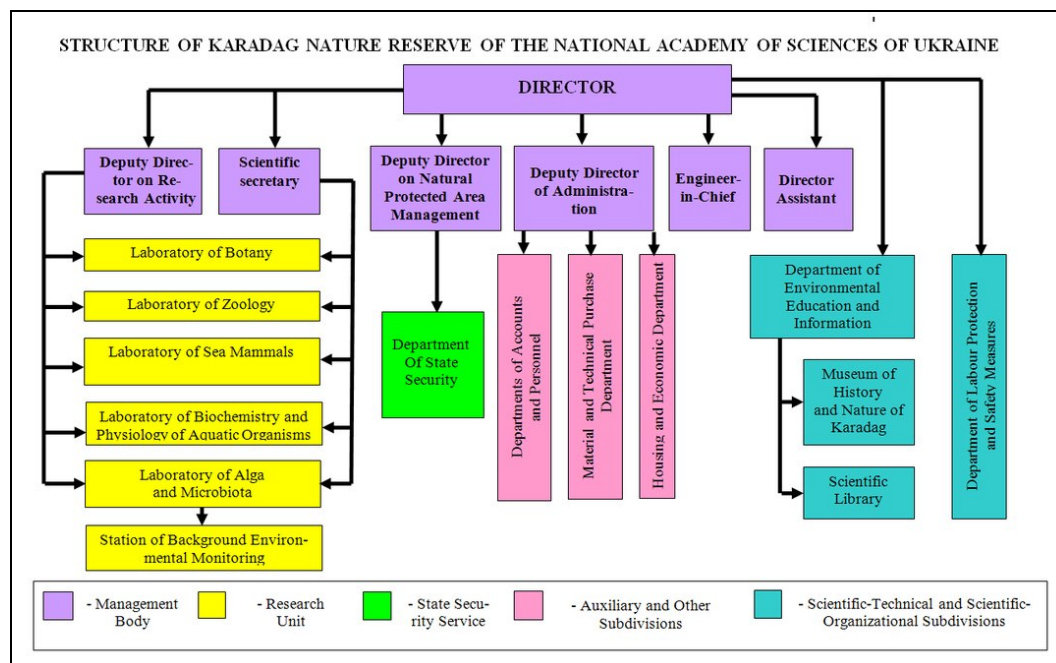
At the time of the mission, the KNR administration comprised 120 staff members headed by a director and organized in 8 units (**Figure 1**) ; this level of capacity is not usual in a protected area that is first relatively small and, secondly, strictly protected with low internal anthropogenic pressure.

A strong team of around 25-30 scientists work on research, in 5 laboratories and 1 research station ; they are closely connected with the Institute of Biology of Southern Seas of the Academy of Science. Those strong research capacities illustrate the goal of KNR which was set up originally for scientific purposes; they show the priority still given by the State party to the strict conservation of this natural heritage.

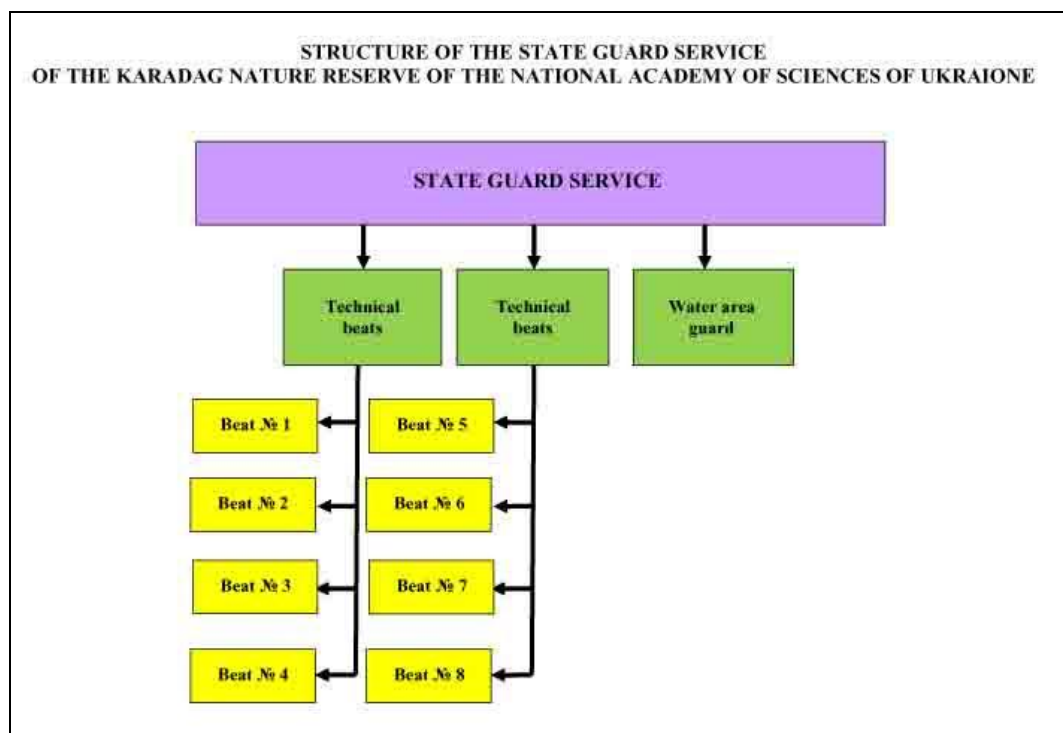
In addition to this strong and high skilled research unit, a team of rangers is in charge of enforcing the KNR regulation (**Figure 2**); 8 ranger sections have been set up (**Map 7**), each of them controlled by a technical staff highly devoted to the preservation of this heritage, under the supervision of 1 chief ranger; most rangers are graduated from university and/or have a high level of expertise in various fields of natural and cultural science.

One unit is devoted to awareness, education and information. The members of this unit manage the various KNR educational facilities and cooperate as well on a daily basis with the civil society, local NGOs, schools and municipalities. This team develops a strong educational program of activities and material for the youth of this region ; the KNR administration has also regular contacts and links with universities and high schools that participate to the field and other operational activities carried out by the KNR administration. The expert was pleased to meet students as well as representatives from local NGOs and municipalities during his visit. Those meetings and discussions gave him an excellent opportunity to observe how closely the KNR administration works with the local stakeholders and has a socio-economic role in the development of this region.

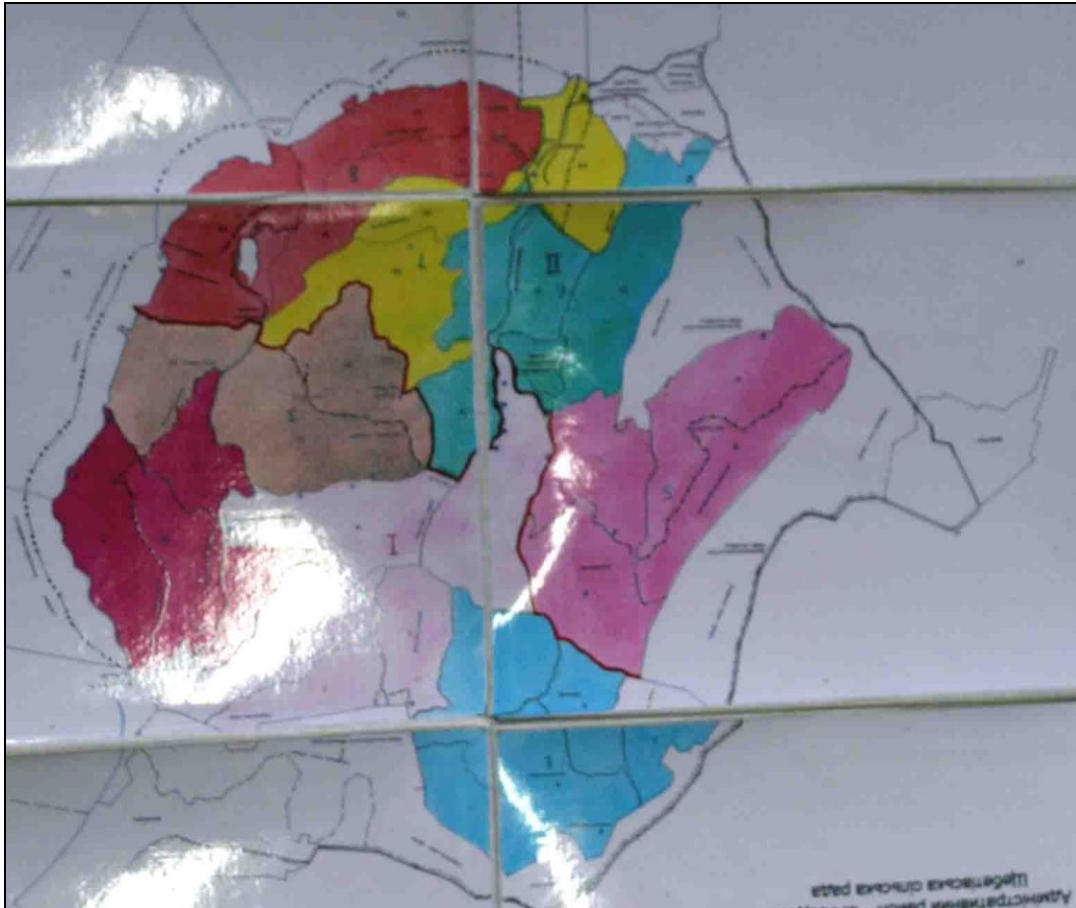
This institution manages several buildings and equipments, including the headquarters of KNR itself, 1 museum, 1 delphinarium opened to public but created for developing scientific research, 1 herbarium and 1 scientific library containing thousands of scientific books offered by T.I. Vyazemski when the biological station was established in 1914. An old delphinarium adjacent to the research facilities is in reconstruction; this work is expected to be completed by next year.



**Figure 1** – Organization chart of the KNR administration (Source : KNR administration).



**Figure 2** – Ranger structural organization chart (Source : KNR administration).



Map 7 – Ranger units, KNR (Source : KNR administration).

The expert is grateful to the State party and to the manager of the nominated site, for the organization of frequent and high quality meetings and discussions with the research staff and several members of the Academy of Science ; he appreciated also very much his discussions with the colleagues from the Ministry of the environment, both at the beginning and the end of his mission.

**In conclusion, the governance and organization of the nominated area are satisfactory; they contribute to the conformity of the protection system with the standards of a diplomated protected area.**

#### *a.2 Budget*

According to the figures provided by the KNR administration, the budget of the nominated area is approaching 700 000 Euros/year. This budget was rather stable during the last five years:

- 70% of this budget was provided by the Academy of Science – 90% of it covering the staff costs ;
- 30% came from local incomes (guiding activities, publications, local transportation service ...).

Additional funds were also granted by the Ministry in charge of the environment and the Academy of Science, as well as the local communities to cover public transportation services provided by the KNR administration.

More than two thirds of those financial capacities are however used to cover the operating costs, including staff salaries.

Although this budget increases every year, it seems that it does not to follow the inflation rate which grows faster and could be insufficient to cover all tasks of the KNR administration properly, in order to preserve the European importance of this area and maintain its integrity; **the State Party should be strongly encouraged to increase it, so that the site can be managed in the future, more in line with the international standards required for a diplomated area of European importance. An**



effort should be done to develop information and materials in foreign languages in order to facilitate the visit of tourists coming increasingly from abroad.

### *a.3 Management plan*

A 2005-2015 management plan was adopted for the nominated area.

Internal discussions were initiated to update this plan for the next period and this matter was discussed in detail with the expert during the mission.

The parties concluded that according to the regulation of the European diploma, the nominated area can be awarded, subject to the finalization and adoption of a new five to ten year management plan, with appropriate funding for its implementation. **A draft should be presented to the group of specialists of the European diploma at its next meeting, early 2014, and the plan should be adopted by the relevant authorities before the decision of the Committee of Ministers.**

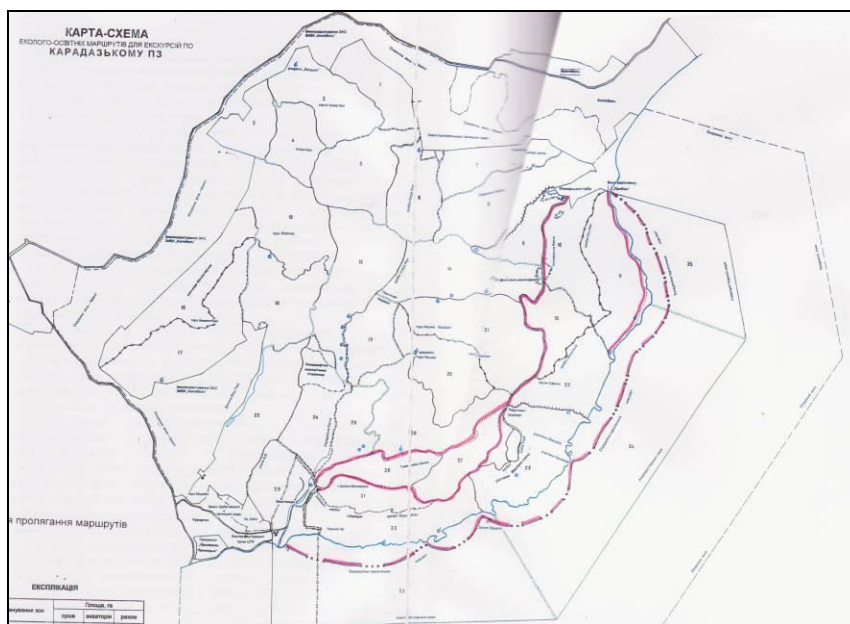
### *b. Regulations and effects of socio-economic activities*

KNR is a strictly protected area; as mentioned before, most uses and activities are forbidden inside the nominated area, which benefits from a strong legal protection regime. **This legal regime meets the requirements of the European diploma regulation.**

#### *b.1 Tourism activities*

Only friendly tourism is allowed, but seasonally and under a strict regulation which has been compatible, so far, with the sensitivity of the nominated area.

Each year, the Minister in charge of environment gives the KNR administration authorizations to guide a limited number of tourists in the nominated area, only from May to October and on the 2 existing trails (**Map 8**).



**Map 8** – Hiking trails in KNR (Source : KNR administration).

An average of 20 000 tourists are allowed to visit KNR every year ; each group of tourists is limited to a maximum of 25 visitors and each tourist pays a daily fee for the visit (7 Euros in 2013, half for children and disabled people) (**Picture 17**).

The marking of the trails is rather basic but efficient (**Pictures 18 and 19**), and the signs are removed from the field in winter time and at spring.



**Picture 17** – Group of tourists visiting KNR (Source: EMC2I).



**Picture 18** – Marked trail in KNR (Source: EMC2I)



**Picture 19** – Resting area in KNR (Source: EMC2I).



**Picture 20** - Signs of ancient tree plantation activities (Source: EMC2I).

Several local tourist operators bring also visitors by boat; however, the boats cannot approach the coast line closer than 300 meters; they must also respect speed limits and are not allowed to approach sensitive areas.

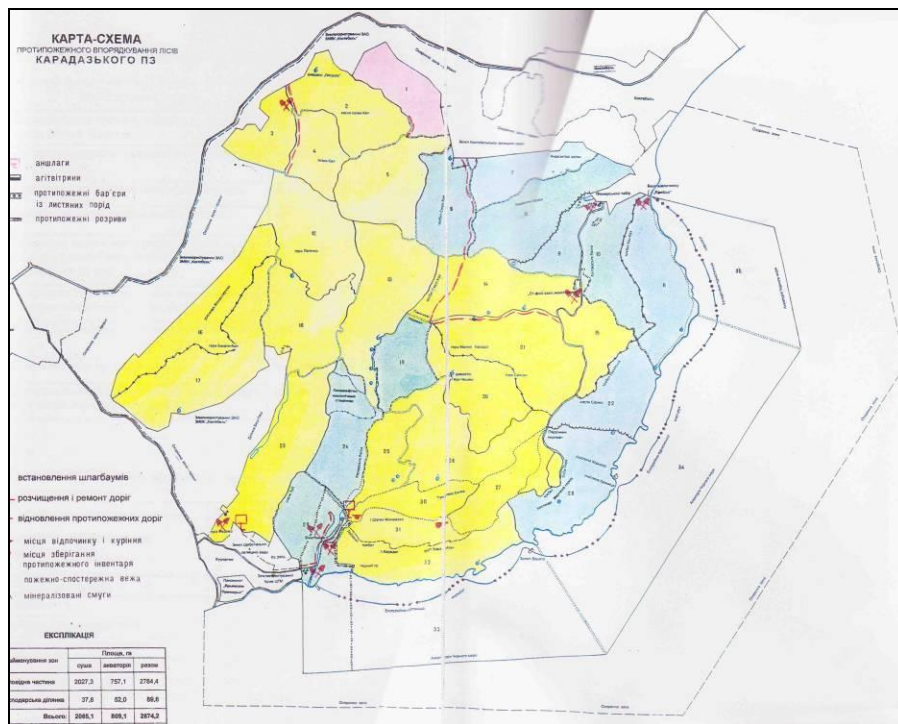
The tourism pressure around the nominated area is very high and growing from year to year. It will probably become an issue in the near future, if no tourism vision and clear planning is built commonly by the KNR authorities and the local municipalities. **This issue should be addressed as a priority by all stakeholders and efforts should be done to preserve the nominated area from the direct and indirect effects of those activities on the integrity of the nominated area.**

#### *b.2 Construction and exploitation of buildings and facilities*

Such works and activities are also forbidden, except those strictly required for the management of the reserve (fire equipments, barriers, border signs ...); several gravel roads were built in the past in the reserve, but they are closed to the public traffic and use.

#### *b.3 Fire*

Fire is not considered as a strong concern in the nominated area which has not significantly suffered so far from this threat. However, the KNR administration monitors the situation on a permanent basis, with the local municipalities ; specific zoning has been defined in the management plan of the nominated area, with a gradient of fire risk and adapted technical responses, if necessary (**Map 9**). During his field visit, the expert has observed only small recent signs of fire within the reserve ; the KNR administration closes the area to visitors when the risk of fire during the dry season is very high.



Map 9 – Fire risk zoning (pink : high risk ; blue : low risk) (Source : KNR administration).

#### b.4 Grazing and forestry

Signs of ancient forest and grazing activities can be seen within KNR (**Picture 20**). Those activities were totally forbidden when the reserve was set up and since this time, the reserve administration monitoring the natural recovery of those opened areas.

#### b.5 Other issues

Several issues have to be raised:

- **the natural erosion of coastal habitats** ; this erosion is mostly due to meteorological events and does not come directly from illegal uses or activities within the nominated area ; the risk of erosion is linked to external impacts and constructions along the sea coast in the region ;
- **the local degradation of the sea bottom** ; this degradation results from trawling fishing activities and domestic pollution mostly coming from the Gulf of Feodosia. Degradation of *Zostera marina* habitats was reported to the expert ; **this issue should be addressed through the establishment of a buffer zone around the nominated area and the adoption of a sustainable land use planning and socio-economic programme of activities within this zone** ;
- **the presence and possible expansion of alien flora species (Picture 22)** ; several allochthonous species were observed within the protected area during the field visit and this issue was discussed with the experts of the Academy of Science. Most species come from gardening and shipping activities in the surroundings of the nominated area ; **this issue should be monitored in the future by the KNR administration in order to take necessary measures and stop the expansion of those species** ;
- **illegal recreational activities** within the nominated area, like boating and jet skis ; one of them was met in the KNR during the field visit (**Picture 23**) ; the KNR administration does its best to control those illegal activities ; **the State party should be encouraged to strengthen police activities within the nominated area, especially from the sea side where the pressure seems to be the highest** ;



- **the illegal collect of minerals<sup>14</sup>** ; as mentioned here above, the enforcement of the regulation is a matter of attention for the KNR administration which should be encouraged to strengthen its efforts in this field of activities.



**Picture 22** – Alien species *Opuntia humifusa* Raf.  
(Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 23** – Illegal activity within KNR (Source : EMC2I).

To summarize, most issues mentioned are related to growing external anthropogenic pressures and the long-term preservation of the nominated area is linked to the capacity of the State party to manage land uses and activities around it, in close cooperation with the local municipalities and other socio-economic stakeholders.

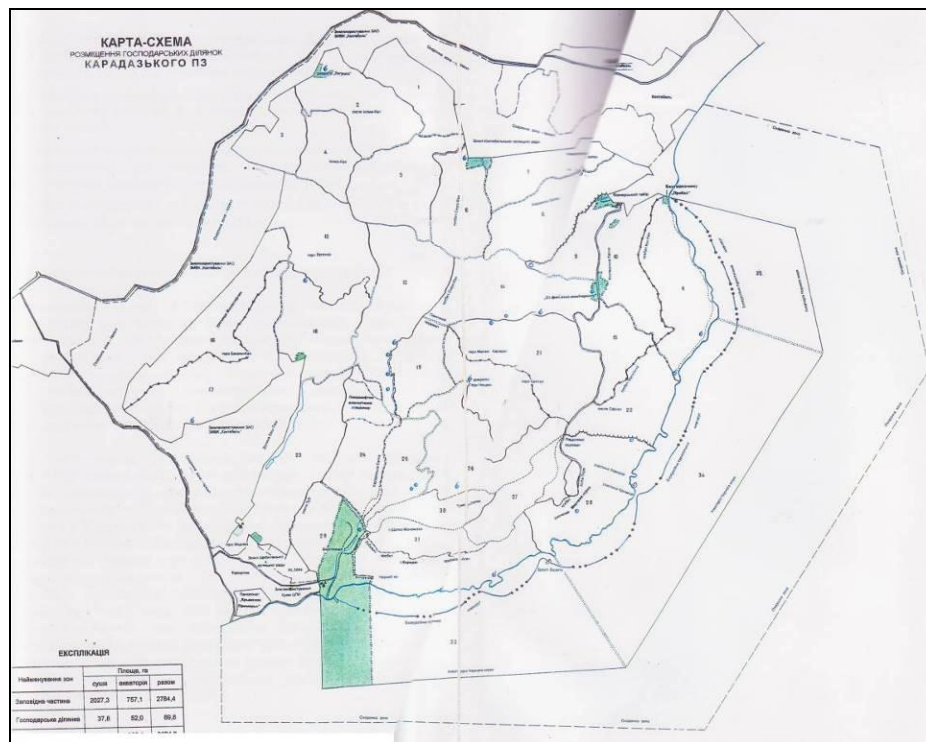
The expansion of the protected area and the establishment of a buffer zone around the nominated area have been discussed further during the mission. **Following those discussions, the State party should be required to engage an official process for the establishment of a buffer zone around the nominated area as soon as possible, and to cooperate with the local communities and the private sector to build up an overall vision for a sustainable development of the whole region, compatible with the full preservation of the ecological, physical and aesthetic features of KNR.**

c. Zoning

**The nominated area is a strict nature reserve on its whole territory and there is no specific zoning.** Several areas are however excluded from the strictly regulated zone; they include very small private facilities without significant impacts on the preservation of the nominated area.

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<sup>14</sup> Chalcedony, crystal, amethyst, agate, opal, jasper, ...



Map 10 – private enclaves within KNR (Source : KNR).

d. *Ownership title*

The nominated area is a State owned land, except, as mentioned before, for few small private areas (Map 10); this context is compatible with the European diploma regulation.

e. *Land-use plans*

No additional comment.

f. *Development work.*

No specific comment

g. *Management plan.*

As mentioned before<sup>15</sup>, a management plan was approved by the government of the State Party, for the 2005-2015 period.

This plan was not available in a working language and the expert was unable to assess it in details. However, all uses and activities that could affect the European importance and damage the biological and physical integrity of the nominated area, are fully prohibited, amongst others :

- hunting, fishing and trapping ;
- camping ;
- making fire ;
- grazing ;
- boating.

**In conclusion, the format of this plan meets the European diploma regulation requirements.**

**However, a new management plan should be adopted by the State party in the nearest future, covering at least the period of time for which the diploma can be awarded (5 years).**

**This plan should provide all capacities - human, technical and financial - to guarantee that the criteria on the basis of which the diploma may be awarded, will be still met throughout this**

<sup>15</sup>§ I.2.1 a.3.

period; the appropriate means should be detailed in this plan, aiming to preserve the European interest of KNR, both on its marine and terrestrial parts. The adoption of this plan by the relevant authorities should be considered as a condition for the award of the European diploma.

*h. Public access and reception facilities and infrastructures.*

Public access is regulated and the nominated area offers various accommodations for tourists and visitors. As mentioned before, in addition to its headquarters and a park adjacent to the main building (**Picture 24**), the KNR administration manages a delphinarium dedicated to research surveys but also opened to the visitors (**Picture 25**), a museum (**Picture 26**) and a library with 57 000 ancient books that were offered by T.I.Vyazemsky when the research station was set up in 1914 (**Picture 27**).



**Picture 24** – Park of the KNR headquarters (Source : EMC2I)



**Picture 25** – Delphinarium (Source : EMC2I)



**Picture 26** – Museum (Source : EMC2I).



**Picture 27** – Library (Source : EMC2I).

*i. Scientific studies needed and activities of research bodies.*

Many researches have been conducted within KNR, since the establishment of the research station.

Furthermore, this protected area is under the direct umbrella of the Academy of Science ; its legal status of strict reserve guarantees a very high standard of protection to the nominated area. This standard is also resulting from the research capacities of the KNR administration and from the strong contribution of various universities and high schools.

Despite the economic difficulties met by the State Party over the years and the a lack of funds for the management of protected areas in general, the research capacities are exceptional for a rather small territory.

**The State Party and the Academy of Science should be acknowledged for their efforts to maintain those capacities over the years.**

*j. Possible membership of other international networks.*

KNR is very well known abroad; through the Academy of Science, its staff and administration can access a large network of research institutes and conservation bodies.



*k. Relationship*

The KNR administration is familiar with international organisations, public (EU, Bern, Bonn and Ramsar Convention, ACCOBAMS, Eurobats, CITES, ...) and private (WWF, IUCN). The staff also cooperates with colleagues from other countries from the Black and Mediterranean seas in particular, for research and conservation programs of activities (eg: migratory birds, sea mammals, ...).

**CONCLUSION**

**Based on Art. 9, § 5.a of Res. (98) 29 of the Committee of the Ministers, the Group of specialists is invited to recommend the Committee of Ministers, to award the European diploma to the Karadag Nature Reserve (KNR), with 2 conditions and 6 recommendations :**

- 1) prior the award decision, the State Party jointly with the Academy of Science who manages the nominated area, should be requested to :**

**Condition 1 :** elaborate and adopt a 5 to 10 year management plan for the nominated area ; this plan should meet the international IUCN standards and address amongst other matters, (1) climate change, (2) alien and/or invasive species monitoring and management, (3) possible enlargement of the protected area, and (4) future establishment of a buffer zone. It should cover both the terrestrial and marine parts of the area and details sufficient human, technical and financial means for its full implementation. **A draft should be presented to the Group of specialists at its next meeting and the plan should be adopted before the decision of the Committee of Ministers to award or not the diploma to the nominated area ;**

**Condition 2 :** start as soon as possible a formal discussion and negotiation process with the local municipalities and other private socio-economic relevant actors, for the establishment of a buffer zone around the nominated area ; this process should aim to (1) design clear borders of this buffer zone and (2) fix land use long-term objectives for the development of socio-activities in this zone, fully compatible with the European importance of the nominated area and the maintenance of its biological, physical and landscape integrity. **This process should be completed at the latest, 5 years after the award of the European diploma.**

- 2) attached to the award decision, the State Party jointly with the Academy of Science should also be :**

**Recommendation 1 :** congratulated and thanked for their efforts to preserve this outstanding area of European importance ; they should be invited to complete the work engaged to enlarge the nominated site on the adjacent properties where land use agreements have already been signed with private owners ;

**Recommendation 2 :** acknowledged for their efforts on preventing and minimizing illegal activities within the nominated site and invited to strengthen them, especially regarding mass tourism and illegal fishing in the marine part ;

**Recommendation 3 :** encouraged to secure the scientific library given to the KNR by T.I. Vyazemsky, and to raise additional external funds to complete the on-going process of digitalization of the 57 000 books ;

**Recommendation 4 :** invited to facilitate the elaboration of a sustainable socio-economic vision and strategy at the regional level, that would promote the preservation of the nominated area and guarantee its biological, physical and landscape integrity in the long-term ;

**Recommendation 5 :** requested to pursue inventories and mapping of species and types habitats, and to complete the process of designating KNR as an area of special conservation interest within the Emerald network ;

**Recommendation 6 :** strongly encouraged as well to provide the KNR administration with appropriate funding that meets the standards of management required for a diplomated area.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRAM OF THE MISSION

DATE	ACTIVITIES	TIMETABLE
10.06.2013	. Departure from St Cergue	10.30
	. Departure from Geneva, flight to Kiev, connection to Simferopol	12.30
	. Arrival, meeting, transfer by car from Simferopol to the hotel (Aravana)	21.00-24.00
11.06.2013	. Meeting with the KNR manager and staff	9.00-11.00
	. General briefing and information on the area (governance organization, activities)	
	. Presentation of the European diploma regulation	
	. Phone call with the Ministry of the Environment	11.00-13.30
	. Visit of the Museum, research library, herbarium and headquarters	
	Lunch	13.30-15.00
12.06.2013	. Field visit of the terrestrial part (volcanic activity on the Coast Range Karadag (Magnetic ridge, the ridge Hoba-Tepe), tourism trails	15.00-20.00
	Dinner	20.30
	. Visit of the marine part: coastal and rock-aquatic complex of Karadag.	8.00-12.00
	Lunch	12.00-13.00
13.06.2013	. Field visit of the terrestrial part - Holy Mountain and Elm Ridge ( <i>oak forests, juniperus, pistachia, ...</i> )	13.00-20.00
	. Visit to the environmental monitoring station	
	. Interview by local mass media	
	Dinner	20.30
14.06.2013	. Conference call with the Ministry of the environment	9.00-13.00
	. Meeting with representatives from : - Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine; - Republican Committee on Environment; - Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas. National Academy of science; (Institution curator) - Crimean Scientific Center National Academy of science - Local authorities - Non-governmental organizations (regional office of the NGO "Ecology and Peace" (Feodosia), Feodosia NGO "MAMA-86")	
	. Interview by local mass media	
	Lunch	
	. Visit of the research laboratories, delphinarium and library	14.00-20.00
14.06.2013	. Meeting with assistant manager and collect of additional information, documentation, figures and data	
	. Field visit of the terrestrial part	20.30
	Official dinner	
	Transfer by car to Simferopol	04.00
14.06.2013	. Departure from Simferopol to Kiev, connection to Geneva	06.30
	. Arrival at Geneva	12.30
	. Arrival at St Cergue	14.30