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T-PVS/DE (2014) 6

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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**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON THE AWARD
AND THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF
PROTECTED AREAS IN 2014**

*Document prepared by the Directorate
of Democratic Governance*

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CM Documents

CM(2014)

...Meeting,2014
Sustainable Development

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

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2014) ...
on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Karadag Nature Reserve
(Ukraine)**

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2014 at the ... 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;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 24 March 2014;

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

Solemnly awards the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Karadag Nature Reserve (Ukraine), recognising the European significance of the area which has remarkable landscapes, exceptional geological features and very rich in flora and fauna of particular importance for European biodiversity;

Places the aforesaid area under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 2019;

Attaches the following two conditions to the award:

1. Adopt a 5 to 10 year management plan for the nominated area by the end of 2015. 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;
2. Start 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 before the appraisal visit for the renewal of the European Diploma to the area.

Attaches the following six recommendations to the renewal:

1. Complete the enlargement of the nominated site with the adjacent properties, where land use agreements have already been signed with private owners;
2. Strengthen the prevention and minimization of illegal activities within the nominated site, especially regarding mass tourism and illegal fishing in the marine part, in line with the efforts already implemented;
3. Secure the scientific library given to Reserve by T.I. Vyazemsky and raise additional external funds to complete the on-going process of digitalization of the 57 000 books;
4. 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;
5. Pursue the inventory and mapping of species and types habitats and complete the process of designating Karadag Nature Reserve as an area of special conservation interest within the Emerald Network;
6. Provide the Reserve administration with appropriate funding that meets the standards of management required for a diploma holding area.

CM Documents

CM(2014)

...Meeting,2014
Sustainable Development

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

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2014) ...
on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Desertas Nature Reserve
(Portugal)**

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ... 2014 at the ... 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;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 24 March 2014;

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

Solemnly awards the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal), recognising the European significance of the area which harbours a large number of endemic, threatened, and/or vulnerable species of flora and fauna and has unique and remarkable landscapes;

Places the aforesaid area under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 2019;

Attaches the following two conditions to the award:

1. That the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Desertas Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve;
2. That the responsible regional authority updates the management plan of the Desertas Nature Reserve by the end of 2016:
 - (a) taking in consideration the enlargement of the strictly protected area;
 - (b) ameliorating the present level of conservation effort regarding personnel, logistics and budget for the proper management of the Desertas Nature Reserve;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the renewal:

1. Take all precautions to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced in the Reserve;
2. Improve the existing monitoring system for the fauna and flora populations of the Desertas.

3. To analyse and publish the studies carried out on the flora and fauna on Bugio, after the total eradication of the alien species;
4. To increase the efforts to combat soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio;
5. To eradicate the goat population from Deserta Grande or at least to keep the population very low and subject to a strict monitoring scheme;
6. To promote the training of the nature guides that take tourists to this area;
7. To investigate if the increasing colony of Yellow-legged Gull (*L. m. atlantis*) on Ilhéu Chão is resulting in any negative impact on the breeding seabirds populations on Deserta Grande and Bugio.

Opinion

of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma following the on-the-spot appraisal in view of the renewal of the European Diploma of the Central Balkan National Park (Bulgaria)

After examining the report drawn up by the independent expert following the on-the-spot appraisal of the area, the Group of Specialists:

1. takes note of the conclusions of the report by the independent expert and the caution expressed concerning the lack of formally adopted new management plan for the area;
2. notes the good work achieved by the National Park's staff during the past five years during which the area was awarded the European Diploma;
3. recognises that all Diploma-holding areas should demonstrate exemplary management practices;
4. advises that the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Central Balkan National Park is suspended, until the following condition has been satisfied:
 - a new management plan for the area is formally adopted, with no alteration of the conservation regime in the different zones of the Park and with similar conservation conditions and in particular (1) avoid allowing an increase of the overall capacity for summer grazing, (2) continue to forbid commercial timber in the Park;
5. decides that, once the condition above has been met, to re-examine the possible renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Central Balkan National Park.