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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

GROUP OF SPECIALISTS ON THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

13 March 2015
Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 11

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**ANNUAL REPORTS 2014:
ANALYSIS OF THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE
EUROPEAN DIPLOMA AREAS**

*Document prepared by the Directorate
of Democratic Governance*

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas stipulates in its Article 7 that *“The Group of Specialists shall examine the annual reports and may submit an opinion or recommendations to the Committee or its Bureau, which shall be forwarded, through the Committee of Ministers and the central authorities of the state concerned, to the authorities responsible for managing the area awarded the Diploma. The Group may also identify some problems encountered in one Diploma site or common to several Diploma areas and make proposals aimed at remedying them.”*

The Resolution further states in its Article 8 that: *“Should there be a serious threat, significant damage to the area or serious difficulties in implementing the conditions attached to the award or renewal of the diploma, the Secretary General may appoint an independent expert to assess whether there is in fact any real danger and to carry out a further appraisal in accordance”.*

And the Article 9, paragraph 2 specifies that for the extension of the period of validity of the Diploma: *“the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall appoint an independent expert to carry out a fresh appraisal, particular attention being paid to information provided every year in the annual reports. The new appraisal is aimed at taking stock of the state and development of the area, having regard to the conditions and/or recommendations formulated previously, and proposing, as appropriate, new measures for the coming period”.*

Specific features of the 2014 reporting

The purpose of this document is to analyse the 2014 annual reports received, and more specifically the information submitted by the managers of the Diploma areas on measures implemented to comply with the conditions and/or recommendations for the award or the renewal of the European Diploma.

As a result of the analysis, the current document highlights the issues encountered by the areas, due to a delay or a difficulty in the implementation of some conditions/recommendations addressed to them. It further makes suggestions of possible action to be taken by the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas. The positive developments achieved are as well mentioned.

The Secretariat received 59 out of 72 annual reports for 2014 (81,94%), versus 45 out of 69 annual reports in 2013 (65,21%). One of the possible factors of this positive increase is the simplified model plan. The model plan for annual reports was indeed amended in 2014 to focus on the implementation of the conditions and/or recommendations attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. However, the authorities of 10 Diploma areas still used the old model plan for reporting.

The Chair and the members of the Group helped the Secretariat to examine the annual reports received. The document indicates for each Diploma area the name of the specialist providing the specific analysis.

1. CAMARGUE NATIONAL RESERVE - FRANCE

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)5 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Camargue National Reserve.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The evaluation of the management plan implementation for 2011-2015 is in progress and should be finalised during the first quarter of 2016.

The lack of financial and human resources is often mentioned by the park administration as an obstacle to faster move forward with the implementation of recommendations; however, progress and concrete results are identified. For example, the endless work to ensure the respect of limits for the discharge of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon, have led to legal action against two farmers.

The administration is also continuously fighting to control or diminish the invasive alien species and effects of the climate change.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to ask, in the 2015 annual report, to pay attention to the finalised evaluation of the implementation of the management plan for 2011-2015 and to the definition and adoption of the management plan for 2016-2020.

2. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK - UNITED KINGDOM

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)11 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and eleven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Peak District National Park.

Analysis by J.W. Sneep, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The very detailed 2014 annual report lists the progress made to comply with the resolution on the renewal of the diploma.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

3. KRIMML WATERFALLS NATURAL SITE – AUSTRIA

Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)7 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The implementation of the recommendations is in progress.

The management plan for the National Park Hohe Tauern, which should integrate the management of the Krimml Waterfalls, is planned to be elaborated in 2015.

The site administration pays attention to the visitor management; although the number of visitors has diminished, the Krimmls Falls are still an important destination of the Austrian schools.

The flood that the site faced in 2014 has led to wider stream bed in the area.

Other remarks

The annual report highlights the importance of the European Diploma awarded to the Krimml Waterfalls Natural site; it points out the commitment of the Hohe Tauern National Park and of the government of Land Salzburg to protect the Krimml Falls and respect the European Diploma regulations.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations. The Group to ask for report in 2015 on the adoption of the management plan for the National Park Hohe Tauern, integrating the management of the Krimml Waterfalls.

4. LÜNEBURG HEATH NATURE RESERVE – GERMANY

Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)5 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches thirteen recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report which makes some difficulties to assess the improvements regarding conditions and recommendations.

The heatland ecosystems need active management which is in place and seems to be well in control by the management authority.

Wolf population is increasing, as well as the area of heath ecosystems.

There are big improvements in the use of renewable energy systems.

The main threat is the planned Volkwardingen Wind Park which will spoil the unique landscape of Lüneburger Heide.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress made on the management of the area. Management authorities need further support from the Council of Europe to emphasise the importance of the Diploma area not to be threatened by the planned wind park. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

5. MUDDUS NATIONAL PARK – SWEDEN

Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)2 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Muddus National Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Recommendations apparently fulfilled.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the fulfilment of the recommendations.

6. SAREK AND PADJELANTA NATIONAL PARKS – SWEDEN

Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)3 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Recommendations apparently fulfilled.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the fulfilment of the recommendations.

7. SWISS NATIONAL PARK -SWITZERLAND

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)6](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Swiss National Park.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Issues

The enlargement of the biosphere reserve buffer zone to the north of the park is related to political process that is beyond the park administration. It is going on in a positive way, but it will take time, planned target (2013) was unrealistic.

The Pass dal Fuorn road traffic is an open problem that needs very complex long term solutions. From the report it is obvious that administration is working in this direction.

Other remarks

In 2014 there was a big emphasis on the celebration of 100 years of the park designation. The event was very well used to promote the national park, as well as the nature conservation.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations and to give recognition to the excellent celebration of the centenary. The Group to ask for reporting in 2015 on the buffer zone and Pass dal Fuorn road traffic.

8. ABRUZZO, LAZIO AND MOLISE NATIONAL PARK - ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)10](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches two conditions and eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Issues

Condition 1: The adoption of the park management plan (due by 2013) is still in slow progress. Management plans for the N2000 Sites within the Park were meanwhile approved, ensuring the appropriate management of the main activities within the region.

Condition 2: The definition of buffer areas around the area of the park is also in slow progress. Only the region of Molise has adopted the buffer area.

Site management: The reported death of a female bear with tuberculosis, probably the result of contaminated grasslands by cows, have highlighted the low competence of the park on sanitary issues, and the difficulties associated with controlling and managing spreading diseases on wildlife.

Other remarks

The Plan for social and economic development is finished.

The implementation of the management plan for the chamois was started.

The application of the forest of Val Cervera to UNESCO is ongoing.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing some recommendations; to ask in the 2015 report special attention for the evaluation of the new social and economic plan and the implementation of the

management plan for the chamois. The Group to encourage the park administration to gain some expertise on wildlife disease control, and to welcome the full articulation and cooperation between entities managing this issue. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

9. WOLLMATINGER RIED UNTERSEE-GNADENSEE NATURE RESERVE - GERMANY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)2](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing most of the recommendations.

There are no conditions; there is progress on most of the recommendations.

With regard to the recommendation to harmonise protection measures by developing co-operation between Germany and Switzerland, there were not many activities and building of the new visitor centre is in progress.

Competing uses (water sports, angling, aviation) still continue to cause problems in the core areas of the nature reserve.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and to encourage the authorities to strengthening efforts to harmonise the protection measures by co-operation between Germany and Switzerland, as well as building the new information centre.

10. BOSCHPLAAT NATURE RESERVE - NETHERLANDS

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)9](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve.

Analysis by J.W. Sneep, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Issues

The budgets available for guarding and monitoring are still under pressure. Guarding during the breeding season and summer period is conducted by a large team of volunteers. However, monitoring of all breeding birds is revealing major gaps.

Other remarks

Communication and provision of information were given an extra boost this year.

Evaluation of the “Management Plan for Government-owned Lands 2003-2013”, which includes The Boschplaat, was completed in 2014. The results and consequences of this evaluation is communicated to the local population and other involved organisations in the form of a new management plan; the new management plan will be presented in 2015.

Suggested action

The Group to ask in the 2015 annual report to pay special attention to the evaluation of the current management plan and the adoption of the new management plan.

11. SIEBENGEIRGE NATURE RESERVE – GERMANY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)10](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

In 2014 there were some concerns regarding plans to establish a Factory Outlet Centre at Königswinter. There were interventions to the Council of Europe. The last situation shows that it is likely that the plans will be abandoned.

There were 2 serious rock falls in 2014 that destroyed a part of the hiking path and a lot of effort was needed to reconstruct the way.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations and the likely abandoned plans to establish a Factory Outlet Centre at Königswinter.

12. VANOISE NATIONAL PARK¹ - FRANCE

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)3](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Vanoise National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The condition to create a buffer zone should be fulfilled if the municipal councils agree with the chart of the park, after its official adoption; however, the adoption is still on-going and the agreement by the municipalities is not obvious.

All the developments projects should respect the environment; the administration pays attention to avoid the impacts on the core area.

The park has participated in various projects concerning the mountain pastures, programmes for agro-environmental measures, implementation of the “wolf” action plan.

The park was granted in 2014 the national label “Tourism and disability”.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and the good co-operation with the “twinned” Diploma area Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy). The Group to pay attention in the 2015 annual report to the official adoption of chart of the park.

13. KUŞCENNETI NATIONAL PARK - TURKEY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)6](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches four conditions and three recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The current wetland management plan prepared under the RAMSAR Convention, which includes the Park action plan, ends in 2015; its revision will be done in 2015.

The annual report informs about the good monitoring of the water quality, related studies and water budget regulation. Actions are in progress to monitor the breeding bird population of the park.

The implementation of the three recommendations is positive; a biologist and a guard (field ranger) have joined the staff of the park; moreover, the budget has increased.

¹ Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and Vanoise National Park (France) consider their European Diplomas as “twinned” diplomas

Other remarks

The limits of responsibilities of the park administration are defined by the boundary of the park. The administration is looking for an outsourced project to extend its responsibilities with the management of the basin, and increase the results for the conservation of the area.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the good management of the park and the good monitoring related to the water quality. The Group to follow in 2015 the evaluation of the wetland management plan for 2011-2015 and the adoption of the management plan for the next period.

14. CRETAN WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - GREECE

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)3](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches three recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Cretan White Mountains National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report does not use the correct format. In addition to the annual report for 2014, the park authorities also sent the annual reports for the previous 2011, 2012 and 2013 years.

The implementation of the three recommendations is in progress.

The Specific Environmental Study (S.P.A.) of the White Mountains was completed and assessed by the Department of Management for Natural Environment, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climatic Change, in view of its issue by Presidential Decree. The S.P.A. proposes extensive boundaries and zonation of the national park.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the sending of the annual reports and to ask for use of the correct plan type in 2015. The Group to follow in 2015 the extension of the park boundaries proposed by the Specific Environmental Study.

15. MINSMERE NATURE RESERVE - UNITED KINGDOM

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)9](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Minsmere Nature Reserve.

Analysis by J.W. Snee, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the good progress in implementing all the recommendations.

The control of the invasion of bracken using mechanical means is in progress.

Lot of attention was paid on the issue of sea level rise and increased freshwater flooding of the grazing marches.

All scheduled priority projects of the reserve management plans (2008-2013 and 2013-2018) were implemented. Continuing controlling and managing of the piri-piri bur (*Acaena novae zelandiae*).

Several information and education activities were developed. Sixty six schools participated in the reserve's formal education program.

A new project has begun to replace and upgrade the existing anti-predator fence around the Minsmere scrape to prevent access by badger and fox and reduce predation of ground-nesting birds.

Minsmere was identified as a trial for the Department of Energy and Climate Change Wetland Biomass to Bioenergy Project for the 2013/2014 management season.

The Management Plans and budgets of Minsmere Reserve have been combined with Dingle Marshes reserve from 1 April 2014.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

16. BEINN EIGHE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE - UNITED KINGDOM

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)12](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 attaches seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve.

Analysis by J.W. Sneep, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing the most recommendations.

The Reserve Plan is a working document, being reviewed with the new plan to be in place by 31 March 2015.

The native tree gene bank is being maintained.

The deer cull forms the main focus of management for the Reserve. Mink are routinely monitored during fieldwork.

The visitor facilities at Beinn Eighe NNR are upgraded.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.

17. PURBECK HERITAGE COAST - UNITED KINGDOM

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)10](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches two conditions and eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

Analysis by J.W. Sneep, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

Dorset County Council adopted a new minerals strategy in May 2014. This strategy sees a strengthening of policy for environmental protection, particularly for the designated area Purbeck Heritage Coast.

The restoration scheme at the gravel extraction site near Wareham has been completed.

Work to achieve extensification of arable use is on-going.

Restoring eroded path by using local stone is also on-going.

There is rail access to the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

Dorset Country Council and partners continue to develop the potential of the park and ride site at Norden for greater use of sustainable transport options for accessing the Heritage Coast.

Ship-to-ship transfers in open water are now illegal.

The Ludworth Heritage Landscape Management Plan is in implementation.

The Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Partnership provides the best forum for the major bodies to come together to plan activity to conserve and enhance the area.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

18. FAIR ISLE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA - UNITED KINGDOM

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)10](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches one condition and two recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Fair Isle National Scenic Area.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report highlights the significant acceleration in the process of designation of the area as Marine Protected Area (MPA); it also mentions the progress and nonetheless the strong “turn-out by the community, which will have given a clear message of the isle’s efforts and determination to secure an MPA”. Thus, the annual report gives details about the meetings, contacts, visits and support received from various and numerous stakeholders. Nevertheless, in 2014, progress was still to be made on the consultations with the fishermen.

Further to the application by FIMETI for designation of the isle as a “Demonstration & Research MPA”, Marine Scotland appointed independent assessors and gave afterwards a generally positive account, seeing the application as promising. However, the proposal still needed to be developed to satisfy certain requirements of the guidelines and FIMETI have been given until end of February to comply with.

Other remarks

After the letter sent by the Secretariat to the Marine Scotland, a constructive dialogue has been established and the latter has regularly informed about the visits on the isle, discussions and assessment of the application by FIMETI for designation as a D& R MPA.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the encouraging progress in the designation of the MPA and to ask, in the 2015 annual report, updates on the results of the assessment by Marine Scotland and on the process of establishment of the MPA.

19. SASSO FRATINO INTEGRAL NATURE RESERVE - ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)12](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.

20. DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK - SPAIN

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)13](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches two conditions and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Doñana National Park.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing most of the recommendations.

The report clarifies that currently the Government of Andalusia is not responsible for water management in the Guadalquivir basin (contrary to what is stated in condition 2).

The “Special Management Plan for irrigated lands located north of the forest crown of Doñana” is close to approval.

The decree to establish the “Doñana Natural Space management plan” is currently undergoing a stakeholder consultation for subsequent approval.

The agreement between Doñana and Camargue continues to develop normally.

Suggested action

The Group to ask, in the 2015 annual report, to pay special attention to the final adoption of the two management plans and to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.

21. BAYERISCHER WALD NATIONAL PARK - GERMANY

Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)4 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report informs about successful progress in implementing all the recommendations.

The discussion of the results of the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 8) is on the agenda of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on 13 March 2015.

Issue

The annual report informs about, and the Secretariat has been alerted on, a planned imminent construction of a large wind farm in the immediate vicinity of the park. Taking into account the possible severe threats which may affect the outstanding biodiversity of the park and the urgency of the situation, an exceptional on-the-spot visit has been decided in the frame of Article 8 of the Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1; the exceptional visit received the agreement of the national authorities and took place on 24 and 25 February 2015.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations. The Group to discuss the draft recommendations following the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 5) and to submit an opinion.

22. ORDESA AND MONTE PERDIDO NATIONAL PARK - SPAIN

Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)13 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 attaches five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The very detailed 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

It is considered that the new land use and management plan (PRUG) will be in force by the end of 2014.

Recommendation 2 (moving Pineta Valley campsite) has been fully complied with.

Suggested action

The Group to ask, in the 2015 annual report, to pay special attention to the final adoption of the new land and management plan due to be finished by the end of 2014 and to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.

23. STORE MOSSE NATIONAL PARK - SWEDEN

Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)14 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 attaches five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Store Mosse National Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Recommendations apparently fulfilled or in the process of being fulfilled.

Issues

Decreased funding in previous year.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the work on the implementation of the recommendations. The Group to ask in the 2015 annual report for clarification whether the trend to decrease the funding is to continue or reverse.

24. BULLERÖ AND LÅNGVIKSSKÄR NATURE RESERVES - SWEDEN

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)15](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 attaches four recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

List in the report is the same for conditions and recommendations.

Issues

Management plan not yet updated.

No progress on national park designation.

Suggested action

The Group to pay attention in 2015 to the updating of the management plan and the designation of the national park.

25. MONTECRISTO ISLAND NATURE RESERVE - ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)16](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008 attaches nine recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Montecristo Island Nature Reserve.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

The installation of photovoltaic panels and a small windmill is due to happen during 2015.

The black rat was eradicated.

LIFE Montecristo 2010 was among the 22 final selections for N2000 Award 2014.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing some of the recommendations.

26. WURZACHER RIED NATURE RESERVE - GERMANY

Resolution CM/ResDip(2009)4 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Wurzbacher Ried Nature Reserve.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing most of the recommendations.

However, there is still on-going process regarding land acquisition (time consuming procedures and limited financial means), as well as in the realisation of alternative proliferation of high-voltage power lines over the outlying area (which is blighting the landscape).

To date it has been possible to eliminate the Wurzbacher Basin as a possible location for the installation of wind power plants, partially also on the basis of recommendations by the Council of Europe.

A proposal for an industrial estate planned to be constructed on the Haidgauer Heide in the direct vicinity of the Wurzacher Ried European Diploma Region was rejected in April 2014.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing most of the recommendations; the Group to encourage authorities on further efforts to purchase areas, important for reaching conservation goals, as well as to reconstruct the alternative power line.

27. BERCHTESGADEN NATIONAL PARK - GERMANY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)7](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches nine recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Berchtesgaden National Park.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

Big improvements in 2014 are consequence of the opening of the new National Park Centre “Haus der Berge” in 2013.

Forest/game management are under control through monitored measures following succession processes after two wind storms calamities.

The park is playing a key role in regional connectivity projects as ECONNECT (including strong co-operation with partners in the region) and in visitors management.

However, regarding conditions/recommendations the new management plan was not prepared due to lack of personal (financial restrictions). It is planned that not earlier than December 2015 it will be possible to make progress as it will be possible to contract additional staff capacities.

In the report there are no data about the preparation of sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the very visible progress made regarding the new national park centre “House der Berge”. However, some immediate measures should be taken to prepare the new management plan even before additional staff will start to work on that topic. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

28. ECRINS NATIONAL PARK - FRANCE

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)14](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches ten recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Ecrins National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report informs about successful actions in the implementation of the recommendations.

46 out of 59 municipalities have joined the chart of the park which foster partnerships and define constructive projects.

The park has participated in a study on the climate changes and the mountaineering.

The park is actively participating in the working group established by the Ministry of environment according to the Wolf action plan 2013/2017.

Issue

The administration informs about the financial restrictions in 2014 and difficulties to monitor actions on the field due to the reduction of staff recruitment.

Suggested action

The Group to greet the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to keep under observation, in the annual report for 2015, the development of various forms of leisure and sporting activities and the financial and staffing difficulties.

29. MAREMMA REGIONAL PARK – ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)9](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Maremma Regional Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report does not refer to the correct list of recommendations from the resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma. However, some of the information provided is relevant for the required reporting.

The park faced financial difficulties due to the decrease of the regional and local funding in 2014, compared with 2013.

Other remarks

The work on the creation of a park trademark is on-going.

The park participated in 2014 and will continue to take part in 2015 in various festivals, educational events and tourist itineraries, which should help to increase the visibility and the economic condition.

The osprey has been successfully re-introduced into the park: in 2014 there was a juvenile!

Suggested action

The Group to ask for reporting in 2015 on the correct resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)9](#). The Group to welcome the successful project on the osprey re-introduction; the Group to encourage the actions to create the park trademark, increase the visibility and remediate to the economic difficulties.

30. SELVAGENS ISLANDS NATURE RESERVE - PORTUGAL

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)4](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches one condition and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

A satellite phone was installed and maintenance work was carried out in the biological stations of the islands.

Several scientific projects were developed on the fauna and flora of Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora.

Maintenance of the rubble walls is still one of the priority duties of the wardens.

Some issues were observed during 2014, related to the unauthorized presence of Spanish citizens in the islands and illegal fishing.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

31. MARITIME ALPS NATURE PARK - ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)20](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches two conditions and four recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Maritime Alps Nature Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Conditions and recommendations apparently fulfilled.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the fulfilment of conditions and recommendations.

32. WACHAU PROTECTED LANDSCAPE - AUSTRIA

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)11](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Wachau Protected Landscape.

Analysis by the Secretariat

Although the implementation of some of the recommendations depends on private enterprises or local municipalities, there is successful advancement for all of them.

Several projects benefit from EU co-financing, as for example the production of an outdoor visitor centre for Jauerling-Wachau Nature Park, or the LIFE+ project called “Alluvial Forest Wilderness Wachau”, granted by the EU.

An agreement was negotiated with the Austrian and Lower Austrian governments to create a management plan for the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Suggested action

The Group to greet the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to keep under observation in 2015 the continuation of the grants from the EU, particularly to integrate the European Diploma management into a larger bundle of nature protection related management projects.

33. OKA NATIONAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE – RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)2](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 61 September 2010 attaches one condition and five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve.

Analysis by M. Özkan, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing the most recommendations.

Issues

Joining the reserve floodplain meadows along the left bank of the river south of Pra 169-173 quarters Woodland is still unfeasible.

Other remarks

Joining land is currently not possible because the territory was divided between many landowners, but work in this direction is underway.

Suggested action

The Group to ask for the 2015 annual report to pay special attention to the participatory management of the floodplain meadows with all the stakeholders and especially landowners.

34. IPOLYTARNÓC PROTECTED AREA - HUNGARY

Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)15 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area.

Analysis by M. Özkan, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing the all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the most recommendations.

Issues

Although there are no new developments with the power line's replacement, yet the very same plan focuses on the laying of underground cable.

Other remarks

New areas with fossil footprints have been excavated along the geological study trail and the presence of new animal species has been identified this year.

The transboundary Novohrad-Nograd Geopark became member of the European and Global Geoparks Networks in 2010.

As the scientific centre of the geopark, Ipolytarnoc is a driving force in order to preserve the geological heritage of the whole geopark and it advocates its resources to the visitors during special events, like the usual Geopark Week at the turn of May.

Besides Hungarian, Slovak and English languages, QR code and old Hungarian script alphabet are used on a panel in front of the entrance gate to inform visitors about the site.

A larger scale forestry activity goes on covering some 10 hectares, where the former acacia forest transformation by indigenous tree samplings is going well. Game management is an ongoing activity throughout the year, since the whole area is a specially designated hunting area, managed by the BNPD.

Effective animal husbandry, racka sheep grazing and hay cutting activities manage the mosaic-like structure of open spaces with forested areas at the buffer zone of the Fossils. In the border zone, tree thinning on forest edges also maintains the mixed vegetation cover the landscape.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

The Group to ask for reporting in 2015 on the results of replacement of the exotic trees with the indigenous species, and on the geotourism in the area. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

35. SZÉNÁS HILLS PROTECTED AREA - HUNGARY

Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)16 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Szénás Hills Protected Area.

Analysis by J.W. Sneep, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the good progress in implementing all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

The management of the area, the game population management and the maintaining of the fence were well carried out by the good co-operation between the Danube-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest.

Many courses, guided tours, large scale events, field excursions and renovations of the visitor centre were carried out in 2014.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

36. BEREZINSKY STATE BIOSPHERE RESERVE - BELARUS

Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)6 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches one condition and five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve.

Analysis by M. Özkan, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

The project "Development and actualisation of geographic information system of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve and ensuring its functioning" has been implemented with funding from government.

The scientific studies have been completed with additional funding by APB.

The reserve constantly widens its international contacts to promote its worldwide image; creates new and reinforces the existing forms of transboundary cooperation with other biosphere reserves of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

Monitoring was organised to assess the impact of the M3 road on death of large mammals and the effectiveness of the existing crossings for amphibians.

Scientific and research work on assessment of seasonal and long-term changes in the structure of theological complexes and seasonal and long-term dynamics in the structure of ornithological complexes are continued.

Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of bison's micropopulation for the years 2015 - 2019 has been developed.

Tourism development is controlled effectively on the basis of scientific research.

Assessing the effects of adverse climate events on the state of old-age coniferous and deciduous forests has been conducted.

An action plan was developed to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Berezinsky reserve in 2015.

The managers of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve kindly invite the Chairman or any one of the members of the Secretariat to visit the Berezinsky reserve and take part in the official celebrating events.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to discuss whether the Chairman, a Group's member or the Secretariat could take part in the official celebrating events of the reserve's 90th anniversary.

37. DE WEERRIBBEN-DE WIEDEN NATURE RESERVE - NETHERLANDS

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)8](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches one condition and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the De Weerribben Nature Reserve and to its extension the De Wieden Nature Reserve.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report informs about the completion or partial implementation of the condition and the recommendations.

The topic is detailed with the results of the on-the-spot appraisal in document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 3, on the agenda of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on 13 March 2015.

Issue

The management plan for the Natura 2000 De Weerribben and De Wieden reserves, newly designated in 2014, has not yet been drawn up; the same management plan will also be used for the European Diploma area. Nevertheless, both reserves are already acting in accordance with the draft management plan.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to discuss the draft recommendations following the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 5) and to propose, as appropriate, a draft resolution.

38. SEITSEMINEN NATIONAL PARK - FINLAND

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)8](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Seitseminen National Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Conditions and recommendations apparently fulfilled.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the fulfilment of the conditions and recommendations.

39. EKENÄS ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK - FINLAND

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)7](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Condition and recommendations apparently fulfilled, efforts made for habitat management and alien species control.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the fulfilment of the conditions and recommendations.

40. BELOVEZHSKAYA PUSHCHA NATIONAL PARK - BELARUS

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2013\)1](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 March 2013 attaches two conditions and eleven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park.

Analysis by M. Özkan, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

Obtaining of timber is prohibited at 90% of the old-age stands (over 100 years old), the timber harvesting mainly in the artificial forests and secondary stands younger than the 100 years.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment management constantly monitors the national park resources.

The district authorities work on the transfer of areas of former agricultural land, which border or surround the national park lands, under the national park management; in 2014, about 150 hectares of such land was transferred to the management of the national park.

54 sites of winter feeding ungulates were dismantled in the territory that became part of the strictly protected area.

Genetic researches of bison populations in the national park were conducted; the results have revealed the presence of Caucasian subspecies gene pool.

The monitoring of the number of visitors to the “Father Frost’s Manor” is constant, in order to determine its impact on the environment and to avoid exceeding the limit of visitor’s number.

The revision in 2015 of the national park management plan will include the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the ecological side effects.

Constant monitoring of water quality (chemical composition, oxygen, minerals) in lakes and rivers is conducted by the District inspection of natural resources and environmental protection.

Monitoring of forestry (logging, the impact of bark beetle) is conducted by Forest department of national park).

Monitoring of wildlife (statistics on the elimination of mammals, populations of alien species) is being conducted by the Department of protection of fauna of the national park.

Changes which allow activities aimed at active fight against invasive alien species inside the National Park, including the strictly protected area, in coordination with the National Academy of Sciences, have been introduced in environmental legislation.

Currently, the national mapping agency is preparing a new national park tourist map scale of 1: 100,000 with new information. Its publication is planned in 2015.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the conditions and recommendations. The Group to ask for the 2015 annual report to pay special attention to the revision of the national park management plan.

41. PORT-CROS NATIONAL PARK - FRANCE

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)8](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches eleven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Port-Cros National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

There is promising progress in the implementation of the recommendations.

Most of the recommendations depend on the official adoption by the Council of State of the Chart of the national park, which was submitted to public consultation in 2014.

The park administration tries to remediate to the financial restrictions in 2014 through corporate sponsorship and European structural funds.

Other remarks

The annual report highlights that the European diploma is an acknowledgement and a quality security by a recognised authority which can contribute to the success of the park project to extend its territory.

Suggested actions

The Group to welcome the actions taken; The Group to follow in 2015 the progress in implementing the recommendations and in finding a solution to financial and staffing difficulties.

42. BIALOWIEŻA NATIONAL PARK - POLAND

In its report dated on 22 May 2013 to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention (Doc T-PVS/DE (2013) 10), the Group reminds the suspension in 2007 of the award due to the non-completion of the procedure for adopting the management plan.

The Appendix 14 of the document [CM\(2007\)115](#) presents a draft resolution on the non-renewal of the Diploma to the Białowieża National Park until two conditions and seven recommendations have been satisfied.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Management plan finally approved.

Issues

Still not clear if logging, especially cutting of old broadleaved trees is not damaging to attaining favourable status of old-growth woodlands.

Suggested action

The Group to ask for clarification on cutting, especially of old broadleaved trees. The Group to decide whether an on-the-spot visit of an expert, in the frame of Article 9 of the Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, should be organised after the adoption of the management plan, to carry out a fresh appraisal in view of renewing the European Diploma.

43. POLONINY NATIONAL PARK – SLOVAK REPUBLIK

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)19](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches five conditions and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Poloniny National Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Issues

Management plan still not adopted. A non-binding action plan has been developed as an interim measure.

Forestry has apparently become more intensive. Share of “protective forests” - already low – has been reduced, and rotation period shortened for most forests.

Powers of the park administration apparently not sufficient; the park administration is not the manager of land but an expert body that provides written opinion for the decision making including the forestry/hunting.

Other remarks

Wolf hunting finally prohibited in the park.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the prohibition of the wolf hunting in the park. The Group to discuss the severe threats on the park by the intensive deforestation and the long absence of a management plan not officially adopted.

44. BIESZCZADY NATIONAL PARK - POLAND

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)18](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches one condition and five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Bieszczady National Park.

Analysis by A. Lotman, member of the Group

Issues

The management plan has not been adopted yet. The draft management plan was ready in 2012 but is under review by the central government; it is expected to be approved by the end of the current year.

The recommendation to extend the perimeter of the Diploma area, by including in the park the territory currently separating its two cores, was not fully implemented. In the area separating the enclave of the park from its main complex, a Promotional Forest Complex "Bieszczady Forests", that covers the area of 24 234 ha, was created in 2011.

Suggested action

The Group to follow in 2015 the final adoption of the management plan and to ask for reporting on the possible threats on the park by the Promotional Forest Complex.

45. DOBROČSKÝ NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE – SLOVAK REPUBLIK

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)11](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches one condition and two recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Dobročský National Nature Reserve.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the fulfilling of the condition and progress in implementing all the recommendations

Management of the reserve was in line with the management plan. In buffer zone B there was the only activity intervention on calamity timber.

In the surrounding forest stands, outside of the protected area, prescribed rehabilitation and educational interventions were carried out in accordance with the valid Forest Management Plan.

Other remarks

The report mentions the positive influence of the European Diploma award on financing, image of the area, interest of the scientists, and increased responsibility of the area administrator and the area manager in the management of the reserve.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the condition and recommendations.

46. TSENTRALNO-CHERNOZEMNY BIOSPHERE RESERVE - RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)12](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The annual report does not refer to the most recent resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma to the reserve. Nevertheless, the list of recommendations is the same and therefore the information provided is relevant.

There is progress in implementing the recommendations.

The creation of the buffer zone has continued; however, the negotiations should continue with some municipal authorities which refuse to approve a transitional zone.

The zapovnik territory expanded in 2014 and the biosphere range "Steppe" in Kursk area increased with 463 ha.

Other remarks

The reserve faced for the first time considerable not mowing of the haying areas.

In 2014, actions were continued to reintroduce the steppe marmots (*Marmota bobac*) on a pasture of the Streletsky site of the reserve.

The reserve was involved in the annual International conference of the European Dry Grassland Group "Steppes and Semi-Natural Dry Grasslands: Ecology, Transformation and Restoration", which was held on 5- 15 June 2014.

Suggested action

The Group to ask for reporting in 2015 on the correct resolution [CM/ResDip\(2012\)12](#). The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and to pay attention in the 2015 annual report to the creation of the buffer zone.

47. DE OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN NATURE RESERVE - NETHERLANDS

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)6](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches one condition and six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve.

Analysis by J.W. Sneep, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

Remarks

As far as the development of Lelystad airport is concerned, at the moment the annual report was written, no final decision had been taken on the flight paths. The proposals for aircraft ascending and descending final routes are most likely to remain away from the nature reserve.

There is a development-program New Nature for the province of Flevoland that supports the reserve OVP. Local politicians have developed a plan to appoint the Oostvaardersplassen as a new national park, which would include the core area and its surroundings.

The staff for the information centre has increased by 1,5.

Since the premiere of the film "The New Wildness" (August 2014), the number of visitors to the reserve has tripled or at some moments in the weekends even quadrupled.

All information and especially the latest development of the population of the large herbivores and birds can be found on the website of Staatsbosbeheer.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations. The Group to welcome the likely decision to keep away from the reserve the aircraft routes and to continue to pay attention in 2015 to this issue.

48. PODYJÍ NATIONAL PARK - CZECH REPUBLIC

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)4](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches eight recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Podyjí National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

An exceptional visit by an expert was carried out in 2014 to the National Parks Thayatal and Podyji, in order to: (1) help identifying the possible negative impact on threatened species and habitats, due to the possible construction of large wind turbines park(s) in Northern Austria, (2) assess the management of the hydropower plant Vranov with a view to ensure ecologically bearable flows under Vranov reservoir, Thaya river and Thaya tributaries, and (3) evaluate the harmonisation of the fishing regulations within the

two parks. The discussion of the results of the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 4) is on the agenda of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on 13 March 2015.

The annual report informs about the completion or partial implementation of the recommendations.

The new forest management plan for forests managed by the National Park Podyjí Administration has been approved. This will contribute to increase the diversity of forests, improve species protection and give more space to the natural processes in the national park. The new forest management plan also defines areas for forests with continuous management.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations. The Group to discuss the draft recommendations following the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 5) and to submit an opinion.

49. DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE - ROMANIA

Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)17 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches thirteen recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

Analysis by M. Özkan, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing the all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

50. THAYATAL NATIONAL PARK - AUSTRIA

Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)17 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Thayatal National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

An exceptional visit by an expert was carried out in 2014 to the National Parks Thayatal and Podyji, in order to: (1) help identifying the possible negative impact on threatened species and habitats, due to the possible construction of large wind turbines park(s) in Northern Austria, (2) assess the management of the hydropower plant Vranov with a view to ensure ecologically bearable flows under Vranov reservoir, Thaya river and Thaya tributaries, and (3) evaluate the harmonisation of the fishing regulations within the two parks. The discussion of the results of the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 4) is on the agenda of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on 13 March 2015.

The annual report informs about the progress in implementing the recommendations, which for most of them is the joined activity of the two bordering national parks, Podyji and Thayatal.

Since 1st January 2014, hunting with lead-ammunition is not allowed anymore in the Thayatal National Park.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and the ban of the hunting with lead-ammunition. The Group to discuss the draft recommendations following the on-the-spot appraisal (document Doc T-PVS/DE (2015) 5) and to submit an opinion.

51. MATSALU NATIONAL PARK - ESTONIA

Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)16 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 attaches four conditions and five recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Matsalu National Park.

Analysis by P. Skoberne, Chair of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress made on the implementation of all the recommendations. Both conditions regarding land-ownership and proper management are fulfilled almost completely.

The management plan was being endorsed by the end of the year.

High priority has been set by the management plan regarding maintenance of the meadows, particularly coastal ones, as well as some measures of active management.

There are necessary resources and the organisation of management seems to be appropriate.

The removal of the administration of Matsalu National Park due to several reforms has increased bureaucracy and therefore reduced the personal approach to the farmers, which has had some impact on the co-operation.

The program of elimination of alien species is on-going.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

52. TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK - SLOVENIA

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)8](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches two conditions and ten recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Triglav National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

Despite the financial difficulties faced by the park administration in 2014, there is progress in implementing all recommendations.

The good co-operation with the local farmers has led to the launching of a brand for local products.

There is also good co-operation with the scientists which has enabled to continue mapping the areas and to collect data on plant alien species in the park.

Issues

Due to decision by the Minister for Agriculture and Environment to nominate a working group to redraft the management plan, its adoption has been delayed; the updated document should be adopted in 2015.

Other remarks

The status of the park as UNESCO MAB Biosphere reserve Julian Alps was renewed in 2014. The excellent trans-boundary cooperation with the Nature Park Prealpi Giulie in Italy was gratified with a Europarc Federation certificate.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations and to congratulate for the results due to good co-operation inside and outside the park. The Group to ask for report in 2015 on the adoption of the management plan.

53. NAARDERMEER NATURE RESERVE - NETHERLANDS

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2009\)7](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches one condition and four recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Naardermeer Nature Reserve.

Analysis by J.W. Snee, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on little progress made on the implementation of some recommendations.

Issues

The corridor to the North under the motorway A1 and the designing of the adjacent zone towards IJsselmeer is still in preparation. It is very uncertain which party will manage this ecological zone in the future.

It is likely there is not enough budget to realise the total of 21 eco-zones under the railway to be effective for different marsh species.

The present policy of the government will make further purchase of land even more difficult and might lead to end this at all in the long term. But when the report was written, talks were going on to purchase more farmlands in the surrounding agricultural area (in order to create a buffer zone around the core area).

Due to the decentralisation of policy making, the Dutch provinces are in charge of nature conservation. With less money, provinces have full responsibility for nature. Naardermeer still has some private property enclaves that frustrate good nature management. The government budget cuts on nature preservation will certainly have effects on the management of Naardermeer.

Other remarks

LIFE programme New LIFE for Dutch fens is making progress. Naardermeer is currently busy setting up the licences necessary for the planned actions.

In 2014 a lot of monitoring has taken place in the Naardermeer.

A new guided tour towards the buffer zone is presented; new maps and booklets about plants and animals in Naardenmeer are available to visitors for boat excursions.

Suggested action

The Group to ask for the 2015 annual report with a view of financial contributions by Natuurmonumenten, relevant authorities and other partners, including the financial gaps to comply with the conditions and recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma to Naardermeer Nature Reserve. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

54. REGIONAL PARK OF MIGLIARINO, SAN ROSSORE AND MASSACIUCCOLI - ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2010\)3](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 attaches ten recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli.

Analysis by A. Rainho, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all the recommendations.

A study of the complex system of underground water is due to be finished by 2015.

The wetlands within the park were recognized by the Ramsar Convention.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all the recommendations. The Group to ask the management authority to use the current reporting format.

55. GRAN PARADISO NATIONAL PARK² - ITALY

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)3](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches one condition and seven recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

The implementation of the recommendations is on-going.

Issues

Although the adoption of the management plan of the Gran Paradiso National Park was partially fulfilled, in 2014, it has not yet been completed.

Other remarks

Despite the economic crisis, the financial and human resources are stable and acceptable. Nevertheless, as 7 rangers stopped their activity in 2014, the staffing could become a problem.

Based on specific indicators measurement, the state of conservation of the park is excellent. The park has also continued its fight for the eradication of the Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*).

In the framework of a programme for rural development for 2007-2013, the park received the financing for a project to increase the biodiversity through the sustainable management of grazing; local stakeholders were involved.

A common meeting with the scientific council of the Vanoise National Park was held in order to re-launch the partnership between the two parks on biodiversity and global changes.

The park was the first Italian park on the “green list” of IUCN protected areas.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations and the good co-operation with the “twinned” Diploma area Vanoise National Park (France). The Group to pay attention in the 2015 annual report to the staffing development and the official adoption of the management plan.

56. PIATRA CRAIULUI NATIONAL PARK - ROMANIA

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2011\)2](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2011 attaches as condition to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park to complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan.

Analysis by M. Özkan, member of the Group

The authorities have not used the last updated model plan for the annual report.

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all recommendations. The work was well done in 2014 to meet the recommendations.

The park budget is secured by the National Forest Administration.

The park administration has started the project « The improvement of the conservation status of Piatra Craiului National Park biodiversity by public awareness, information, visiting and monitoring » in order to complete the construction of the park infrastructures. The building works at Visitors Center have started in 2013.

In 2013, the architect from the Scientific Council, with the support of the park administration, elaborated guidelines on building methods which preserve the local architecture and the landscape; the building rules,

² Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and Vanoise National Park (France) consider their European Diplomas as “twinned” diplomas

included in the park management plan, encourage the use of local materials (timber and stone) for the new buildings and the preservation of the mountain village style with scattered houses.

Several species and habitats were monitored, 12 monitoring protocols were included in the SOP Project in 2014.

The park administration with the central forest authorities organised over 200 control actions to enforce the forest law in the field. Several garbage collection campaigns were also organised with volunteers.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress in implementing all recommendations.

57. RETEZAT NATIONAL PARK - ROMANIA

Resolution CM/ResDip(2013)4 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 10 July 2013 attaches six recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Retezat National Park.

Analysis by the Secretariat

Although the park administration could not influence the Romanian authorities to secure a sufficient budget, the financial situation has much improved and the basic activities could be performed without constraints.

The management plan will be submitted for analysis and approval to the competent authority and hopefully be released in 2015.

Suggested action

The Group to welcome the progress already made and to keep under observation in 2015 the official adoption of the management plan.

58. CENTRAL BALKAN NATIONAL PARK - BULGARIA

Resolution CM/ResDip(2009)1 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 October 2009 attaches three conditions and four recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Central Balkan National Park.

The renewal of the diploma to the park was suspended in 2014, until a new management plan for the area is formally adopted.

Analysis by J.W. Snee, member of the Group

The 2014 annual report informs on the progress in implementing all conditions and recommendations.

Issues

The updated Management plan of the Central Balkan National Park was not officially adopted in 2014.

There is some progress in the adoption procedure. In February 2014 the Public Advisory Council discussed the draft version of the updated management plan for the Central Balkan NP. The draft version of the updated management plan and its annexes was provided on two websites. In April 2014, the directorate of the national park submitted for review to the Ministry of Environment and Water the updated management plan and all necessary documentation requested by law. In November 2015, the Public Advisory Board (i.e. the advisory body to the park management) and the Scientific Advisory Board held a joint meeting on the updated management plan.

At the beginning of 2015, the draft plan should be submitted for consideration to the Supreme Expert Environmental Council at the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Other remarks

In the new management plan, four hundred ha treeless territory is transferred from Multifunctional zone to Human Impact Limitation zone.

The total area of pastures in the national park was almost 17,000 ha in 2014.

The annual budget received from the government can be spent for regular administration of the park;

In 2015 there will be a public discussion of the draft order for Sites of Community Importance (SCI).

The number of tourists is not high and has not changed significantly in recent years.

The park directorate has done a geodesic surveying of over 230 buildings and facilities in the park territory. The directorate signed a contract with a private company to remove more than 30 abandoned buildings which are dangerous and in bad condition.

No changes in site management and boundaries.

Suggested action:

The Group to re-examine in 2015 the possible renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Central Balkan National Park. The Group to pay special attention to the adoption of the new management plan in the 2015 annual report.

59. THE BURREN REGION - IRELAND

Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2013\)3](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 10 July 2013 attaches two conditions and six recommendations to the award of the European Diploma awarded to the Burren region.

Analysis by the Secretariat

It's the first report requested to the Burren region as European Diploma area.

The implementation of the conditions and recommendations has successfully started.

Remarks

The positive cooperation and commitment of the various involved stakeholders is highlighted several times. Besides, the site hosted in 2014 a large number of groups and events/conferences, offered site-based training to all farm advisors, supported work of LIFE projects.

The work programme in the development of the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination is being funded until 2017 by EU LIFE.

Suggested action

The Group to encourage the authorities to continue their enthusiastic work. The Group to welcome the progress in implementing the recommendations.

APPENDIX 1: TABLE PRESENTING THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA AREAS AND SUMMARISING THE ANNUAL REPORTS RECEIVED FOR 2014

| N° | Name | Country | Expert | Award date | Next visit | Annual report |
|----|---|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve | Belgium | De Molenaar | 29.03.66 | 2020 | |
| 2 | Camargue National Reserve | France | E. Kuijken | 29.03.66 | 2020 | 28/11/2014 |
| 3 | Peak District National Park | United Kingdom | H. Lethier | 29.03.66 | 2020 | 24/11/2014 |
| 4 | Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site | Austria | C. Stauffer | 27.10.67 | 2021 | 25/11/2014 |
| 5 | Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve | Germany | A. Forment | 27.10.67 | 2021 | 12/12/2014 |
| 6 | Muddus National Park | Sweden | J. Mayol | 27.10.67 | 2021 | 30/11/2014 |
| 7 | Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks | Sweden | J. Mayol | 27.10.67 | 2021 | 30/11/2014 |
| 8 | Swiss National Park | Switzerland | C. Stauffer | 27.10.67 | 2021 | 07/11/2014 |
| 9 | Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park | Italy | P. Hunkeler | 27.10.67 | 2021 | 25/11/2014 |
| 10 | Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve | Germany | E. Kuijken | 29.11.68 | 2018 | 28/11/2014 |
| 11 | Boschplaat Nature Reserve | Netherlands | E. Idle | 02.07.70 | 2019 | 28/11/2014 |
| 12 | Siebengebirge Nature Reserve | Germany | C. Stauffer | 22.09.71 | 2020 | 24/11/2014 |
| 13 | Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park | Germany/ Luxembourg | C. Stauffer | 26.10.73 | 2017 | |
| 14 | Vanoise National Park | France | P. Hunkeler | 19.03.76 | 2020 | 04/03/2015 |
| 15 | Kuşçenneti National Park | Turkey | F. Roux | 15.03.76 | 2020 | 30/11/2014 |
| 16 | Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve | Germany | D. Daske/J. Haslett | 03.03.78 | 2017 | |
| 17 | Cretan White Mountains National Park | Greece | J. Mayol/ F. Urban | 13.09.79 | 2018 | 11/12/2014 01/12/2014 |
| 18 | Minsmere Nature Reserve | United Kingdom | J. Lundqvist | 13.09.79 | 2018 | 27/11/2014 |
| 19 | Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve | United Kingdom | J. Lundqvist | 22.05.83 | 2017 | 11/12/2014 |
| 20 | Purbeck Heritage Coast | United Kingdom | J. Lundqvist | 22.06.84 | 2018 | 24/11/2014 |
| 21 | Fair Isle National Scenic Area | United Kingdom | J. Mayol | 23.09.85 | 2019 | 15/12/2014 |
| 22 | Scandola Nature Reserve | France | J. Mayol | 23.09.85 | 2019 | |

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|------|--------------------------|
| 23 | Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve | Italy | JC. Lefeuvre | 23.09.85 | 2019 | 01/12/2014 |
| 24 | Doñana National Park | Spain | H. Lethier | 23.09.85 | 2019 | 27/11/2014 |
| 25 | Bayerischer Wald National Park | Germany | O.Biber | 19.06.86 | 2020 | 08/02/2015 |
| 26 | Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park | Spain | C. Stauffer | 13.06.88 | 2017 | 26/11/2014 |
| 27 | Store Mosse National Park | Sweden | P. Hunkeler | 13.06.88 | 2017 | 01/12/2014 |
| 28 | Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves | Sweden | P. Hunkeler | 13.06.88 | 2017 | 15/12/2014 06/11/2014 |
| 29 | Montecristo Island Nature Reserve | Italy | J. Mayol/ JC Lefeuvre | 13.06.88 | 2017 | 27/11/2014 |
| 30 | Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve | Germany | D.Daske/ J. Haslett | 18.06.89 | 2018 | 28/11/2014 |
| 31 | Teide National Park | Spain | C.Zimmer/ EFG | 18.06.89 | 2018 | |
| 32 | Berchtesgaden National Park | Germany | D. Daske | 18.06.90 | 2019 | 21/11/2014 |
| 33 | Ecrins National Park | France | A. Froment | 18.06.90 | 2019 | 02/12/2014 |
| 34 | Maremma Regional Park | Italy | P. Hunkeler | 18.05.92 | 2021 | 24/11/2014 |
| 35 | Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve | Portugal | F. Roux | 18.05.92 | 2021 | 24/11/2014 |
| 36 | Mercantour National Park | France | A.Froment/ JP Ribaut | 03.05.93 | 2017 | |
| 37 | Maritime Alps Nature Park (formerly the Argentera Nature Park) | Italy | A.Froment/ JP Ribaut | 03.05.93 | 2017 | 28/01/2015 |
| 38 | Wachau Protected Landscape | Austria | C.Stauffer | 05.09.94 | 2018 | 27/11/2014 |
| 39 | Oka National Biosphere Reserve | Russian Federation | P. Hunkeler/ G. Spiridonov | 05.09.94 | 2018 | 25/11/2014 |
| 40 | Teberda National Biosphere Reserve | Russian Federation | P. Hunkeler/ G. Spiridonov | 05.09.94 | 2018 | |
| 41 | Ipolytarnóc Protected Area | Hungary | J. Renault | 07.11.95 | 2019 | 14/12/2014 |
| 42 | Szénás Hills Protected Area | Hungary | J. Renault | 07.11.95 | 2019 | 06.01.2015 |
| 43 | Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve | Belarus | P.Hunkeler | 07.11.95 | 2019 | 27/11/2014 |
| 44 | De Weerribben-De Wieden Nature Reserve | Netherlands | R. Brunner | 07.11.95 | 2014 | 12/12/2014 |
| 45 | Seitsemien National Park | Finland | E.Kuijken | 19.06.96 | 2020 | 30/11/2014 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|------------------------|----------|------|------------|
| 46 | Ekenäs Archipelago National Park | Finland | E.Kuijken | 19.06.96 | 2020 | 28/11/2014 |
| 47 | Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park | Belarus | M. Castroviejo Bolivar | 30.09.97 | 2017 | 11/12/2014 |
| 48 | Port-Cros National Park | France | J.Mayol | 30.09.97 | 2021 | 24/11/2014 |
| 49 | Bialowieża National Park | Poland | C.Zimmer | 30.09.97 | | 16/12/2014 |
| 50 | Carpathian Biosphere Reserve | Ukraine | M. Broggi | 30.09.97 | 2021 | |
| 51 | Poloniny National Park | Slovak Republic | C.Zimmer | 18.09.98 | | 15/01/2015 |
| 52 | Bieszczady National Park | Poland | C.Zimmer | 18.09.98 | 2017 | 28/11/2014 |
| 53 | Dobročský National Nature Reserve | Slovak Republic | M. Broggi/ JP Ribaut | 18.09.98 | 2017 | 18/12/2014 |
| 54 | Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve | Russian Federation | H. Lethier | 18.09.98 | 2017 | |
| 55 | Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve | Russian Federation | H. Lethier | 18.09.98 | 2017 | 01/12/2014 |
| 56 | De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve | Netherlands | E.Kuijken | 09.09.99 | 2018 | 28/11/2014 |
| 57 | Bilé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area | Czech Republic | C.Zimmer | 21.06.00 | 2019 | |
| 58 | Karlštejn National Nature Reserve | Czech Republic | D.Daske | 21.06.00 | 2019 | |
| 59 | Podyjí National Park | Czech Republic | D.Daske | 21.06.00 | 2019 | 28/11/2014 |
| 60 | Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve | Romania | H. Lethier | 21.06.00 | 2019 | 18/11/2014 |
| 61 | Thayatal National Park | Austria | D.Daske | 28.05.03 | 2017 | 09/12/2014 |
| 62 | Matsalu National Park | Estonia | J.Sultana | 28.05.03 | 2017 | 27/11/2014 |
| 63 | Tihany Peninsula | Hungary | J.Renault | 28.05.03 | 2017 | |
| 64 | Triglav National Park | Slovenia | P.Hunkeler | 05.05.04 | 2018 | 18/02/2015 |
| 65 | Naardermeer Nature Reserve | Netherlands | E.Kuijken | 05.05.04 | 2018 | 03/11/2014 |
| 66 | Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli | Italy | P.Hunkeler | 15.06.05 | 2019 | 27/11/2014 |
| 67 | Gran Paradiso National Park | Italy | P.Hunkeler | 27.09.06 | 2020 | 04/03/2015 |
| 68 | Piatra Craiului National Park | Romania | H. Lethier | 27.09.06 | 2020 | 10/12/2014 |
| 69 | Retezat National Park | Romania | P.Hunkeler | 02.07.08 | 2022 | 09/02/2015 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|------|------------|
| 70 | Central Balkan National Park | Bulgaria | P. Galland | 21.09.09 | 2013 | 23/12/2014 |
| 71 | Khosrov State Forest Reserve | Armenia | H. Lethier | 10.07.13 | 2017 | |
| 72 | The Burren region | Ireland | J-W Sneeep | 10.07.13 | 2017 | 26/09/2014 |
| 73 | Desertas Nature Reserve | Portugal | J. Sultana | 02.07.14 | 2018 | - |

APPENDIX 2: EXTRACTS FROM THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Réserve Nationale de Camargue – France

1. Conditions : Lister ici toutes les conditions dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les conditions ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

• Garantir la mise en œuvre du plan de gestion 2011-2016

La mise en œuvre est assurée à ce jour (c'est aussi la condition première pour le renouvellement de nos crédits qui semblent être maintenus pour l'année 2015). Les comptes rendus scientifiques ainsi que les comptes rendus annuels d'activités sont sur notre site « www.reserve-camargue.org ». Il est à noter que notre participation à des gestions de terrains limitrophes (cogestion du site du Conservatoire du Littoral « Etangs et Marais des Salins de Camargue ») limite fortement nos capacités à approfondir, le cas échéant, nos opérations de suivis qui nécessiteraient souvent plus de temps d'analyse. Nous sommes en cours d'évaluation de la réalisation du plan de gestion actuel (2011-2015). Cette évaluation devrait se terminer dans le premier semestre 2016, étape essentielle dans la rédaction du futur plan de gestion 2016-2020.

2. Recommandations : Lister ici toutes les recommandations dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les recommandations ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

1. Etudier la possibilité de réactiver la coopération avec d'autres sites deltaïques du Diplôme européen (comme le parc national de Doñana en Espagne ou la réserve de la biosphère du delta du Danube en Roumanie)

Pas de perspectives actuelles et ce pour trois raisons :

- faiblesse de nos effectifs (7,5 postes pour 13117 ha) et de nos moyens financiers
- présence du Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue, véritable interlocuteur des Parcs à l'étranger
- facilité des contacts directs (internet) avec les chercheurs qui travaillent sur des sujets qui nous intéressent. (Grèce, Italie et Espagne ne sont pas beaucoup mieux que nous en termes de crédits dédiés à l'environnement...)

2. Octroyer des moyens supplémentaires suffisants, tant financiers qu'humains, notamment au vu de la mise en place prochaine d'un périmètre de protection tel que prévu par la loi du 10 Juillet 1976 sur la conservation de la nature, pour garantir la gestion, la surveillance et le suivi scientifique de la réserve :

Le projet de « périmètre de protection » a été repoussé « à plus tard ». Parallèlement, le Conservatoire du Littoral a acquis un terrain de 300 ha limitrophe à la Réserve Nationale de Camargue (Les Grandes Cabanes du Vaccarès), dont la gestion doit être remise à la SNPN très prochainement. Les revenus de la pêche sur ce secteur de Vaccarès seront affectés à la gestion.

Le Conservatoire du Littoral est également en cours de transactions pour deux autres terrains et a inscrit tous les terrains initialement concernés par le périmètre de protection dans leur périmètre prioritaire d'acquisition à moyen et long terme. Lorsque ces terrains seront acquis, leur gestion devrait également revenir à la SNPN.

3. Faire appliquer strictement la limitation des rejets d'eau d'origine agricole dans la réserve, notamment dans l'étang du Vaccarès, et poursuivre la collaboration avec les riziculteurs dans le respect des principes du développement durable en veillant à la mise en œuvre du programme d'actions à cinq ans comme convenu entre les différents acteurs :

Durant presque quatre années, la SNPN a effectué des séries d'analyses (confiées à un laboratoire reconnu par les tribunaux) qui ont très clairement mis en évidence les quantités très importantes de phytosanitaires rejetés mais aussi l'utilisation forte de produits interdits et le rejet d'importantes quantités de nutriments (azote/phosphore) dans le Vaccarès. Les résultats présentés devant les deux Conseils de la réserve ont conduit les services de l'Etat à diligenter une demande d'explications à ses services concernés. Une action en Justice concernant deux des agriculteurs concernés par ces rejets devrait prochainement aboutir. L'effondrement des primes de la « PAC » à la riziculture devrait la diminuer de moitié dès l'année prochaine. Enfin, les digues des anciens salins (aujourd'hui propriété du Conservatoire du Littoral) ayant cédé sous les assauts de la mer, une réelle capacité d'échanges biologiques et hydrauliques apparaît pouvant permettre un rinçage efficace des eaux du système Vaccarès.

4. Engager des études pour la lutte biologique contre les espèces invasives, entre autres végétales et octroyer les moyens nécessaires aux mesures de lutte mécanique ou manuelle :

La lutte contre les espèces invasives devient malheureusement un enjeu majeur dans la gestion de la réserve. Le manque de moyens financiers et de personnel ne nous permet pas d'avancer sur la lutte aussi bien que nous le souhaiterions. Mais depuis 3 années consécutives, nous travaillons avec des stagiaires de niveau BTS dans la réalisation de l'état des lieux et de l'arrachage des espèces envahissantes (*Baccharis halimifolia*, *Ludwigia* sp, *Fraxinus americana*...) sur le secteur d'Amphise et de la Capelière. L'éradication progresse sur le secteur d'Amphise (plusieurs milliers d'arbres arrachés), mais la dynamique des *Baccharis* est difficile à contrôler et présage encore plusieurs années de travail.

La problématique « Jussie » semble contenue dans des secteurs restreints de la Capelière.

En 2014 une demande de subvention à la Fondation du Patrimoine a été validée et 32 600 euros vont être alloués à des travaux de restauration des marais de la Capelière, avec arrachage mécanique des frênes américains et d'une partie des secteurs envahis par le baccharis. Cette somme ne permettra pas de traiter l'ensemble des zones envahies et une seconde demande de financement devra être réalisée pour l'année 2015. Parallèlement à cela, une demande de subvention Contrat Natura 2000 a été réalisée fin 2013, pour la restauration d'ouvrages hydrauliques et le curage de canaux dans un objectif de remise en état du réseau hydraulique sur la Capelière. Ce projet nous permettrait de mieux gérer les mises en eau des marais, et notamment d'être plus efficace dans la gestion des jussies. Nous n'avons à ce jour aucune nouvelle de ce projet et de sa validation.

5. Mettre d'avantage en évidence le Diplôme européen et l'action du Conseil de l'Europe, particulièrement aux points d'accueil et sur les dépliants de la réserve.

En place aux points d'accueil, il nous reste à en installer à deux entrées (autocollants à faire réaliser). Sur les dépliants nous attendons une prochaine édition pour les y faire figurer.

Nous envisageons également de réaliser un poster (forme et format non encore définis) informant sur le Diplôme européen, sa définition, son cadre, le rôle de la réserve vis-à-vis des recommandations...). Ces posters pourraient être installés sur nos deux sites d'accueil du public (Capelière et Phare de la Gacholle).

6. Contrôler la fréquentation à la périphérie de la réserve :

La politique d'accueil des visiteurs sur et en périphérie de la réserve se développe très favorablement avec, à présent, trois sites de visite répondant aux différentes demandes. Demeure, la forte fréquentation des plages de Beauduc, en cours de réglementation (nous sommes co-gestionnaires de ces espaces) qui demandera encore quelques années d'effort. Un « no man's land » de 800 mètres nous procure une sécurité supplémentaire en limite de réserve.

Plus de 100 000 visiteurs sont accueillis chaque année, sur l'ensemble des sites de la réserve.

Préparer un plan d'adaptation aux changements climatiques incluant l'élévation du niveau de la mer :

Nous sommes directement concernés par l'élévation du niveau de la mer par l'intermédiaire de la nappe souterraine mise en charge par le niveau marin. Cette pression conduit à une sur salure généralisée des

terres et des étangs. Face à cette problématique nous avons mis en place un nouveau protocole de suivis scientifiques basé sur des prélèvements (Passereaux, végétation terrestre, végétation aquatique, profondeur et salinités de nappe) plus à même de déceler des modifications en cours d'expansion, l'arrivée et le développement des espèces invasives ou de tout autre impact dans tel ou tel secteur de la réserve. Ce programme mené avec une fréquence de trois années n'a diminué en rien le déroulement des autres suivis de la réserve.

3. Gestion du site : Lister ici toute modification dans la gestion du site détenant le Diplôme européen, en ce qui concerne les environnements terrestre et aquatique (si applicable), et en ce qui concerne les agents et les ressources financières, depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

4. Frontières : Détailler tout changement apporté aux frontières du site détenant le Diplôme européen depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. S'il y a des changements, veuillez joindre une carte appropriée à ce rapport. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

5. Autres informations : Lister ici toute autre information, concernant le site détenant le Diplôme européen, que vous estimez nécessaire de fournir au Conseil de l'Europe.

2. Peak District National Park – United Kingdom

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom) 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. **NPMP completed and plans and strategies aligned.**

Attaches the following eleven 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 of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations. **See sections 1 and 5 above.**
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; **See sections 1 and 5 above**
3. Step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species, particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland. **This is being addressed through the Wader Recovery Project in partnership with Natural England.**
4. Negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites; **All Authority owned woodlands in management plans. Work has focused on the Dane Valley, Burbage Plantation and clough woodlands in the Derwent Valley.**
5. Implement with partners programmes to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, 2011-2020; **See section 5.6.**
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. **See section 4.2**

7. Carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach; **A signature theme of the National Park Management Plan. Landscape scale work has continued through the Moors for the Future Partnership, Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area, Peak District Local Nature Partnership in championing the South West Peak Landscape Partnership bid, and The Sheffield Moors Partnership.**
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. **See 2.1.1 above.**
9. Continue to provide encouragement to small-scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit. **See reference to the Environmental Quality Mark above.**
10. Only authorise new mineral extraction or extensions to existing mineral operations to meet essential national needs, for example, if the minerals are not available elsewhere or to provide traditional building materials in the park; seek restoration of mineral quarries to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the national park. **Policies set out in the LDF Core Strategy document.**
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. **We have begun work on development management policy for visitor hubs which when developed and implemented will provide a strong response to our approach to visitor management. Our Cycle Strategy has been a major focus for our tourism development work in the last year and this includes a strong focus on sustainable tourism.**

Appendix 1

1. National Park Management Plan
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/nmp>
2. Performance and Business Plan 2013/14
http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/355455/BusinessPlan2013.pdf
3. Park Life
http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/494410/3459_Parklife_WEB.pdf
4. Cultural Heritage Strategy
http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/91220/chstrategy.pdf
5. Landscape Strategy & Action Plan
http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/90831/landscapestrategyandactionplan.pdf
6. A Living Landscape: Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/biodiversity/biodiversity-action-plan>
7. Recreation Strategy
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/getactive/recreationstrategy>
8. Moors for the Future
www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk
9. Fire Operations Group
<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/projects-and-partnerships/fireoperationsgroup/fog>

10. Working with People & Communities Strategy

<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/publications/communities>

11. Local Development Framework Core Strategy

<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/ldf>

12. The Authority's Carbon Management Plan

http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/133400/carbon-management-plan-2010-2015.pdf

3. Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site – Austria

1. Conditions:

| |
|---------------|
| No conditions |
|---------------|

2. Recommendations:

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| <p>1. Review and where necessary improve the regulations of the protected area in order to strengthen the protection status; and devote a part of the management plan of the HTNP to the Krimml Waterfalls:</p> <p>Next year the elaboration of a management plan for the National Park Hohe Tauern is planned. The Krimml Waterfalls will be integrated according their rank.</p> <p>2. Continue to take appropriate measures in order to preserve the natural beauty of this impressive natural monument for future generations:</p> <p>Is implemented on an ongoing.</p> <p>3. Avoid impacts on the high aesthetic quality of the landscape surrounding the Krimml Falls, especially in the areas around “Wasserfallboden” and “Schönangerl”:</p> <p>Is implemented on an ongoing. In all of nature conservation law administrative procedures, which take place in the surroundings to the Krimml Waterfalls, always takes a rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument.</p> <p>4. Maintain great vigilance regarding the development close to the falls, e.g. installations or extension of shops, as well as medical care and new touristic activities (e.g. ice-climbing);</p> <p>Is implemented on an ongoing. In all of nature conservation law administrative procedures, which take place in the surrounding area to the Krimml Waterfalls, always takes a rigorous examination of the potential impact on the natural monument.</p> <p>5. Avoid as far as possible increasing light pollution:</p> <p>Currently there are no efforts.</p> <p>6. Continue to pay close attention of the problem of path erosion; and ensure that visitors only use the existing paths;</p> <p>The general maintenance work on the footpath implemented and the balustrades was renovated by the Austrian Alpine Association. This work will be implemented with great care on the landscape for the safety of visitors and for the visitor management.</p> <p>7. Pursue scientific research and secure funding for studies on regional birdlife, fungi (including lichens) and bryophytes, as a contribution to protect the area's typical biodiversity:</p> <p>The area of Krimml Waterfalls and the Krimml Valley are included in some scientific research projects of the Hohe Tauern National Park e.g. Assessment of forests in the National Park Hohe Tauern, avifauna project, lichens project, monitoring of flowing waters.</p> |
|---|

8. Strengthen the cooperation with local stakeholders, especially land owners, the municipality, the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV), tourism operators and associations.

The cooperation is very well maintained with the Austrian Alpine Association, the land owners, the community and the tourist office and there is a good agreement.

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

3. Site Management:

No changes

4. Boundaries:

No changes

5. Other information:

Visitor Management:

The amount of visitors has diminished from 700.000 in 1992 to 348.623 in 2008. This year the visitor number was similar last year with 351.279. Most of the visitors come between June and September and spend only one day in this area. The means of transport used for visiting the region are mainly private cars, followed by buses and train. For a more environmentally friendly travel by train and bus or bike to the Krimml waterfalls corresponding advertise were made (see attachment). Most of the visitors remained on the paths. The Krimml Falls are an important excursion destination of the Austrian schools and a starting point of their field trips into the Hohe Tauern National Park. Many visitors had taken part in the excursions guided by the well-trained rangers of the Hohe Tauern National Park.

In the course of several PR activities for the National Park Hohe Tauern and the Krimml Valley film and photo shoots or insertions of the Krimml Waterfalls were made.

Flood 2014

Heavy precipitation into the glacier regions led on 31 July and 1 August to flood. The entire "Wasserfallboden" was flooded and the Krimml Ache made her streambed accordingly.



Flood in the Krimml Valley



Consequences of the flood: bank undercutting in the area “Wasserfallboden”



Consequences of the flood: The Krimml Ache has created a wider stream bed in the area “Wasserfallboden”.

6. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

The award of the European Diploma is not only honourable, but it is also a challenge for the conservationists to meet the demands of protection in a responsible way. This year we could preserve the nature and the landscape of the Krimml Falls. The policies of the Hohe Tauern National Park and of the government of Land Salzburg adhere strongly to the idea of the protection of the Krimml Falls. These interventions were warranted only based on the regulations of the European Diploma! Extremely keen standards are being applied to all matters connected with the Krimml Falls and their protected surroundings. The award of the European Diploma to the Krimml Falls has made the falls and the National Park well known throughout the world. This fact has been appreciated by the National Park Administration in many publications and conferences.

4. Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve – Germany

5. Muddus National Park - Sweden

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

N/A

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the new “Laponiatjuottjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new Management Plan and ensure a smooth transition from former the County management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the Management Plan;

Laponiatjuottjudus has hired more staff. Today we have six employees and two project workers. The transfer to the new organization is doing well because we have regular meetings where all parties are included.

The Management Plan is translated into English.

We plan to construct a new entrance to the national park which we believe will be a boost for the entire park and the management of it.

We have built a new visitor´s center for the Laponia area which include Muddus/Muttos national park. Laponiatjuottjudus has the task of maintaining the buildings and the activities of the visitor´s center. (See 5. Other information)

2. Continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserving the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;

We work continuously with Sami communities and Norrbotten County Administrative Board in the work of inventories in Laponia. During the year we carried out a project of inventory on wolverine were we collected feces as part of efforts to develop and improve predator inventory. In the project we also did interviews with people who have experience of the wolverine and as a way to use traditional knowledge in management. The results of the project will be presented early next year and the project is funded by the Sami Parliament.

3. Establish a centralized research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;

We have started and gained a Laponia GIS. We need to develop it and make it more accessible.

4. Continue the monitoring of the fire areas including the natural regeneration processes and design a programme to monitor the effects of climatic change;

In 2012 summarized Norrbotten County Administrative Board the forest fire 2006 in a report. The park's forest ecology and fire history is well documented. There are currently informational signs in the area. The question of monitoring of the fire areas will arise in connection with the building of the new entrance.

We have during this year developed a plan for unplanned fires in Laponia.

5. Assess the visitor flows and their impact both within and outside the park (ecological and economic impact);

With the new entrance into the national park we will have more focus on how visitors affect the area ecologically and economically. We plan to have visitor counters in the area.

6. Consider linking the Muddus/Muttos National Park with the Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Parks and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site; and

It is a matter for the Board for further discussion and decision. The administration is supportive of this.

7. Reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organize a workshop with the relevant international organizations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, and National Park Service) with a view to harmonizing the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.

In working with the new entrance, we will review the definitions we use.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The management has received more employees. Now there are six full-time employees and two in project.

In 2013, it has become clear that Laponiatjuottjudus operate at a minimum level due to the economic funding is not sufficient. As previously disclosed the secretariat and the board of attention to this problem and tries to do something about it. It is a challenge for management and the board to prioritize what should be done and the pace at which things should be done based on the economic situation

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes of boundaries.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

New regulations for the national parks Muddus/Muttos, Padjelanta/Badjelánnda, Sarek and Stora Sjöfallet/ Stuor Muorkke were introduced from 2014.

*The suspected establishment of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) in the southeast part of the National Park from 2013 has not been verified in 2014.*

On September 27, 2014 officially opened the visitor's center in Stora sjöfallet/Stuor Muorkke national park. The visitor center consists of a large building for the exhibition, café and auditorium. Outside the building there is a Sami center with traditional buildings. Muddus/Muttos National Park is a part of the visitor's center.

Laponiatjuottjudus and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) plans to build a new entrance and new signs into the park 2015. The entrance will contain an entrance portal, fireplaces, information signs, toilets, house for wood and garbage and parking space. SEPA finance construction.

*Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): 2 observed successful breedings (compared to none in 2013)*

6. Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks – Sweden

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

N/A

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Provide sufficient financial and human resources, including field staff, to the “Laponiatjuottjudus” (management board) in order to implement the new Management Plan and ensure a smooth transition from former the County management structure to the new board; and provide as soon as possible an English translation of the new Management Plan;

Laponiatjuottjudus has hired more staff. Today we have six employees and two project workers. The transfer to the new organization is doing well because we have regular meetings where all parties are included.

Management Plan is translated into English.

We have built a new visitor´s center for the Laponia area which include Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda national parks (See nr. 6). Laponiatjuottjudus has the task of maintaining the buildings and the activities of the visitor´s center.

2. Continue the predators' inventories and use the results in order to help conserving the exceptional predator populations while allowing the Sami population to continue their traditional reindeer herding activities;

We work continuously with Sami communities and Norrbotten County Administrative Board in the work of inventories of predators in Laponia. During the year we carried out a project of inventory on wolverine where we collected feces as part of efforts to develop and improve predator inventory. In the project we also did interviews with people who have experience of the wolverine and as a way to use traditional knowledge in management. The results of the project will be presented early next year and the project is funded by the Sami Parliament

3. Establish a centralized research database linked to a GIS for the whole Laponia area and make the results of the research widely available for scientist and visitors;

We have started and gained a Laponia GIS. We need to develop it and make it more accessible.

4. Closely monitor the use of snowmobile, motor boats and other off-road vehicles, particularly in view of controlling illegal hunting and fishing;

Controls and authority in Sarek / Badjelánnda is handled by the police and the Norrbotten County Administrative Board. Laponiatjuottjudus cooperating with the authorities and are working so rules and laws should be followed. We have contact with the local population and we provide information on eg the new regulations for the national parks.

5. Set up a system for estimating the number of visitors, their profile and distribution over the year and initiate a research programme on the long term impact of the different human activities (e.g. reindeer herding, fishing and tourism) on the landscape, and design a programme to monitor the effects of the climatic change;

We are continuously working on the issue with numbers on visitors. We have had out questionnaires with partners and we have been using visitor counters. For Padjelanta/Badjelánnda an important instrument is the number of visitors in the cabins.

The impact issue from human activities on the landscape is important. We work with the reindeer herding communities in matters that concern. We work with Norrbotten County Administrative Board and tourist companies in matters of permissions and tourism. The board has received information on fisheries management and plans to add it in a project.

We have a group within the organization that works with questions about the impact on the World Heritage Laponia where Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda included. The group looks at risks that threatened the area in different ways and here is climate change on the agenda.

6. Build and equip as soon as possible the Visitor information centre in Stora Sjöfallet for the Laponia WH site and provide specific information on the different National Parks; establish a network of smaller information points at strategic entrances into the Parks and communicate about the different categories of international designations;

On September 27, 2014 officially opened the visitor's center in Stora sjöfallet/Stuor Muorkke national park. The visitor center consists of a large building for the exhibition, café and auditorium. Outside the building there is a Sami center with traditional buildings. Because Stora sjöfallet/Stuor Muorkke national park are connected to Sarek and Padjelannnta/Badjelánnda national parks so will the visitor's center work for all three national parks and the whole Laponia world heritage. We believe that the center will mean a lot for the area, it will be easier to get your information, and the center could become a fixture before and after visiting the parks.

We have inaugurated new nodes (information place) at Porjus, Gällivare and Jokkmokk. A node will also be inaugurated in Kvikkjokk.

7. Consider linking the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks with the Muddus National Park and other conservation areas so that the Laponia World Heritage Site becomes a single European Diploma site; and

It is a matter for the Board for further discussion and decision. The administration is supportive of this.

8. Reflect on the use of the different national and international designations for the area; organize a workshop with the relevant international organizations (e.g. Council of Europe, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, and National Park Service) with a view to harmonizing the reporting and monitoring requirements and the respective perimeters.

We need to review the definitions we use and we need to schedule a workshop.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The management has received more employees. Now there are six full-time employees and two in project.

In 2013, it has become clear that Laponiatjuottjudus operate at a minimum level due to the economic funding is not sufficient. As previously disclosed the secretariat and the board of attention to this problem and tries to do something about it. It is a challenge for management and the board to prioritize what should be done and the pace at which things should be done based on the economic situation

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes of boundaries.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

New regulations for the national parks Muddus / Muttos ,Padjelanta / Badjelánnda, Sarek and Stora Sjöfallet/ Stuor Muorkke were introduced from 2014.

Laponiatjuottjudus will closely follow the advancements in Gállok (Kallak) where a company is applying for ore mining. The area is outside Sarek national park and does not directly affect the natural values. As yet, no irreversible decisions have been made regarding this application.

Gyrffalcon (Falco rusticolus): 6 observed successful breedings in Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda (compared to 3 in 2013).

Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 6 observed successful breeding in Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda (compared to 1 in 2013)

Wolverine (Gulo gulo): 1 successful breeding in Sarek and Padjelanta/Badjelánnda (compared to 1 in 2013).

7. Swiss National Park – Switzerland

1. Conditions

In the letter addressed to federal councillor Doris Leuthard on 11th July 2012, concerning the successful renewal of the European Diploma for the Swiss National Park, no conditions were mentioned.

2. Recommendations

2.1. Reservat da Biosfera Val Müstair Parc Naziunal

"Prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour remplir la condition posée par l'UNESCO, qui demande que le parc national qui constitue le coeur de la réserve de la biosphère "Biosfera Val Müstair/Parc Naziunal" soit entièrement entouré par une zone tampon"

The biosphere reserve buffer zone in the Engadine, to the north of the SNP, demanded by UNESCO, is a political project that cannot be implemented by the administrative body of the National Park. Procedure is consequently drawn-out. The original request, that the necessary adaptations should be completed by 2013, proved to be unrealistic within the framework of the basic requirements of the Swiss democratic system. It remains to be seen whether this project can be realized within the extended time limit accorded, i.e. by 2015. The regional authorities were initially in favour of a solution based on the regional structure plan. The extent of the newly planned buffer zone in the Engadine was however considered by the national authorities (and the nature conservation authorities) to be insufficient. Current thinking is that the best way to achieve success is on the basis of contracts negotiated with individual municipalities. As a result of the recent merger between the original seven municipalities, there are now only three municipalities, which should facilitate proceedings. The delay has however led to the necessity for an integral management plan, which must be drawn up before the populations of the three municipalities are asked to vote on the project. These plebiscites are due to take place in May/June 2015. In order for the project to progress further and be submitted to UNESCO in Paris by the federal authorities in September 2015, it is absolutely mandatory that all three Engadine municipalities return a vote in favour.

2.2. Human resources and “100-year SNP” jubilee

"Veiller à ce que le personnel soit assez nombreux pour satisfaire aux exigences actuelles et prévoir des moyens supplémentaires suffisants pour faire face aux célébrations du centenaire en 2014"

The National Park administration works to high standards and has sufficient personnel. In view of the activities of this year's National Park jubilee, two additional employees were temporarily engaged. All the jubilee events were an acclaimed success; around 5000 spectators attended the main celebration on 1st August in Zernez. There was great feedback and response to the other events, too. There were 19 performances of the open-air theatre “Laina viva”, which took place in Zernez in July/August; with one exception, all performances were sold out completely. The two exhibitions created specially for the

jubilee were also very popular, as well as various publications. Worth mentioning is the “Swiss National Park Atlas”, which is available in German and French; the German edition is already in its second edition. This work has won two renowned prizes (Swiss Society of Cartography “Prix Carto”, and “Prix Georges Erhard”, Société de Géographie, Paris). The budget for all these activities, fixed at 3 Mio CHF, was maintained, whereby funding was completely provided by external sources.

2.3. Communication concerning large predators

"Continuer à sensibiliser la population locale, les municipalités et les visiteurs au retour des grands carnivores en travaillant en étroite coopération avec le service de la chasse et de la pêche du canton des Grisons"

Being a scientist who has previously spent many years on the subject of the lynx, the writer is concerned that the ground for large predators in the SNP (and the surrounding area) must be carefully prepared. As early as 1997 we took a step in this direction with the setting up of an ongoing permanent exhibition entitled “Uors in Engiadina/Auf den Spuren der Bären” in the Schmelzra Museum in S-charl (on the eastern boundary of the SNP). Needless to say every opportunity is made use of to inform the public about large predators. The live programme shown throughout the day by Swiss television (SRF) on 25th September in the context of the 100-year jubilee was one such occasion. Relations with the cantonal Office for Hunting and Fishing are excellent, with a positive outcome at various levels.

2.4. Impact of the Pass dal Fuorn road

"Etudier, avec les différents ministères ou administrations concernés, la possibilité de limiter au minimum l'impact de la route qui franchit la Pass dal Fuorn"

The main Pass dal Fuorn road cuts through the heart of the SNP, which is problematic: traffic noise is not compatible with our total protection reserve, and the question of safety in parking areas is increasingly worrying. Due to the fact that the road is a through road (providing access to the Val Müstair and onward to South Tyrol) it is difficult to find a solution concerning emissions. The SNP administration has no competence in the matter. Requests to reduce the current permitted speed limit of 80 km/h have no chance of being accepted, neither by the authorities concerned nor by the local population. Noise measurements show that it is mainly vehicles travelling at excessive speeds that cause the greatest noise emissions. For this reason we continually turn to the cantonal police with requests for speed limit enforcement; they carry out speed controls as frequently as possible, depending on the availability of personnel. Additional traffic signs close to the parking areas (where walkers get in and out of their cars) have improved the safety situation there. An overall concept, which would also cover safety issues, will only become feasible once plans for building alterations in the area of the privately owned Hotel Parc Naziunal Il Fuorn (that lies in the midst of the SNP) have been implemented.

2.5. Collaboration with Stelvio National Park

"Poursuivre l'étroite coopération avec le Parc national voisin de Stelvio"

Over the years the collaboration established between our two parks has been intensified and works satisfactorily. The next official reunion – in the context of a working group to combat poaching – is due to take place on 10th December 2014.

2.6. SNP Extension

"Etudier la possibilité d'élargir la zone diplômée à l'ensemble de la réserve de la biosphère"

The enlargement of the SNP (e.g. biosphere reserve core zone) has for many years been a prime concern for one of the two persons in authority named at the beginning of this document. In the year 2000 the Macun plateau and lakes (3.6 km²) were successfully integrated into the Park. At present any further increase in surface area is politically unlikely. Though the SNP is greatly appreciated by the local

population – not merely for its ecological benefits, but rather more for the economic advantages it brings – the idea of any further enlargement is not generally acceptable amongst the population concerned.

3. Site Management

As a contribution towards the National Park jubilee the municipality of Lavin has prolonged their contract with the SNP from 30 years to 99 years, the maximum length possible. In addition, we have obtained the right of use of two former military huts in the Macun area. These contractual modifications in favour of the SNP can be seen as a mark of confidence in the National Park.

There were no problems within the National Park administration during the current year. No great changes occurred in the natural environment of the National Park. As a wilderness area, where the protection of natural processes is guaranteed, we anyway take no action when natural changes occur (apart from a few exceptions). The National Park team's activities during 2014 were mainly concentrated on the jubilee projects. This enabled our institution to show itself in the best light at a national level, which has certainly provided a good basis for a prosperous future.

4 Boundaries

No changes

5. Other Information

No further information relevant to this report

The following sections (6.–11.) have not filled in because the next renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas will be not until 2022.

8. Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park – Italy

Conditions :

1. adopter définitivement le plan de gestion du Parc national (PNALM), dans un délai d'un an au plus, soit d'ici la réunion du Groupe de spécialistes en 2013 ;

Le processus pour l'approbation du Plan du Parc est continué pendant tout l'année 2014 avec plusieurs réunions avec les fonctionnaires des Régions Lazio et Abruzzo. Le Parc a aussi préparé la relation préliminaire nécessaire à la procédure d'Evaluation environnementale stratégique.

Le Ministère de l'environnement a suivi la question pour toute l'année. A mars 2014 le trois Régions concernées par le Parc, le Ministère et le Parc même ont signé un protocole pour la réalisation des actions prioritaires prévues dans le PATOM (Plan d'action pour l'ours brun marsicano). Dans ce protocole les trois Régions se sont engagées à l'approbation du Plan du Parc. Tous les trois Régions ont fait un acte administratif d'engagement pour la réalisation des actions du protocole (Pièce-jointe 1 et 2). La procédure d'approbation du Plan se déroule lentement mais marche

Dans le même temps nous avons consigné le Plan de gestion des Sites Nature 2000 du Parc (IT7110205 et IT7120132) : le Plan a déjà reçu les observations de la Région des Abruzzes. Après les modifications demandées par la Région dans les observations nous allons consigner le Plan définitif à la Direction environnement de la Région des Abruzzes pour ouvrir la procédure d'approbation. Le Plan définitif sera envoyé aux Régions Lazio et Molise.

La procédure d'approbation du Plan de Gestion des Sites Nature 2000 sera plus rapide du Plan du Parc car ce type de Plan ne doit pas être soumis à la Valuation environnementale.

Dans le Plan de Gestion on a aussi un Règlement dans lequel sont réglementées tous les activités principales du territoire du Parc : le coup des forêts pour le bois de chauffage, les activités de pâturages avec périodes, zones interdites et la quantité de bétail pour chaque zone de pâturage, gestion des routes forestières ecc.

2. prendre toutes dispositions utiles pour que :

- **conformément à la Loi-cadre sur les aires protégées en Italie, des zones périphériques soient créées sur les territoires des régions Abruzzes et Molise, d'ici fin 2013, et qu'une réglementation de la chasse tenant compte de la nécessité de minimiser les dérangements de l'ours au cours de l'automne, soit établie dans ces zones et appliquée à compter de la saison cynégétique 2013-2014 au plus tard ;**

La procédure de création des zone périphériques marche lentement : dans le Protocol signé entre Ministère, Régions et Parc, les trois Régions ont pris l'engagement de créer la zone périphériques du Parc prévue par la Lois cadre mais jusqu'à ce moment seulement la Région Molise a institué pour sa part la zone périphérique.

Dans le Protocol les Régions se sont aussi engagées à améliorer la gestion de la chasse en tenant compte de la nécessité de minimiser le dérangement de l'ours en automne. Les Régions Lazio et des Abruzzes ont introduit dans la réglementation de la chasse pour la saison 2014-2015 la règle pour la chasse au sanglier de chasse dit en " girata " c'est-à-dire la chasse avec 1-2 chiens et une équipe de chasseurs très réduite (10-12 personnes par équipe). Cette règle a été aussi exportée à tous les Sites Nature 2000 avec présence d'ours. Dans les Abruzzes la Région a approuvé aussi une réglementation pour la chasse aux ongulés sauvages dans laquelle on a prévu que chaque équipe de chasse aux sangliers doit avoir une seule territoire de chasse c'est-à-dire une équipe – une aire de chasse.

A la fin de mai 2014 a été signé un accord entre le Ministère de l'Environnement, l'Institut Supérieure pour la Recherche et la Protection de l'Environnement (ISPRA) et cinq associations de chasseurs (ARCI Caccia, Libera Caccia, Enalcaccia, Anuu et Federazione Italiana Caccia). Dans l'accord les cinq associations de chasseurs ont pris l'engagement pour un changement du système de chasse aux sangliers afin de minimiser le dérangement de l'ours dans l'automne, en choisissant de formes de chasse moins problématiques. Ils se sont aussi engagés à soutenir la réalisation des actions prévues par le PATOM en reconnaissant la nécessité de la conservation de l'ours brun marsicano, espèce fort en risque de disparaître (Pièce-jointe 3).

- **la réglementation interdisant les activités pastorales dans la zone A du Parc national soit appliquée de façon absolue et sans délai, et que les élus locaux soient sensibilisés sur cette question ;**

Le Parc, avec son corps de vigilance et avec l'aide des agents forestiers, a continué l'œuvre de vigilance sur les pâturages dans al zone A. Dans le Règlement du Plan de Gestion des Sites Nature 2000 on a aussi prévu des règles très claires pour la gestion des activités d'élevage et on a écrit clairement que les activités d'élevage doit être toujours autorisées par les Parc.

- **une concertation soit engagée sans délai avec les autorités municipales des communes du Parc national, pour la fermeture matérielle des voies d'accès à la zone diplômée, les plus critiques du point de vue de la conservation de la grande faune ; cette concertation devra conduire à ce que des dispositifs de fermeture et une réglementation appropriés tenant compte des droits des tiers locaux, soient établis d'ici fin 2013 ;**

A la fin du Projet Life on a fermées avec des barrages 20 voies d'accès (voir cartographie en pièce-jointe 4).

Recommandations :

1. **démarrer la mise en œuvre du plan d'action PATOM pour la protection de la population d'ours dans les meilleurs délais, facilitée par l'administration du PNALM ;**

L'Autorité de Gestion du PATOM a eu plusieurs réunions dans l'année 2014 (un par mois) et le Table Technique aussi c'est réuni plusieurs fois. A mars 2014 les trois Régions des Abruzzes, du Lazio et du

Molise avec le Parc et le Ministère de l'Environnement ont signé un Protocole pour la réalisation des actions du PATOM (Pièce-jointe 1).

Le Table Technique a complété l'analyse des trois documents produit par le Life ARCTOS : lignes guides pour la gestion de la zootechnie dans le territoire de l'ours, ligne guide pour la gestion des problématiques sanitaire dans le territoire de l'ours, Protocole pour la gestion des ours problématiques. Les documents seront soumis à l'Autorité de Gestion pour l'approbation finale. Ces documents sont liés aux actions B2, B3 et B5 du PATOM et représentent les systèmes proposés par le Life pour améliorer la gestion des trois activités problématiques selon l'indication du PATOM. Les trois documents approuvés devront être appliqués par les Régions.

2. poursuivre la réflexion en vue de l'inclusion à la zone diplômée des secteurs limitrophes du PNALM, réputés d'intérêt biologique majeur pour les grands carnivores, l'ours et le loup en particulier ;

Pour l'inclusion des secteurs limitrophes au Parc nous avons produit une cartographie à l'intérieur du plan du Parc.

Les Sites Nature 2000 dont le Parc est gestionnaire et pour lesquelles a fait le Plan de Gestion ont un territoire en partie à l'intérieur du Parc, en partie au dehors (voir cartographie en pièce jointe n.5). La partie des sites au dehors du Parc a, à son intérieur, des zones d'intérêt biologique majeur pour les grands carnivores, du point de vue du paysage, du point de vue d'endémisme floristique (par ex. : M. Greco, le Mont Serralunga, la zone du commune de Alfedena qui forme un coin à l'intérieur du territoire protégé par le Parc). Après l'approbation du Plan ces zones seront directement contrôlées par le Parc.

3. achever d'ici fin 2012 l'élaboration du plan de développement économique et social, comme prévu par l'administration du PNALM, en vue de le mettre en œuvre rapidement ;

Le Plan de développement économique et social est terminé. Le Plan a été approuvé par la Communauté du Parc, a eu l'avis positif du Parc et a été envoyé aux Régions et au Ministère de l'Environnement.

4. accroître substantiellement les moyens humains et financiers attribués aux activités scientifiques du PNALM et les adapter aux problématiques complexes auxquelles le parc devra faire face au cours des prochaines années et veiller à ce que ses capacités en général lui permettent d'accomplir ses missions de conservation et de contrôle convenablement ;

Le ministère de l'Environnement a mis à disposition des aires protégées italiennes de l'argent pour améliorer la gestion du patrimoine faunistique et floristiques des Parcs Nationaux Italiennes.

Pour l'année 2014 le Parc a reçu 125.000 euro en totale. Avec ce financement le Parc a :

-commencé l'application du Plan de Gestion du chamois produit à l'intérieur du projet Life COORNATA. Le Parc a donc commencé les activités de monitoring du chamois et a pris donc deux personnes pour aider le Service Scientifique à réaliser cette activité ;

-chargé des scientifiques de l'Université de Rome pour le monitoring des amphibiens du Parc

-chargé des scientifiques de l'Université de la Tuscia de poursuivre les recherches sur la forêt à hêtre de Val Cervara

Nous avons aussi présenté une nouvelle proposition à la commission européenne pour un financement Life en continuation du Life ARCTOS : à l'intérieur de cette proposition on a prévu la possibilité de prendre autres personnes pour les activités du projet et pour améliorer les activités du Service Scientifique du Parc en matière de gestion des ours

5. étudier la possibilité d'assermenter l'ensemble des personnels techniques pour le constat des infractions à la réglementation du PNALM ;

Pour la recommandation 5 rien de nouveau à signaler

6. engager une réflexion sur l'utilité d'une gestion dirigée du cerf, en liaison avec l'amélioration de l'état de conservation du chamois ;

Dans le Plan de gestion du Chamois produit à l'intérieur du projet Life COORNATA on a prévu de continuer le monitoring du cerf pour contrôler la situation et activer des mesures de contrôle de la population de cerf en cas de nécessité.

7. mener un effort particulier en faveur du soutien des activités de tourisme rural en périphérie du PNALM ;

Le Parc a présenté aux foires internationales à Paris, Londres, Amsterdam les paquets touristiques proposés par les opérateurs touristiques du territoire du Parc.

Dans l'année 2014 a été produit un dépliant en italien et en anglais sur le Parc avec une partie générale sur tout le territoire du Parc et trois petites sections dédiées aux trois Régions du Parc

8. engager une réflexion avec les maires des communes sur la question du nourrissage des animaux d'élevage et de la faune sauvage.

Les points des nourrissages artificiels sont fortement réduits. Actuellement on a seulement deux situations de ce type : près du village de Lecce nei Marsi et près du village de Gioia dei Marsi. Toutes les deux situations sont dehors des limites du Parc. Pour le point de nourrissage près de Gioia dei Marsi, après plusieurs sollicitations avec lettres signées par le Président et le Directeur du Parc, le maire a fait une ordonnance pour fermer cette pratique et a obligé l'éleveur à éliminer les carottes au dehors de son étable et dans ses terrains (Pièce-jointe 6).

Gestion du site

La situation plus difficile que le Parc s'est trouvée à suivre est sûrement celle liée au cas de tuberculose enregistré dans le territoire de Gioia dei Marsi : dans le mois de mars 2014 une femelle d'ours a été retrouvée au dehors des limites du Parc dans le territoire de la commune de Gioia dei Marsi. La femelle était encore en vie mais, malgré les traitements du vétérinaire du Parc, elle est morte après quelques heures. Soumis aux analyses chez le laboratoire concerné est résulté que l'animal est mort par tuberculose.

A partir de ce moment tous les autorités intéressées - le maire de la Commune de Gioia dei Marsi, le Service Vétérinaire de la Région des Abruzzes, le Ministère de l'Environnement, le Ministère de la Santé - et qui avaient les compétences en matière ont activé les actions obligatoires selon les lois italiennes. Tous les animaux domestiques de la commune ont été soumis aux contrôles prévus par la loi. Seulement les vaches d'un éleveur du territoire de Gioia sont résultées en partie positives aux contrôles. Malheureusement ces vaches étaient livrées dans le pâturage, difficile à ramener à l'intérieur de l'étable de propriété de l'éleveur et donc encore aujourd'hui est impossible compléter les contrôles sanitaires malgré nombreuses sollicitations faites par le Parc.

Le Parc a écrit plusieurs lettres aux Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Santé, au Service Vétérinaire régionale, aux vétérinaires locaux concernés par la problématique pour solliciter une intervention rapide et définitive visant à éliminer complètement le risque pour la faune sauvage et pour l'ours en particulier.

La présence des vaches peut-être positives à la tuberculose dans les pâturages, signifie avoir des pâturages contaminés et donc avoir un fort risque sanitaire pour tous les animaux sauvages, y compris l'ours.

Tout cela a mis en évidence clairement comme le manque de compétence en matière sanitaires pour le Parc signifie une forte difficulté de gestion de ces types de situation. Autre criticité est la nécessité d'avoir dans cette situation la collaboration entre autorités locales, Ministères, Régions.

Le deux Ministères concernés ont créé un groupe de travail avec de représentants du Ministère de l'Environnement et du Ministère de la Santé pour la gestion de tous les cas de maladies infectieuses de la faune sauvage.

Frontières

Rien à signaler. Les frontières du Parc sont restées les mêmes.

Autres informations

Dans l'année 2014 nous avons trouvés trois ours morts : la femelle morte par tuberculose, un jeune ourson de 7 mois trouvé dans la partie du Lazio et qui est mort par une infection rénale, un male abattu par une balle de fusil dans le village de Pettorano au dehors des limites du Parc. Pour ce dernier ours la personne qui a tué l'animal a été individué et soumis à un procès encore en cours.

L'année 2014 par contre a été très importante du point de vue de la population d'ours : dans le comptage annuel de femelle avec les oursons nous avons enregistré 5 femelles avec oursons. Le nombre total d'oursons enregistré pendant le comptage est de 11 individus (dont un est l'ourson retrouvé mort dans le Lazio).

Le procédé de candidature UNESCO de la forêt de Val Cervara continue. Dans le mois d'avril nous avons participé, dans la ville de Vienne, au workshop technique pour rédiger la liste complète de sites européenne soumis à la candidature pour être désigné patrimoine naturelle. Le Parc a aussi représenté le gouvernement italien à un nouvel workshop à Bonn dans le mois d'octobre où tous les gouvernements concernés ont confirmé la participation des pays intéressés au procès de candidature. A février 2015 viendra présentée la "tentative list" (Pièces-jointes 7 et 8).

9. Wollmatinger Ried Untersee – Gnadensee Nature Reserve – Germany

1. Conditions

The last extension of the European Diploma for the Wollmatinger Ried was not linked to any conditions by the European Council.

2. Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

It is extremely important to allow the nature reserve to develop naturally, particularly in the shallow water sections. To this end, there should be no obstacles to the natural erosion and sedimentation processes.

Re. Recommendation 1:

As in the previous year, no attempts were made to intervene in the self-perpetuating development of the shallow water zone, including the "*Schläuche*". During the previous flood water years 2012 and 2013, anglers were able to gain unhindered access to these areas.

From the point of view of nature conservation administration, no inducement exists to intervene in the self-perpetuating development of the "*Schläuche*".

Recommendation 2

All fishing activity must be halted in the *Schläuche* and the Hegnebucht "lagoons" for an experimental three-year period in order to further reduce the disturbances arising. An overall assessment of this measure should cover both the waterfowl and fish ecology.

Re. Recommendation 2:

Due to the very low water levels this spring, the shallow water zones in the core areas were comparatively little used in terms of angling. On the other hand, for the reed breeding birds of decisive importance here, the low water levels meant less than ideal breeding conditions. During the checks carried out this year in the course of routine monitoring of the reserve, among the bird populations resting here a noticeably high individual bird count was discovered. However, no systematic analysis was performed and consequently

no scientifically sound findings could be recorded.

The Freiburg Government Headquarters, in consultation with the MLR, will set up a Round Table including representatives of the nature conservation and angling communities. The intention is to initially process the facts with a view to using these as a basis for developing a strategy agreed with the angling community to reduce disturbance incidents in the sensitive core areas of the nature reserve and in other nature conservation areas of the Untersee which are susceptible to disturbance. Initial talks will be taking place in December 2014.

Recommendation 3:

The Wollmatinger Ried is a refuge area for avifauna sensitive to disturbances, particularly during the moulting season. Increasing numbers of ferruginous ducks (*Aythya nyroca*), a threatened species, are coming to the area north of the Reichenau “dyke road” for the moulting season. Few studies of this have been conducted, so it should be documented and all potential disturbances eliminated (fishing, water sports, etc.).

Re. Recommendation 3:

The significance of the nature reserve as an over-summering and moulting location for waterfowl is regularly documented within the scope of the extended waterfowl monitoring programme. The moulting populations in particular could benefit from the fact that only minimal angling activity took place in the core areas of the nature reserve due to the low spring water levels.

The close cooperation between the volunteers at the conservation and observation station “Netta” and the waterway police provides an effective instrument to reduce disturbance due to leisure activities, in particular canoes and rowing boats. Increasing problems are also being caused by ever greater popularity of stand-up paddling, extending inside the protected area.

Disturbance from the air took place occasionally, for instance due to the Zeppelin NT flying over and increasingly also hot air balloon trips. A sharp rise in helicopter activity by the police and boarder patrols is also noticeable. As these often fly over at low altitude, they cause a considerable disturbance, particularly in the shallow water area. The Freiburg Government Headquarters has approached the responsible authorities with a view to achieving less intrusive flying activity.

Recommendation 4:

Throughout the protected area, but especially in the Ermatinger Becken area, an effort is needed to harmonise protection measures by developing co-operation between Germany and Switzerland, for example, as part of the international conference of Lake Constance.

Re. Recommendation 4:

The Management Plan (MaP) for the EU bird sanctuary “Untersee” envisages the extension of the nature reserve on the water side. The aim of this measure is for the lake to be granted an effective wildlife preservation status. This has vital significance for the water fowl during periods where the water is at a low level, as to date this area has been beyond the protection of the reserve. However, for the Untersee, this is only possible with the involvement of Switzerland.

During the year under review, no direct contacts have been forged on land within the framework of the International Lake Constance Conference (IBK) with a view to improving protection of the shallow water zone of the Ermatinger Becken area and to harmonize cross-border cooperation. However, the Freiburg Government Headquarters will be initiating contact with the corresponding authorities in Switzerland.

Recommendation 5:

The scheduled road works to improve traffic flow at the entrance of the reserve – B33 and western bypass (Tangente West) – are part of a comprehensive landscape concept and must not be detrimental to the protected area. The compensatory measures necessitated by the work must be implemented as a matter of priority.

Re. Recommendation 5:

The construction of the western bypass is completed. As this road construction project impairs one of the most important wildlife corridors of the Wollmatinger Ried, extensive compensatory measures were required. These were fixed as part of the plan approval decision for construction of the B33. The majority of measures have been implemented. After expansion of the B33 has been completed, the L221 will be demolished. The completion and consequently the subsequent demolition are not expected, according to the current planning status, before 2020. The building sites for the Kindlebild junction and the bridge over the railway line are currently being prepared as part of the B33 extension.

The relocation of the cycle path represents an important improvement. This used to pass by directly along the border of the nature reserve, and was a constant source of disturbance for the protected area. During the course of the road planning, the planners succeeded in relocating this cycle path to the north along the railway line, and so reducing the potential for disturbance. A community initiative has been started up on the Island of Reichenau which is campaigning for the cycle path to be returned to its route along the border of the nature reserve. The Freiburg Government Headquarters is currently in discussion with the Reichenau local authority and the community initiative. There will be no agreement on the part of the road building authorities, the nature conservation administration, and the City of Konstanz as the land owner to the relocation of the cycle path.

Recommendation 6:

The continued operation of the reception centre in the premises of the former Reichenau railway station is not guaranteed for the medium and long term. This question should be settled as soon as possible.

Re. Recommendation 6:

Back in 2009, the State of Baden-Württemberg already issued a pledge to the NABU to fund up to 1 million € to construct a new Nature Conservation Centre. The Reichenau local authority and the City of Konstanz are making available a suitable leasehold site. The NABU is currently working on a comparative analysis to determine the correct dimensioning of the planned new Nature Conservation Centre with a view to ensuring that the Centre will be economically viable on a sustainable basis.

3. Site management

No changes as against the 2013 reporting year.

4. Boundaries

As part of the construction project for the new B33, according to the plan approval decision, narrow and already pre-contaminated peripheral areas of the nature reserve were claimed for use in the project. This unavoidable use of nature reserve land is not expected to exceed 0.2 hectares. By way of compensation, an extension of the nature reserve amounting to at least 7 hectares is planned. As soon as the boundaries for this are fixed, this will be cartographically charted. In order to implement the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, in addition an extension of the protected area on the water side is under consideration (cf. Chap. 2 no. 4). However, as this will entail reaching an agreement with Switzerland, implementation is expected to take several years.

5. Other information

Competing uses (water sports, angling, aviation) still continue to cause problems in the core areas of the nature reserve: New trend sports such as stand-up paddling are almost impossible to control and result in serious disruptions outside the traditional water sports seasons. Large aircraft (hot air balloons, Zeppelin-NT) also cause considerable disruption to the waterfowl populations over large distances, and helicopters with special permission fly over sensitive areas of the nature reserve.

10. Boschplaat Nature Reserve – Netherlands

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Recommendations to the renewal:

1. sufficient financial resources need to be available on an ongoing basis in order to safeguard the interests of the Boschplaat's natural environment, especially monitoring, staff, public relations and communication;
2. measures should be taken to restore the original dynamics in the eastern part of the reserve. The present function of the "Stuifdijk" (artificial sand dike) should be taken into consideration. New insights based on recent scientific research on restoring natural dynamics should be included in the management plan, including the consequences of the current rise in sea levels;
3. communication with all those involved in the measures to be taken (which are still being contested locally) requires maximum attention and the deployment of the necessary resources;
4. annual shipping incidents in the North Sea to the north of the Boschplaat are a real concern for both people and the natural environment. Better guarantees of safety with regard to the transport of hazardous substances and oil should be instituted;
5. the number of motorised vehicles on the beach should be reduced.

See for the answers on the recommendations question 3, the site management. Only the changes are mentioned.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The budgets available for guarding and monitoring are under pressure. As a result, guarding during the breeding season and the summer period is no longer being conducted by permanently employees of the National Forest Service but by a large team of volunteers. The volunteers are also providing the logistics. With regard to the reception and assistance of visitors, this is proceeding (after the necessary training) without any problems. However, in particular the monitoring of practically all the breeding birds important for this area is revealing major gaps.

Communication and the provision of information were given an extra boost this year by participating in a subsidised project, *Rust voor vogels, Ruimte voor mensen* (rest for birds, room for people). This made additional financial resources available for training and supervising volunteers, for transport and information panels and for equipment at the guard posts.

'Wilderness experience for island schools', a project started in 2011, received a follow-up this year. The purpose of this project is to provide all the island schoolchildren with an educational field trip to the Boschplaat once during their school years. With the assistance of island volunteers and sponsoring by

island companies, all the secondary school pupils could be given a 2-day (and one night) educational field trip.

The number of exemptions granted by the municipality for driving motorised vehicles has stabilised.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No change.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Evaluation: 'Management Plan for Government-owned Lands 2003 – 2013'.

The internal and external evaluation of the 'Management Plan for Government-owned Lands 2003-2013', which includes the Boschplaat was completed, in 2014. The current plan is to communicate the results and the consequences of this evaluation with the local population and other involved organisations in the form of a new management plan to be presented by such means as public meetings in 2015.

11. Siebengebirge Nature Reserve – Germany

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

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.

On April 1, 2013 the FUTOUR-Regionalberatung Dieter Popp, in 91729 Haundorf (a renowned contractor with a lot of references) was entrusted with the task of drawing up a The Management Plan for the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (4.600 ha) together with a Nature Park Siebengebirge Plan (11.200 ha). The costs will amount to nearly 70.000 €, of which 50.000 € are paid by the NRW government, 20.000 € by the VVS.

Simultaneously from 2011 to 2014 the Rhine-Sieg-District has been planning a future project "Chance7" for parts of its area with 12.75 million € (Federal Republic 75%, State of NRW 15%, Rhine-Sieg-District and communities 10%). Realization of this thorough and conscientious planning is scheduled from 2013-2023. Within this project, forests, managed grassland with fruit tree areas, marsh areas, vineyards lying fallow, standing and running waters – as habitats of endangered animal and plant species - shall be transformed into better conditions, and shall better be linked with each other.

As this Chance7 project covers decisive parts of the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve, our Management Plan particularly refers to this plan..

After a lot of meetings with partners from all fields of the area, last week we had a final session with FUTOUR-Bureau. They will have completed the Management Plan until the end of this year, so that we will be able to present our plan to the Council within the requested three-year period.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

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.

1. The leading role of the VVS so far is seen with great satisfaction by the communities, because honorary work of many VVS members saves community money. That is why with FUTOUR we have developed a Nature Park Plan with clear demands for financial participation of the communities. Meetings with the Bonn, Königswinter and Bad Honnef Mayors during the last months have shown the insight into their necessity of taking a more active (financial) part in the administration of the Nature Park, which is a unique "treasure" for their cities. Besides, they have recognized that administration by the VVS plus financial community support is more favourable to them than to run their own administration.

2. On the basis of the new Nature Park Plan there are scheduled new negotiations with the communities and the Rhine-Sieg-District. The district already contributes nearly 50.000 € a year (personel+non personel costs) to the management of the Park. But the district expects a considerable contribution of the 3 communes as well..

3. In 2014 the NRW government has considerably supported the Siebengebirge area with money from environmental funds. In addition we had broad support from the NRW Foundation for the preservation of a historical monument.

4. New roads have not been built nor are new ones planned. What concerns hiking trails, a new system of trails has reduced their length from 250 to 200 km. New stone signs with clear descriptions for users have been developed, that will be installed during the next 3 months, so that control (of mountain bikers e.g.) can be easier and more effective,

Unorganized individual mountain bikers, who leave official trails, really cause a problem. That is why we are going to organize a "public order partnership" between forestry authorities, local communities, district environmental administration, VVS and police several times next year with the possibility of severely fining bikers leaving the trails, damaging plants and disturbing animals.

5. On top of the Drachenfels a new restaurant has been built with a lot of events especially on weekends and in the evening. An agreement with the Drachenfels furnicular guarantees up and downhill passages at fixed times until 4 a.m. Nevertheless the demand for special driving permissions to the top has increased. The VVS as the owner of the only road to the Drachenfels is more than restrictive. Yet we have come to an agreement with the Königswinter administration to set up three concealable pollards at the entrances to the Drachenfels area, so that only licensed drivers (garbage collection, special suppliers e.g) are

allowed to enter. So far, however, the examination of pollards, strong enough, has not yet been completed.

6. In a treaty with the State of NRW in 2010 the VVS – according to the Resolution of the European Parliament from Febr 9, 2009- on 523 ha established the first “wildernis area” outside national Parks.

Meanwhile the NRW forestry authorities have extended their “Wildniswald Siebengebirge” by 207 ha adjacent to the VVS area, i.e. Siebengebirge 1 Ankerbachtal/ Siebengebirge 2-Dollendorfer Hardt/ Siebengebirge 3- Weilberg/ Siebengebirge 4- Heisterbach/ Siebengebirge 5–Oelberg/ Siebengebirge 6- Grafenbusch/ Siebengebirge 7 – Löwenburg/ Siebengebirge 8-Hartenbruch/Siebengebirge 9-Himmerich/ Siebengebirge 10-Leyberg. In addition there are plans to add about 90 ha federal forests on Petersberg to the wildernis area.

7. In 2012 the VVS has published a new geological treatise: Winfried Leischner: Siebengebirge – Sein erdgeschichtlicher Aufstieg und rheinseitiger Trachytatrag, 63 S, Königswinter 2012

So far, there has been no scientific examination of fungi in the Siebengebirge. In 2014 we have systematically started listing them in the Servatius area Bad Honnef and have recorded 127 different species. This registration will be continued.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes

Cf. recommendations No 1 and No. 5

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Plans of establishing a Factory Outlet Centre at Königswinter (cf. our correspondence from Febr. 25/2014, my answer from March 3/2014 and your reaction from May 22,2014:

Because of

- a. financial disagreements between investor and the Königswinter municipal administration
- b. reasonable doubts ,of the municipal council concerning the economic efficiency prognosticated
- b. the resistance of the neighbouring communities
- c. .probable objections of the district government (guidelines of sustained area development)
- d. resistance of several environmental associations (including the VVS) because of an increased traffic volume, huge parking areas and emissions obviously these plans seem to have been cancelled.

Heavy rockfalls from the Drachenfels mountain, which caused tremendous trouble and work to the VVS as the owner of the nature protected slopes of the Drachenfels, from whose quarries up to 1828 nearly 400.000 cbm of trachyte stones were exploited to build the famous Cologne Cathedral.

As a consequence of two heavy rockfalls to two different sides (15 tons and 8 tons) a famous hiking trail had to be closed and industrial safety authorities closed the vineyards for two vintners. With support from the NRW government, the Rhine-Sieg-District, the local communities of Bad Honnef and Königswinter, and substantial VVS-money and in close cooperation with nature protection authorities the hiking trail was repaired on the one side and a 600 m fence erected on the Rhine side to protect the vineyards and preserve the traditional Siebengebirge wine growing region, the only in North Rhine Westphalia. Being responsible for all these measures (1.7 million €) with their struggle against bureaucratic obstacles sometimes brought the VVS – completely working honorarily - to breaking point.

12. Vanoise National Park – France

1. Conditions : Lister ici toutes les conditions dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les conditions ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Déterminer une aire d'adhésion cohérente sur le plan de la conservation des valeurs naturelles, en particulier celles du cœur du parc.

Le projet de charte a été validé par le conseil d'administration du Parc national de la Vanoise le 27 novembre 2013. L'année 2014 a été consacrée à l'instruction de la procédure d'approbation de la charte par le Gouvernement. C'est ainsi que le Préfet de Savoie a transmis en janvier 2014 le projet de charte du conseil d'administration à la ministre de l'écologie, avec un avis très favorable. La ministre a consulté le comité interministériel des parcs nationaux et le conseil national de la protection de la nature qui ont respectivement émis un avis en mars et juin 2014. La ministre a ensuite saisi le Conseil d'État en juin 2014. Il a rendu son avis en janvier 2015. Au premier trimestre 2015, le décret d'approbation de la charte est à la signature du Premier Ministre. Afin de constituer l'aire d'adhésion effective autour du cœur du parc national, le Préfet de Région sollicitera alors les conseils municipaux pour qu'ils se prononcent sur leur adhésion à la charte. A l'issue d'un délai réglementaire de saisine de 4 mois, le Préfet prendra un arrêté de constat de l'aire d'adhésion effective, constituée des territoires des communes dont les conseils municipaux auront adhéré à la charte. Cet arrêté pourrait être pris au mois d'octobre 2015. Le résultat de cette consultation reste incertain, les communes ne manifestant que peu d'intérêt à la charte.

2. Recommandations : Lister ici toutes les recommandations dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les recommandations ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

1. Veiller à bien prendre en compte les enjeux naturels et paysagers lors d'aménagements en zone périphérique et éviter tout impact direct sur le cœur

Les travaux dans le cœur du Parc font l'objet d'une autorisation. La plupart de ces autorisations de travaux ont fait l'objet, au préalable, d'une visite sur le terrain ou d'un contact avec le pétitionnaire afin de mieux appréhender les travaux envisagés. Certaines visites de terrain ou réunions ont également eu lieu dans l'objectif de préparer des travaux prévus en 2015 (projet de réhabilitation d'un chalet d'alpage à Termignon, bouclage ligne électrique Val d'Isère- Bonneval). Dans l'aire optimale d'adhésion qui entoure le cœur du Parc, l'établissement s'engage dans la mise en œuvre des procédures d'aménagement de manière à identifier depuis l'amont du projet les enjeux environnementaux et paysagers. Tous les projets font l'objet d'un avis construits et argumentés permettant de définir le plus à l'amont possible les modalités d'intervention les plus respectueuses de l'environnement. Le parc national a signé en 2014 une convention avec plusieurs grands domaines sliables pour la fourniture de données naturalistes afin de créer des observatoires environnementaux des stations. Un programme Life Gypaète a été obtenu avec d'autres espaces protégées qui doit aider à mieux protéger cette espèce et les tétraonidés en aire d'adhésion.

Par ailleurs, le Parc met à disposition un outil d'observatoire photographique des paysages de manière à sensibiliser et à proposer des éléments de réflexion.

2. coordonner la compatibilité des objectifs du cœur du parc et de l'aire d'adhésion optimale avec ceux de la « trame verte et bleue »

En France, « la trame verte et bleue », se décline régionalement dans un document-cadre, le schéma régional de cohérence écologique (SRCE). L'avis du Parc national de la Vanoise sur la SRCE avait été donné en 2013 et le schéma régional de cohérence écologique de Rhône-Alpes a été adopté (par délibération du Conseil régional du 19 juin 2014 et par arrêté préfectoral du 16 juillet 2014. La charte du Parc national de la Vanoise précise dans son § 3.5.1 son rôle d'accompagnement des collectivités locales dans ce domaine. Plusieurs mesures de la charte vont dans le sens de la prise en compte des corridors écologiques.

3. assurer la pleine prise en compte des intérêts de la protection de la nature et du paysage lors d'arbitrages au sujet des ressources en eau et du renouvellement des concessions hydro-électriques

Le Parc national de la Vanoise n'a pas été sollicité en 2014 pour une demande d'avis relative à d'éventuels projets liés à la ressource en eau ou des concessions hydro-électriques.

4. poursuivre activement les mesures de diagnostic et de gestion permettant d'assurer une cohabitation harmonieuse et une synergie entre les usages agricoles du parc et la protection des valeurs naturelles

En 2014, comme lors des années précédentes, la majeure partie de l'activité a été consacrée aux programmes de mesures agroenvironnementales s'inscrivant dans le programme de développement rural hexagonal (PDRH). Les contrats agroenvironnementaux souscrits dans le cadre du PDRH en cours sont arrivés à échéance en 2014. Ceux portant sur les alpages ont donné lieu aux habituelles « visites de fin d'estive ». Un bilan a été effectué sur la mise en oeuvre de la mesure « Alpages », ses succès et ses difficultés, via deux études confiées à des stagiaires. Celles-ci ont été menées en collaboration étroite entre le Parc et la Société d'économie alpestre (SEA), principale organisation professionnelle agricole chargée de la gestion pastorale auprès de la Chambre d'agriculture. Elles devraient permettre d'améliorer le dispositif pour les contrats à venir.

Le Parc a apporté son appui aux collectivités territoriales de Tarentaise (APTV) et de Maurienne (SPM) pour l'élaboration des projets agroenvironnementaux de territoire (PAEC) s'inscrivant dans le nouveau dispositif (PDRH 2014-2020). Ces deux projets prévoient la reconduction des mesures relatives aux alpages et aux prairies de fauche d'altitude du cœur. Des mesures complémentaires ont été proposées, notamment sur les secteurs intermédiaires des « montagnettes » et sur les prairies de fauche de fond de vallée et de versants (mesures du type « prairies fleuries ») de l'aire optimale d'adhésion (AOA). Les financements de l'Etat seront affectés en priorité aux sites Natura 2000 (cœur de parc et 3 sites de l'AOA). Parallèlement, le Parc a poursuivi son implication auprès de 3 communes pour l'amélioration de la prise en compte des enjeux environnementaux dans la gestion pastorale : Saint-Martin de Belleville, pour la mise en place de baux à clauses environnementales, Pralognan-la-Vanoise, pour l'élaboration du plan de gestion pastoral lié au changement d'activité sur un alpage du cœur de Parc, Val d'Isère, pour le renouvellement des conventions pluriannuelles de pâturage des alpages de la commune.

Une expérience réussie de traitement des effluents de fromagerie a été engagé avec un agriculteur, par mise en place d'un atelier de porcs sur litière maîtrisée. Enfin le Parc est impliqué sur la mise en oeuvre du plan loup et l'accompagnement des éleveurs face aux dégâts de ce prédateur. Une action a été menée en inter-parcs pour mieux prendre en compte dans le plan loup les spécificités des coeurs de parcs.

5. maintenir un équilibre entre les fonctions d'accueil et de services des refuges et refuges-portes d'une part, leur rôle en matière d'information et de sensibilisation d'autre part, en poursuivant les aménagements

en faveur de catégories de visiteurs qui méritent une attention particulière, comme les handicapés

Le Parc national de la Vanoise reste propriétaire de 16 refuges dans le coeur du Parc qu'il gère au mieux pour permettre d'accueil et la sensibilisation du grand public. Dans les vallées, les agents proposent différentes animations de sensibilisation. Les points information Vanoise ouverts durant toute la durée

estivale sont des sources de renseignement pour l'ensemble de la population. Des expositions sont ouvertes au public, de la documentation est mise à disposition. Le Comité de Savoie des clubs alpins et de montagne (CAF) et le Parc national de la Vanoise se sont associés pour l'édition 2014 de la brochure « Refuges en familles ».

Le refuge de l'Arpont a été entièrement restructuré et agrandi pour un meilleur accueil du public sans accroissement du nombre de lits. Il a été inauguré en 2014.

En mars 2014, le Parc national de la Vanoise a obtenu le label national "Tourisme et Handicap" concernant les quatre familles de déficiences (motrice, visuelle, auditive et mentale) pour le refuge-porte de l'Orgère situé sur la commune de Villarodin-Bourget. Il s'agit du troisième refuge du Parc après ceux de Plan-du-Lac (2011) et de Rosuel (2012) qui obtient ce label qui garantit une bonne qualité d'accueil des personnes en situation de handicap. En plus des adaptations des refuges, le Parc national de la Vanoise a assuré un programme des sorties adaptées aux déficiences motrices, visuelles et mentales en partenariat avec les associations représentatives, une quarantaine de personnes en situation de handicap ont pu être accompagnées par des gardes-moniteurs.

6. surveiller et réglementer de façon stricte les sports aériens pour limiter les effets négatifs sur la faune.

Le coeur du Parc fait l'objet d'une réglementation spécifique encadrant strictement le survol par tous les moyens. La charte du Parc en cours de signature réitère cette protection en aménageant toute fois quelques zones bien précises où le survol en parapente est autorisé de manière à permettre un développement harmonieux de l'activité. Les survols en hélicoptère sont interdits sauf autorisation express et restent rares. Dès la sortie du décret sur la charte les modalités d'application seront consacrées.

3. Gestion du site : Lister ici toute modification dans la gestion du site détenant le Diplôme européen, en ce qui concerne les environnements terrestre et aquatique (si applicable), et en ce qui concerne les agents et les ressources financières, depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Le redéploiement des applications pour les outils de saisie de terrain a été poursuivi (flore) et les matériels de terrain sont maintenant bien opérationnels. Ils offrent par ailleurs l'accès à des données de base comme la flore de Suisse, très adaptée aux Alpes.

La finalisation de la stratégie scientifique est en cours et sera opérationnelle pour le premier trimestre 2015.

Les programmes alpages sentinelles et lacs sentinelles pour l'observation à long terme du changement climatique sont poursuivis.

Le programme LIFE GYPHELP interspaces protégés a été accepté par l'Europe et signé. Il permettra de poursuivre les actions de connaissance, de sensibilisation et de préservation, notamment sur les câbles dangereux avec les stations de sports d'hiver. Il permettra aussi le suivi de la nidification des 4 couples de gypaètes reproducteurs, notamment par le dispositif de vidéotransmission en direct d'une des aires de nidification à Termignon.

Toutefois, la baisse de 8 % de la subvention pour charges de service public (SCSP) du Ministère de tutelle, conjuguée avec une hausse des frais de personnel a conduit à des coupes très sévères sur le fonctionnement du Parc : diminution de 30 % des crédits d'action, suppression de 4 postes et gel de 3 postes supplémentaires en fin d'année, diminution de 15 jours des contrats saisonniers des hôtesses d'accueil et des ouvriers, réduction des actions d'animations et des subventions en faveur des scolaires, réduction importante des prestations auprès d'accompagnateurs « ambassadeurs » du Parc, réduction significative des actions de surveillance et des comptages. Cette forte contrainte budgétaire s'aggraverait encore en 2015. Le Parc national s'attache à développer le mécénat pour valoriser certains résultats, tel que, par exemple, avec la Fondation Placoplâtre sur l'inventaire architectural.

4. Frontières : Détailler tout changement apporté aux frontières du site détenant le Diplôme européen depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. S'il y a des changements, veuillez joindre une carte appropriée à ce rapport. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Les limites des périmètres du cœur et de l'aire optimale d'adhésion du Parc n'ont pas été modifiées au cours l'année 2014.

5. Autres informations : Lister ici toute autre information, concernant le site détenant le Diplôme européen, que vous estimez nécessaire de fournir au Conseil de l'Europe.

Une nouvelle organisation territoriale de l'équipe du Parc a été mise en place. Le nombre de secteurs a été concentré de 6 à 4 et une antenne a été créée dans chacune des deux vallées de la Maurienne et de la Tarentaise. Les agents de l'antenne apportent une mission d'appui technique locale aux secteurs dans les domaines de la sensibilisation au territoire, du tourisme, de l'aménagement du patrimoine culturel et des paysages, ainsi que de la gestion des ressources agricoles, forestières et aquatiques. Les travaux de restructuration du refuge de l'Arpont, à Termignon, ont été achevés et les locaux neufs et réaménagés ont été inaugurés le 2 septembre 2014. Ont également été menés à bien le centre d'information de Pralognan-la-Vanoise, une salle d'animation du refuge de Rosuel à Peisey-Nancroix, la muséographie de la Maison de la Vanoise à Termignon et la 2e tranche de l'aménagement du site de Plan d'Amont-Plan d'Aval à Aussois, porte du parc national.

13. Kuşçenneti (Bird Paradise) National Park - Turkey

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Kuşçenneti Milli Parkı has 3 different conservation categories. Those are National park, RAMSAR site and Natural site.

It still has wetland management plan (2011-2015) that has been prepared under the RAMSAR Convention. It includes action plan. The activities in the action plan are carrying out by Administration Unit.

On the other hand, revision of the wetland plan will be done end of the 2015 according to the 2873 Law of national parks and RAMSAR Convention. It will called Manyas Kuşçenneti Milli Parkı Longterm Development Plan.

Although, pollution that has been caused by poultry and cattle husbandries and agricultural implementations are under the control by the Administration, still there are demands for poultry and cattle husbandries around the lake. These demands can be prevented by existing legislation.

The projects that are related with use of the water flowing in the creek that feeds the lake and effects of the agricultural industrial activities are controlling and evaluation of its result by related institutions and administrations. The regular meetings are doing with related stakeholders. Field studies and resources are doing close-cooperation with universities and research institutions.

The water quality and budget are regularly monitored by State Water Affairs (SWA). The water budget is regulated according to the annual precipitation and situation of the water in the lake by SWA. Compared to the past, the ratio of the pollutants that is coming from rivers is also decreasing.

Besides SWA, monitoring programme on water quality studies are following by Environmental Engineering Department both of Balıkesir and Istanbul University. On the other hand, while irrigation

water quality is monitoring by the SWA, the water level values are measuring both by National Parks Chief and SWA.

As well as monitoring of the water budget and quality, counting and monitoring of the birds are doing regularly by Association of Nature Research (Doğa Araştırmaları Derneği-DAD) and National park staff.

During the 2014 year, many of the additional investments have been implemented for the national park.

The network paths that are reached to the visitor center, sign and information boards are renewed. Car parking area is designed. Existing administration and visitor center is repaired and supported by new tools and equipment.

10 new nests are built for great white pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) into the lake, but they has not been installed in the field yet. End of the reproductive period of the pelicans and depends on the climatic situation, they will replaced.

2 garbage collection machines, 2 lawn mowers and 2 bush choppers have been obtained. 1 telescope and 20 binoculars were bought for the national park.

Although, many progress and studies have been completed over the year, there are still some of the unresolved difficulties in the national park.

Due to climatic condition, there has been seasonal drought during the summer. But, the level of the water is increased in the autumn.

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Increasing of the staff for national park; A biologist and a guard (field ranger) have been assignment to management unit of National Park

Ensuring the natural fluctuations due to seasonal changes in the water level of the lake; In order to ensuring the natural fluctuations of the water level is regularly monitoring by State Water Affairs (SWA).

Establishing a new administration unit in the Kocaçay Delta; An information Unit and Platform will be planning in this area.

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There are no changes in terrestrial and water surface.

A biologist and a guard (field ranger) have been appointed into the management unit of National Park

Budget has increased approximately two-fold higher than last year.

The member of the Environment Conservation Union on Kuşçenneti Milli Park is decreased according to the revised Local Government Law. So the management effectiveness of the Union is increased connecting to the Law regulation.

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There is no change in the boundary of the National Park.

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

The administration responsibilities of the national park are limited with the boundary of the park. But this area has mainly wetland habitats. So, it should manage out of the border with basin scale. In order to support basin management, it need big scale management approaches and strategies. Although, there are many studies on catchment basin planning in Turkey, Manyasgölü Kuş Cenneti should also manage with large scale. For this purpose, it need a big scale project to develop large scale management strategy and plan. If we can develop an outsourced project, the management and conservation effectiveness will increase.

14. Cretan White Mountains National Park – Greece

I. CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENWEAL

The renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Cretan White Mountains National Park (Samaria) [T-PVS/DE(2009) 4] E, and attaches the following recommendations:

1. The relevant authorities should accelerate actions to extend the boundaries of the national park to cover a much larger area of the Cretan White Mountains;
2. An expert on biodiversity should be appointed or contracted to carry out regular monitoring of the flora and fauna of the park.
3. An annual budget should be allocated to the park, to be administered by the management board. The income from the entrance fee to the park may also be considered to finance monitoring projects, particularly recommendation 2 above.

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas (ResDip(2004)5 on the Cretan W.M).

1. The Specific Environmental Study (S.P.A.) of the White Mountains was completed and is currently inspected by the Department of Management for Natural Environment, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climatic Change, in order a Presidential Decree to be issued, according to State Law. The S.P.A. proposes extensive boundaries and zonation of the National Park, in relation to the older boundaries. Based on the official information received by the Forest Directorate of Chania, the promotion of the S.P.A. is currently delayed, since it is imperative to harmonize the Study with the recently issued environmental legislation regarding the conservation of biodiversity. In this framework, the Forest Directorate of Chania, organized a conference in Omalos, with representatives of the Environmental Ministry, on the 23rd of July 2014. The conference was entitled “The National Park, organization of services due to evaluation for the renewal of the Category A’ Diploma of the European Council (2017) and it was held at the Information Center of the National Park at Ksyloskalo. ». After the conference, The Management Body has begun the process of updating the Special Environmental Study (S.E.S) in accordance to the provisions of Law. 3937/2011 "Law for the conservation of biodiversity".
2. The Management Body of the National Park, in the framework of the project “Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity in Samaria (White Mountains) National Park”, funded by N.S.R.F. 2007 - 2013, Operational Program “Environment and Sustainable Development”, is currently running several monitoring projects regarding flora (34 species), fauna (51 species), birds (256 species) and ecotopes (20 habitat types) in the wider area of the White Mountains and Natura site coded GR 4340008 “White Mountains”.

3. The Management Body of the National Park and the Forest Directorate of Chania have officially requested to the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climatic Change for the return of an amount of the budget earned by the entrance fee

15. Minsmere Nature Reserve – United Kingdom

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There were no conditions attached to the renewal of the European Diploma.

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. **The control of the invasion of bracken using mechanical means should be continued; if necessary very selective spraying of chemical products should be carried out and careful records of this kept:**

With Asulam again being given `emergency use` approval by the EU for the control of bracken for the 2014 spraying season, efforts continued to selectively control bracken by spot-treatment on areas that had been controlled in previous years. Full records are maintained within the reserve filing system. Particular attention was paid to areas where bracken was growing amongst heather stands, that would prohibit cutting as an effective future management option. These actions will aid process by which Natural England are able to designate additional areas of heath as being in favourable conservation condition.

2. **A contingency plan to deal with the issue of sea level rise and increased freshwater flooding of the grazing marshes should be drawn up; in the short term, the feasibility of preventing/limiting the risk of saltwater entering the reedbed and lagoon systems by building up existing internal banks should be studied; in the longer term, a strategy for sustainable management of the coast in conjunction with all key stakeholders should be developed; discussions with the Environment Agency to reduce the risk of freshwater flooding through modification of the Minsmere sluice should be continued:**

The Environment Agency completed the Minsmere Tidal Sluice refurbishment and the New Cut Embankment works in April 2014. The project included the repair of Mumberry Marsh No 1 sluice and the replacement of Mumberry Marsh No 2 sluice, both west of Dam Bridge near Eastbridge, and to the Minsmere Old River Sluice where it enters the New Cut. The EA undertook this work to comply with their legal requirements; to prevent flooding of New Cut water into the designated sites at Minsmere, to reduce uncontrolled saline incursion into freshwater habitats and to protect the exposed asbestos piles for health and safety reasons. The completion of this project has further increased the standard of protection for the reserve. However, it should be seen as a further stage in the process of adapting the reserve to the threats posed by rising sea levels. Global warming is also resulting in increased “storminess” and this is reflected in the increase in incidents of freshwater flooding at Minsmere. Both sea level rise and flooding have an impact on access along public rights of way and reserve visitor trails, as well as directly affecting important habitats and species. A 1 in 50 year surge tide in December 2013 did cause further damage to the dunes, but did not breach the defences with no saline incursion recorded in the freshwater habitats.

3. **The reserve management plans (2008-2013 and 2013-2018) should be implemented:**

All scheduled priority one projects were implemented. Writing of a new Management Plan, combining the management of Minsmere with the neighbouring Dingle Marshes reserve is almost complete.

4. The purchase of land should be continued:

There were no land purchases this year.

5. Vigilance with regard to alien species of flora, especially controlling and managing pirri- pirri bur, (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*) should be maintained, and the control of the American mink (*Mustela vison*) should be continued:

Pirri -pirri-bur continues to be spot treated, using Roundup Bi-active, on a regular basis during the growing season with limited signs of eradication. Full records are maintained within the reserve filing system. The use of a broadleaf herbicide, Forefront T, was trialled this year on the recommendation of Natural England. Follow up work is planned for 2015. No mink were recorded on the reserve this year.

6. The role of the reserve as a demonstration site for a wide range of audiences, especially formal school parties, and for informal education/awareness-raising activities for children and families should be developed:

A brochure advertising our Primary School programmes was distributed throughout Suffolk. Sixty six schools participated in the reserve's formal education programme, attended by 2,305 children. Additional time has been spent making contact with Suffolk Secondary schools, discussing potential links of working together and types of programmes they might like to see being offered. This year has seen an increase in Secondary Schools visiting Minsmere, topics have mainly been based around the conservation of species and how they are managed on the reserve including any potential visitor impacts. We have also hosted end of term activity days. We are starting to generate interest in teenagers volunteering at Minsmere as part of their work placements and Duke of Edinburgh community projects. Several local schools stayed overnight in the Discovery Centre during the period, enjoying night bat walks and early morning dawn walks.

A joint venture with Dr David Blakesley of Autism and Nature, which is an organisation dedicated to engaging children with autism and related conditions with the natural environment was established. Three visits for local groups have visited to date with three further visits planned. Pupils in the groups have been diagnosed on a level of autism and/or moderate learning difficulties and speech and language difficulties. Several children also had emotional and behavioural difficulties. In addition, we continued to host the Otley College Horticultural, Special Education Needs group with practical work tasks. The group have created a wildlife garden outside the Visitor Centre which has improved the area outside the centre and has continued to attract interest from visitors who are inspired to do something similar at home.

We have continued to offer our expanded range of family activities during school holidays with a menu of different activities offered from Monday to Thursday during the Easter holidays and Monday to Friday during the summer holiday period. Child visits increased by over 12% year on year during August and child visits have increased overall by more than 250% since the Discover Nature project started in 2012. We continue to evaluate the success of the events and activities to ensure that they encourage increased levels of participation and learning amongst our family audience.

We continued to share the knowledge gained via the Discover Nature Project throughout the RSPB, including a site visit by our Chief Executive Mike Clarke and staff from RSPB Conwy. Liz McGowan, our artist in residence, provided a presentation on her work at the site to site staff and regional colleagues, helping to inform how we could develop collaboration with artists on our sites. Our Learning Manager provided a presentation to a Natura People Eurosite conference in Bruges, Belgium. We participated in a staff development day looking at practical approaches for connecting children with nature and contributed to the development of the RSPB's Youth and Family Strategies and the development of RSPB visitor engagement work in the Fens. Our Volunteer Development Officer contributed to national seminars on RSPB volunteering and provided training in customer care and visitor experience to colleagues at RSPB Rainham Marshes. We also provided membership recruitment training for staff and volunteers.

7. A rotational fallowing regime on the freshwater sections of the coastal lagoons to increase invertebrate biomass for breeding and passage waders should be implemented:

West Scrape was drawn down and re-flooded with salt to control marestalk, it was then re-flooded with fresh water. A new project has begun to replace and upgrade the existing anti-predator fence around the Minsmere scrape to prevent access by badger and fox and reduce predation of ground-nesting birds. It will also improve the topography and hydrology of the scrape to benefit breeding, wintering and passage birds as well as benthic invertebrates and enhance populations of key lagoon margin invertebrates. The lagoons lack topographic variation and there is scope for new island creation to increase the amount of nesting habitat for avocets, gulls and terns and the creation of low points will act as invertebrate refuges. The current layout of internal banks is over complicated and the removal of some of these will allow for simpler system of lagoon management. Current water control structures are no longer fit for purpose and there is a need to modify these and install new structures to increase hydrological flexibility in flooding and draining the lagoons. Work is due to begin in December 2014

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Minsmere was struck by a surge tide on 5 December 2013. The surge was approximately 2m above predicted high water giving a combined height of around 4.7m making it the most significant event of this nature since 1953. Fortunately, Minsmere survived largely unscathed with damage limited to erosion of the dunes, particularly at the northern end of the frontage. The two Environment Agency cross bunds designed to slow the flow of water as it travels south between the dunes and the secondary defence, functioned as expected. These suffered from surface damage but should be relatively easy to repair. There was almost no overtopping of salt water into the reserve's important freshwater habitats, and the new North Wall flood defence was not tested.

Warden, Katy Smith left in May 2014. Annette Rayner, previously Assistant Warden at North Warren reserve has been seconded into the vacant position to deliver wetland habitat management and the Scrape Enhancement project. Temporary arrangements to cover the role vacated by warden, Susan Rendell-Read have continued with Katie Fairhurst covering elements of this role throughout the year. We are looking at staffing models to ensure that we can sustain the growth achieved through Discover Nature and maintain a higher level of engagement at the end of the period of external funding. This approach is in conjunction with a national review of education and visitor engagement delivery on RSPB reserves. We recruited many new volunteers, particularly to assist with our BBC Springwatch work with 170 volunteers working on the reserve from May onwards

We opened temporary seasonal access to the Chapel, the original site of Leiston Abbey, that has been renovated with a grant from English Heritage and Natural England. This provides visitors to the reserve with a new aspect of heritage engagement at the site, providing the opportunity to get close to the Chapel site and enjoy panoramic views across the grazing marshes. We have provided some temporary interpretation, with a view to introducing more permanent interpretation once we have a greater understanding as to how our visitors are using the new access.

While no land purchases have been made, it was decided to combine the management of our Dingle Marshes reserve with that of Minsmere. Writing of a new combined Management Plan is in progress and budgets have been merged. This decision was influenced by our successful partnership working with Forestry Commission, restoring felled plantations to Heathland on a land-holding bridging the Minsmere and Dingle Marshes reserves. This is a key element of our Futurescapes work, to provide landscape-scale conservation management to further benefit the key species and habitats on the reserve.

Delivery phase of the Minsmere red deer control project commenced on 1 November 2013. The annual target was achieved with 250 animals, mostly hinds and calves culled. The cull was achieved efficiently, with little disturbance to the reserve and very little negative feedback from the public.

Minsmere was identified as a trial site for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Wetland Biomass to Bioenergy Project for the 2013/14 management season. The initial plan was for two activity periods, one summer cutting of fen habitats and one winter cutting of reedbed habitats. Unfortunately due to various delays and problems with machinery availability, the contractor, AB systems, arrival on site was delayed until December. By this point some of the fen areas were increasingly wet and proved difficult to cut. When the Piston Bully did arrive in December it managed to cut the Scrape fen areas as well as 3.14ha of reed. A demonstration day was held in February, when two large areas of reedbed were cut. These areas are due to be excavated out into pools to aid the freshwater feed to East Scrape so the cutting has aided this, as well as providing good bittern viewing habitat in the short term. The trials went well and a significant amount of reed was cut in just a few days. Most issues that arose were more to do with logistics. Haulage of cut material was mostly carried out with the Piston Bully, however the paddled tracks proved quite damaging to banks and tracks where turning was required. One possible solution to be explored for next year is the possibility of laying some kind of protective matting at points of turning. It will be interesting to see the different cutting techniques available for the next phase of trials when AB Systems have their full complement of machinery. Minsmere will again be a trial site for the next phase of trials in 2014/15.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No additional land purchases or boundary changes this year. The Management Plans and budgets of Minsmere Reserve have been combined with Dingle Marshes reserve from 1 April 2014

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Following several visits to investigate the potential of Minsmere, the BBC decided to use the site as the host location for their 'Springwatch' natural history programme in 2014. The RSPB project team worked closely with the BBC Springwatch team and the contractual arrangements with the BBC were delivered via a Location Agreement. The BBC built a studio overlooking Island Mere, along with photographic hides overlooking the Scrape. These will remain in place until 2016, as the series is expected to broadcast in May & June for the next three years. Minsmere also featured in two films about the red deer rut in BBC Autumnwatch in October.

The local community were informed of the BBC's plans at a joint BBC/RSPB presentation in December 2013. The RSPB Project Manager then attended local parish council meetings to keep the local community informed as required. The local community were invited to a public meeting with the BBC presenters and RSPB staff at the start of the broadcast period.

The RSPB site team took responsibility for operational delivery of all aspects of visitor experience, trading and volunteering, supported by regional and national staff. Infrastructure on site was improved to ensure we had sufficient capacity for the anticipated increase in visitors and could guarantee a high quality visitor experience. A temporary pop-up cafe was provided on the visitor trail to test feasibility and business potential for future years. The pop-up cafe succeeded in providing extra capacity, particularly after the main cafe closed at 5pm.

'Springwatch' & 'Unsprung' were broadcast live from Minsmere between 26 May and 12 June 2014, the reserve remained open to visitors throughout the broadcast period. The broadcast of the BBC Springwatch

show attracted up to 2.5 million viewers per evening on BBC and record numbers of viewers for the web-based, iPlayer and Red Button content. The programme was tremendous at raising the profile of RSPB Minsmere, attracting up to 2.5 million viewers per night, four nights a week for a three-week period of the Spring.

Visitor numbers for the period were 107,986, a 32% increase on 2013 and the highest number ever recorded. The presence of BBC Springwatch gave visitors an added dimension to their visit and some schools were given tours of the BBC village and filming studio.

We held extensive consultations with EDF Energy regarding the plans to develop the Sizewell C nuclear reactor to the south of the reserve. The footprint of the site that is being proposed is to the north of Sizewell B bringing the development closer to the boundary of Minsmere. In addition to the permanent buildings, infrastructure and access roads, there will be a significant area of land that will be used as temporary storage areas during the development. We are continuing to work closely with EDF to understand the specific environmental implications of the Sizewell C proposal, with many aspects of the proposed development still being clarified. We are also working with them, and other key stakeholders, to address our specific concerns.

We installed a new green-roof bike shelter, complete with insect homes and a bird nest box integral to the structure. This will encourage more people to visit Minsmere by bicycle.

16. Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve – United Kingdom

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Set up and implement the new-style reserve plan and organise the required prior public consultation;
The Reserve Plan is now a working document and is at the moment being reviewed with the new plan to be in place by 31st March 2015

2. Continue to maintain the native tree/shrub bank, as well as the tree nursery, to guarantee the genetic origins of trees planted in the reserve;

The native tree gene bank is being maintained. The following seeds were collected : Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* 500 gms, Hazel *Corylus avellana* 200 nuts, Birch *Betula pubescens* 100 gms, Alder *Alnus glutinosa* 200 gms and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* 0.75 ltrs Aspen??

3. Following the results of the fieldwork for site condition monitoring of upland features of interest, adapt the current deer management to limit trampling impacts from deer on dry heaths;

The deer cull now forms the main focus of management for the Reserve. Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*: 52 stags, 35 hinds, 18 calves, Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*: 4 bucks, 2 does and Sika deer *Cervus nippon*: 1 stag.

4. Monitor the evolution of the American mink (Neovison vison) population and its propagation within the area;

Mink are routinely monitored during fieldwork. We continue to use live-catch cage traps. No mink have been recorded.

5. Continue to limit the development of recreational facilities in the core area of the reserve and maintain the existing facilities to the present standard; if possible, investigate ways to improve the standards of visitor facilities;

The existing visitor centre was maintained and received the public. 13258 members of the public visited the Centre. It is now being refurbished and will open again in Spring 2015 with refurbished interpretation and trail network and a wildlife hide.

6. Improve car park facilities for hill-walkers in Glen Torridon;

7. Continue to integrate and implement safety measures in management of the area, particularly checking visitor facilities for hazards and revising the reserve's fire plan;

Hazard auditing of all facilities is completed either monthly or quarterly. Reports are completed and required actions undertaken. Information is also stored centrally within SNH. The fire plan is reviewed annually.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

In keeping with the Reserve Woodland Management Plan we have begun to create deadwood in our Nos 8 and 9 Enclosures.

We have also prepared ground in Glen Torridon which will be planted with local provenance seedlings. This will help the continuing connectivity with the ancient pine woods of Beinn Eighe NNR and the remnant pine woods of Glen Torridon.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Not applicable

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

During 2014/15 we are upgrading the visitor facilities at Beinn Eighe NNR. The refurbished visitor centre, new wildlife viewing hide and refreshed trails are designed to provide a high quality visitor experience. The interpretation throughout the centre will be replaced with vivid panoramic images to bring the reserve alive for visitors, information on the trails and wildlife will encourage people to explore and experience for themselves. The centre will act as a gateway to the wider Wester Ross area providing tourists with the information on the best places to view wildlife and enjoy the natural heritage in the region. The project has been made possible through SNH securing funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

17. Purbeck Heritage Coast – United Kingdom

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. The terms of the agreement between Dorset County Council and British Petroleum are being strictly adhered to, and BP continues to work to the highest standards.

The Wytch Farm oilfield and its operation have now been largely transferred from BP to Perenco; the latter are negotiating a new agreement with Dorset County Council which builds upon and improves the safeguards for the environment enshrined in the agreement with BP. This agreement also contains within it the provision of a landscape compensation fund (value £1.7M) for strengthening landscape character in the landscape units affected. Perenco recognises the need to compensate for their continued presence in such a high quality environment which in effect delays final restoration.

This is expected to be agreed in February.

Dorset County Council and the Dorset AONB Partnership will manage the compensation fund.

2. The extension of existing quarries or the opening of new quarries conforms to the 'exceptions' principle that they should not be permitted unless they do not impair the character of the Heritage Coast as a result of any one or a combination of the following:

- their scale and length

- their negative impact on the landscape, wildlife, the enjoyment of the area by the public or local communities

- the practical impossibility of achieving satisfactory restoration and aftercare within a period of five years

following the cessation of work.

Dorset County Council adopted a new minerals strategy in May 2014, available online (<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mcs>). This strategy sees a strengthening of policy for environmental protection, particularly for the designated areas (Purbeck Heritage Coast and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Attention should be paid to ensure that the scheme for restoration of the site after gravel extraction at Wareham is completed.

The restoration scheme at the gravel extraction site near Wareham (Bestwall Quarry) has been completed.

2. Work should continue on the inventory of Natural Areas calling for more adequate protection and research on these sites, particularly in the marine reserves where the periodic inventories of fauna and flora should be continued.

The Natural Areas inventory has been superseded by the National Character Area profiles managed by Natural England. The relevant areas are the Dorset Heaths

(<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4961534241406976>) and South Purbeck

(<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4610950>).

The focus of these is largely terrestrial; the Heritage Coast's coastal waters and Poole Harbour are Marine Protected Areas (designated / candidate European Marine Sites); data gathering and sharing is encouraged through the Dorset Environmental Record Centre.

3. Any progress will be welcomed to reduce intensive arable use on the immediate edge of the cliffs.

Work to achieve extensification of arable use is ongoing through the Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area (NIA) programme and accessing funding available through the Environmental Stewardship grant scheme (Pillar 2 Common Agricultural Policy origin). Achievements made during the 3-year funded programme will be fully reported in April 2015.

4. Work should continue to restore eroded paths by using local stone in an innovative way as done at Lulworth Cove.

Efforts continue in this regard. Dorset Countryside Rangers (part of Dorset County Council) were successful in a funding bid (£137,000) for improving the Priest's Way bridleway which acts as a key off-road walking, cycling and riding route through a substantial section of the Heritage Coast. Innovative use of local stone is evident.

5. Efforts to promote the use of more sustainable methods of transport to visitors (bus and train usage, improved use of cycling and walking and riding) should be increased.

Rail access to the Purbeck Heritage Coast

Regular passenger rail services are returning to Purbeck following a landmark agreement.

The Swanage Railway Company has signed a 99-year lease with Dorset County Council for use of the branch line between Wareham and Swanage. Using part of a £1.47 million grant from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund and £500,000 from BP, the company is upgrading track and bridges on the line and will install a level crossing over the Norden Park and Ride access road near Wareham. Trial services are planned to start in spring, with the eventual aim being to provide trains all year round. Cllr Mike Lovell, Chair of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership, said: "This is a significant day for the partnership, residents and businesses. A fully functioning rail link will enable people from Corfe Castle and Swanage to travel by train to anywhere in the country. Families and holiday-makers will be able to leave the car at home, taking traffic away from the heavily congested A351."

Other:

Dorset County Council and partners continue to develop the potential of the park and ride site at Norden for greater use of sustainable transport options for accessing the Heritage Coast, particularly the most popular beaches at Studland and Swanage.

6. Measures should be taken to address risks of oil pollution from shipping.

Policy: ship-to-ship transfers in open water are now illegal; activity is policed and compliance enforced by the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency.

Response: Dorset County Council's Emergency Planning unit runs regular Beach Masters' courses to enable an effective and efficient response to spills. No significant spills have been reported in 2014.

7. New resources should be made available to ensure the integrity in perpetuity of the newly designated World Heritage Site and its effective presentation to the public.

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership continues to gain support from the local authorities, communities and other stakeholders across its length. They have considerable success in the effective presentation of the site to the public as evidenced in their annual review (<http://jurassiccoast.org/conserving-the-coast/management-files/category/37-annual-reviews>)

8. Appropriate management should be exercised and sufficient resourcing for this should be ensured, for the proposed South Purbeck National Nature Reserve.

Known as Durlston National Nature Reserve, this site is owned and well managed by Dorset County Council and is deemed to be in favourable ecological condition. The site is managed under an Environmental Stewardship Scheme until 2016.

9. The Heritage Landscape Management Plan for the Lulworth Estate should be implemented.

The Lulworth HLMP is in implementation.

10. Co-operation and the establishment of partnerships in management planning, action and exchange of information between all major bodies involved with conservation and management should continue as it is a key method for future management of the Coast.

The Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area Partnership provides the best forum for the major bodies to come together to plan activity to conserve and enhance the area. While the Nature Improvement Area's funded business plan ceases in 2015, the partnership itself will persist to coordinate and oversee conservation and enhancement delivered as part of the Wytch Farm Landscape Compensation scheme.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Risk: Public finance is potentially an issue; all conservation bodies are working hard to secure funds from alternative sources for the ongoing conservation of the Heritage Coast and surrounding area.

Policy achievement: Two key management plans relating to the area have been adopted and agreed by all relevant parties; both cover the period 2014-2019. They are for

- the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

(<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/the-dorset-aonb/management-plan>) and

- the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

(<http://jurassiccoast.org/conserving-the-coast/management-files/category/14-managment-plancurrent>)

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

None

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

The UK Government is considering a proposal for a wind farm off the Purbeck Heritage Coast; a decision on this Nationally Important Infrastructure Scheme will be reached in 2015. The proposal is for up to 194 turbines, occupying an area of 153km² which is 13km to the southeast of Durlston Head at its closest point. Full documentation for this project can be found online at:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-east/navitus-bay-wind-park/>

The Dorset AONB Partnership have are concerned that this development would cause harm to the landscape of the Purbeck Heritage Coast and impair its enjoyment.

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Partnership are concerned that this development would impair visitors' appreciation of the World Heritage Site, although it is acknowledged that it would probably have negligible impact on the site's Outstanding Universal Value.

18. Fair Isle National Scenic Area – United Kingdom

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered:

In recognition of the internationally important seabird colonies and associated marine environment currently experiencing severe pressure, the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments should use the powers invested in them through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to establish the protected marine area which has been called for in successive diploma renewals. A new protected marine area should be in conformity with the Fair Isle Marine Action Plan.

2. Recommendations : *List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered:*

Marine Protected Area (MPA)- Progress : After two years of relative inactivity by other than the Fair Isle community and its partners (FIBO & NTS), there was a significant acceleration in the process and signs of positive progress. Following an invitation by the community, representatives of the Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA) and the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) met with the islanders on Fair Isle on 24th March. There was a very strong turn-out by the community, which will have given a clear message of the isle's efforts and determination to secure an MPA. The isle opinion of the meeting was that it was worthwhile and positive. It also helped to clarify a number of issues, including sticking points as seen by the fishing industry. The outcome was that we would continue the conversation to seek common ground. Marine Scotland (MS) was sent a summary of the meeting, drawn up by islanders Fiona Mitchell and Neil Thomson.

The isle was also informed by Marine Scotland that it would be appointing independent assessors to evaluate the merits of Demonstration & Research MPAs (D&R MPAs).

That appointment was made in September and went to ABPmer, a consultancy based in Southampton, England. ABPmer had a very tight timescale of completing the work by December with Marine Scotland informing of the outcome in January 2015. The ABPmer assessor, Claire Brown, immediately organised a visit to the isle for late October. She was accompanied by Sebastian Howell of Marine Scotland and Karen Hall from the Scottish Natural Heritage Shetland office.

A working session with Nick Riddiford of the Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative (FIMETI) in the morning was followed up by a community meeting in the evening. This took the form of a workshop, allowing islanders to put forward their views and ideas as well as discussing the best approach to developing the MPA. As always for such meetings, the community was well represented and nearly all present spoke. Getting people and organisations to the isle is by far the most effective means of the community voice being heard and appreciated.

The meetings were encouragingly positive. The assessor appeared generally in favour of the proposal, subject to clarification of certain issues which she identified as "gaps". She asked for clarification on certain points but recognised that there was potential in what was being put forward. She advised the isle not to shy away from an ambitious approach to the planning and execution of the Demonstration and Research programme. A couple of documents were provided prior to her visit and a follow up afterwards to clarify and address her queries. Dr Peter Evans, FIBO Director, and Kerri Whiteside of *fauna & flora international* had considerable input to these documents. Advice and guidance was also provided by Karen Hall and Morven Carruthers of Scottish Natural Heritage.

It was particularly pleasing that a representative of Marine Scotland joined the Assessment visit as the community had been asking for a visit for over a year.

Following the meeting on the isle, the assessor had talks in Shetland with representatives of various organisations active in Fair Isle waters. Karen Hall, also present, informed that the response – particularly from the Shetland Shellfish Monitoring Organisation – was far less encouraging with accusations that it had not been consulted. Karen has offered to mediate over this to put to rest any misunderstandings, an offer the isle was pleased to accept.

The argument over lack of consultation had been raised in the summer by Marine Scotland which intimated that we had not engaged with the fishermen until this spring. In response Nick Riddiford sent them a report of *stakeholder engagement* activities undertaken by FIMETI over the last 20 years. In reality representatives from the isle and the National Trust for Scotland started talking to them in 1998. It was also pointed out that details of every step, and the proposal itself, were channelled through the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan advisory group. A look through the minutes of meetings by the SMSP officer demonstrated that the fishermen's record of attendance was low, despite being on the advisory group. Anyway, Marine Scotland now has a 33 page dossier which details all Fair Isle's efforts to engage with a multitude of stakeholder groups, and a timeline to go with it.

Maintaining momentum- Between the fishermen's meeting in March and the assessor's visit in October, there was little information from Marine Scotland, other than to advise on the timetable.

The isle, however, was certainly not inactive during that time, which proved to be an intense period of activity – mainly in strengthening the case for the MPA, reaching out to research groups and the general public alike and fostering further partnerships and support.

A major piece of work was the distillation of the proposal into a succinct advisory note, updating the original to incorporate new developments which took into account the views of stakeholders. The was accompanied by a review of the proposal in terms of meeting the guidelines laid down by Marine Scotland for D&R MPAs. This work was undertaken by a FIMETI sub-group which included input from the scientific advisor to Fair Isle Bird Observatory and the NTS marine officer. The scientific advisor, Dr Peter Evans, was instrumental in strengthening the scientific vigour of the proposal.

Support- Fair Isle's support base is growing. The most important development during the year was engagement by *fauna & flora international* (ffi). Preliminary contact led to ffi appointing a Marine Community Support Officer with priority remit to help the Fair Isle community achieve its MPA goal. *Fauna & flora international* sees the Fair Isle initiative as central to its policy of promoting sustainable marine management. The appointee, Kerri Whiteside, spoke to everyone on the isle on a fact finding visit in July in order to gauge opinions, absorb more of the background to the proposal and formulate a plan to move the process forward. Kerri has a wealth of experience working with community groups and spent the last two years on the Living Seas campaign in Northern Ireland.

She visited again in October to engage further with the community and communicate progress so far. Meetings were held to discuss and clarify the next steps to be taken in furtherance of the proposal. Kerri also took the opportunity to make a round of meetings with stakeholders, including the Shetland Fishermen's Association, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan officers and the North Atlantic Fisheries Centre during her passage through Shetland.

The appointment of Ms Whiteside has taken considerable pressure off the isle, especially in relation to advocacy work on its behalf. The biggest advantage is that she has both the means and status to represent the isle at meetings away from Fair Isle. Previously, the community has been constrained – by time and money – in what it could achieve off the isle. Kerri is based in Edinburgh which has given her direct access to and engagement with Marine Scotland's MPA development team. Further input from FIMETI comes from Richard Luxmoore of the NTS who is a member of Kerri's ffi steering group.

Another important strand of support has come from Cape Farewell. This organisation comprises a group of scientists and artists with a shared commitment to marine conservation for its environmental and cultural values. As part of its mission, a group from Cape Farewell visited the isle in May to see the situation for themselves. This led to an offer of pro-active engagement on our behalf. Cape Farewell's deputy director Ruth Little in particular has been very active, drawing a wider range of people into supporting the isle and acting as advocate for the proposal with Marine Scotland. Her arguments are always cogent and powerful.

Accompanying Cape Farewell on its visit to Fair Isle was Peter Cutts, who is based with the *Scottish Association for Marine Science*. This has led to a promising contact with Dr Lois Calder, head of education of SAMS. She has declared an interest in establishing a partnership with FIMETI for studies on the socio-economic aspects of Fair Isle as they relate to the marine environment. Dr Calder is looking for funding for one PhD student as a precursor to an ongoing programme of research on the isle. SAMS is highly regarded for its marine research and having them aboard would hugely strengthen Fair Isle's research credibility.

From the isle support has been sought from a number of other organisations, not least the RSPB marine research department, encouraging them to get involved or to increase their level of involvement. Various folk, on and off the isle, have been putting forward names of people who have expertise, contacts and/or a keenness to help forward our proposal.

FIBO directors, SNH staff and Scottish Environment LINK have also been active, particularly in respect of the MPA research element; while a couple of visitors to the isle who participated in a workshop held at the Bird Observatory conference centre in October took the initiative to write to their MSP. They received a short reply which did, at least, include a promise to raise the issue with Ministers.

Another important letter of support was received in 2014. Following confirmation by letter in 2013 from the Chairman of the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan Advisory Group that the group was supportive of the MPA proposal, a letter was received from the Chair of the Shetland Tourism Association stating its support. At a meeting of the Association in the summer, those present voted unanimously in favour of sending this letter of support, in recognition of the huge economic contribution environmental tourism brings to their members. The Shetland Tourism Association is the voice of the many tourism-related businesses in Shetland. Representatives of the Shetland Islands Council and other relevant organisations sit in as observers at meetings.

One major vehicle for extending public awareness and support has been the *FIMETI website*. A considerable amount of effort has been put in by the Fair Isle based webmaster, Elizabeth Riddiford, to keep the FIMETI website www.fimeti.org.uk active and fresh. As an adjunct, a facebook presence has been created in the name of Fair Isle Marine Environment and Tourism Initiative. This is also kept fresh and acts as a vehicle for relaying marine-related developments and news to the general public. A great deal of positive feedback has been received over the re-vamped website and the FIMETI facebook site. These two sites are also cranking up interest and support for Fair Isle's marine aspirations.

Petition to the Scottish Parliament -The Fair Isle petition appeared on the *Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee* agenda three times during the year. On each occasion decision was postponed pending the outcome of the current assessment process. The most recent SPPC meeting was on 11th November 2014. Sebastian Howell of Marine Scotland had written the SPPC beforehand to give a generally positive account of the MPA assessor's visit. An update document was also submitted by FIMETI outlining recent progress.

Strangely, Marine Scotland asked to see a copy of the petition to prove that everyone on the isle had signed it. This was supplied.

Visit by the Minister - In the spring Fiona Mitchell, chair of the Fair Isle Community Association (FICA), wrote on behalf of the community inviting the Scottish *Rural Affairs minister*, Richard Lochhead, to visit. The focus of the minister was clearly elsewhere initially, but after the referendum he did reply accepting the invitation. FICA is to discuss dates with his secretary.

Shetland Marine Spatial Planning Advisory Group - Representatives from FIMETI continued to participate in this development, through attendance at meetings and providing input to various draft documents. Fair Isle's MPA proposal was discussed on each occasion and received general support. Kerri Whiteside represented FIMETI at the October meeting and updated the Advisory Group on current progress.

Shellfish stock management -There was major pressure on the Fair Isle lobster stock in 2014. Two boats from Shetland visited regularly, laying an estimated 1000 creels each time. This contrasts with the traditional Fair Isle fishery where local yachts (small boats) laid approximately 30 creels per session. Studies of declines in lobster captures per creel since outside boats exploited the resource indicated that whereas the Fair Isle effort had no great impact on stocks, the current level of exploitation is unsustainable and damaging to the local stock. The actions of these outside boats are legal but severely restrict the opportunity for any Fair Isle lobster fisherman to undertake the activity sustainably as a part-time occupation. The Shetland Shellfish Monitoring Organisation takes the view that operators with a Shetland licence can operate anywhere in that area so that once a local stock is depleted the boats can move to another permitted area. Fair Isle is entirely reliant on its local stock and is thus basically excluded from a traditional activity.

3. **Management:** *List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered:*

No significant changes – Unresolved difficulties detailed under: Recommendations - above!

4. **Boundaries:** *Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered:*

No Change

5. **Other information:** *List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.*

Sea Mammals- *There was little activity amongst the cetaceans before summer. Thereafter, there were frequent sightings. Killer whales (orcas) *Orcinus orca*, minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus* and harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* are now seen regularly off Fair Isle; although the porpoise not as frequently as years gone by. A series of orca records included a pod very close inshore off South Light which stayed in view long enough for the whole isle, residents and visitors alike, to enjoy the spectacle. The increasing occurrence of this species is a definite plus for attracting people to the isle in summer.*

Visitors in October had the added bonus of two humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* close inshore off the south. In recent years a humpback recovery has led to regular records in Shetland and the species has now found the isle. The only previous recent record was of one breaching 25 km south-east of Fair Isle in 1994. Up to the early 20th century large whales were seen regularly passing the isle, including humpbacks.

The most intriguing record during the year was of a Cuvier's beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris* 8 km off Fair Isle in June. If confirmed, this will be a first record for Fair Isle waters.

Seals: the grey seal *Halichoerus grypus* breeding season began normally but a series of autumn storms washed many pups off the beaches and mortality is thought to have been high. Common seal *Phoca vitulina*, a regular non breeding summer visitor which went into steep decline after 2010, was notable for its absence.

Fish (summary provided by Stewart Thomson, Quoy)

This has been a strange season, with changes in the local fish populations. To begin with, there were few fish of any kind, except for the occasional pollock *Pollachius pollachius*. Gradually, about three weeks later than normal it was possible to find good quality saithe *Pollachius virens*, but only at the North Light ground.

A sudden change followed, with large amounts of fish showing on the fish-finder. These proved to be very interesting in content, as the species which would normally shoal separately were very mixed, consisting initially with young coal-fish *Pollachius virens*, whiting *Merlangius merlangius* and greater sandeels *Hyperoplus*. Later they were joined by mackerel *Scomber scombrus*, which were also about three weeks late.

One of the strangest aspects was the relative sizes of the species. The greater sandeels were of a size one would expect, as were the immature whiting; but the coal-fish from June through to September were of a size one would expect from December to February and it was noticeable around the North Haven pier that there was no recruitment of this year's cohort. A sample of captures was taken to analyse stomach contents. The main food was the normal small planktonic copepods but later on a number was found to contain herring *Clupea harengus* fry.

The larger fish, when they could be found, lived mainly on the small whiting and herring fry and on mackerel. Unlike farther north around Shetland the mackerel were prolific, whereas whitefish were completely absent. Just one or two cod *Gadus morhua* per boat were taken in the entire season and no haddock *Melanogramma aeglefinus* or adult whiting were found on the inshore grounds – something the commercial boats were experiencing in Shetland waters where there were, however, significant numbers of cod.

For the second year running there were practically no ling *Molva molva* to be had, but that could be due to the huge quantity of predatory species in the water. Poor weather at the end of the season prevented Fair Isle's small boats from accessing the grounds where ling are normally present.

A feature of the summer season was the enormous numbers of small fish. There were masses of tiny whiting c3 cm in length at and just below the surface around the isle. The skipper of the Good Shepherd, Neil Thomson, reported dense shoals of small fish, of which plentiful Norway pout *Trisopterus esmarkii*, for the entire ferry trip between Fair Isle and Shetland. The fish monitoring detected some hopeful signs. The presence of plentiful plankton, small fish and seabirds suggested a return to a more balanced ecosystem for the first time in nearly 30 years. Monitoring will continue to ascertain whether this becomes a long-term change.

Plentiful plankton drew two basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus* to the isle in the early afternoon of late July. They spent a substantial amount of time foraging back and forth close off Head o Tind and South Light. Their stay was long enough to draw a large crowd of visitors and islanders to enjoy the spectacle.

19. Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve – Italy

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No condition were attached to the renewal

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 1 . Implement the management plan for the Casentino Forests National Park and reinforce co-operation with the national park in order to co-ordinate all the activities, especially in terms of research **The Plan of the National Park of Casentino Forests, Monte Falterona and Campigna has been approved in December 2009. The proposal to extend the integral protection to other areas managed by the UTB of Pratovecchio has been accepted, in the present case those areas adjoining Sasso Fratino reserve: Monte Rovino and Monte Penna. There have been**

no changes about the reference period. In addition has been improved cooperation and collaboration with the National Park in research activities inherent the RNI and the adjacent RRNNBB through a dedicate agreement.

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 2. The nature reserve should continue to stand out as the reference for nature protection in the region. **The Pratovecchio UTB has maintained and expanded its relationships with Universities and research Institutes with the aim of increase multidisciplinary study on the Reserve. More over, through conferences and articles in the press and television, it has promulgated information about the characteristics and significance of the Integral Reserve both to regional and national level .**

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 3. Care should be taken to ensure that the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve and the adjacent biogenetic reserves continue to be managed as a cohesive whole. **The Reserve of Sasso Fratino and the surrounding Biogenetic Reserves are managed by the Forestal Corpof the State, Office of Pratovecchio, that pays particular attention to their integrated management. In particular, it aims to limit or avoid any intervention also in the bands of Biogenetic Reserves bordering Sasso Fratino in order to create a buffer zone.**

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 4. Special attention should continue to be given to protecting Monte Falco in order to avoid, in particular, the construction of any new ski slopes. **In the Monte Falco area the maintenance of appropriate tabulation has been proceeded in order to avoid an excessive anthropic impact. There are no actions to amend the condition of the actual state of the places or projects to realize ski slopes.**

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 5. The necessary funding should be provided in order to maintain the very high standard of scientific research. **The Pratovecchio UTB has also activated for the current year, the resources needed to carry on the research activities in the Natural Casentino Reserves.**

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 6. Any further damage in the buffer zone, such as the laying of new roads or significant improvement work on the ski slopes, should be avoided. **The expansion projects of ski facilities in Campigna, presented by the Monte Falco Consorzio (composed of the municipality of Santa Sofia, Forlivese Apennines Comunità Montana and Forlì Province) have been definitively shelved. No changes on the state of the places in the RNB adjacent the Sasso Fratino RNI occurred.**

CM/ResDip(2010)12 -Recommendation 7. The number of visits should not be increased and they should be restricted to researchers and people with a genuine interest in the site. **Visits in the Integral Reserve are limited and authorized just in case of reasons strictly related to research purposes and to university level education inherent the conservation of ecosystems.**

CM/ResDip(2010)12 - Recommendation 8. The possibility of extending the European Diploma to include the biogenetic reserves should be studied. **The opportunity of extending the European Diploma to the biogenetic reserves adjacentes Sasso Fratino is under study.**

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes reported

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes reported

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

1) Conservation activities and biodiversity protection

The geographic database of the Reserves wetlands finalized to design conservation projects has been updated

2) Research

- Progetto Sabiod – Scaled Acoustic Biodiversity --Landscape study in areas with different degrees of protection and anthropic settlement-University of Pavia - Department of Earth and Environment Sciences
- Interdisciplinary Centre of bioacoustics and environmental research in collaboration with the University of Toulon - LSIS.

- Wild Cat monitoring - Research Project "Conservation Genetics applied to the population of European wildcat (*Felis silvestris silvestris*) of RRNNBB" - Research conducted by the UTB in collaboration with Dr. Marco Lucchesi and ISPRA Bologna. Work in progress.

- Bird Monitoring in Sasso Fratino RNI and Camaldoli RNB – Enrichment of knowledge about breeding bird population in consequence of crashes occurred in the forest during 2013. Work in progress.

- LIFE11/NAT/IT/000525 “Monitoring of insects with public participations” - Some monitoring areas have been included in the RNI and in the adjacent Lama forest belonging to the RNB Badia Prataglia - Lama.

- Seeds collecting from rare species for ex situ conservation - Monte Falco - *Senecio doronicum*, *Ranunculus platanifolius*, *Anemone narcissiflora*, *Viola eugenieae*, *Caltha palustris*, *Gentiana verna*, - Poggio Scali *Trollius europaeus*

3) Teaching, popularization and promotion

- Organization in collaboration with the National Park of Casentino Forests, of the Convention "One hundred years of Casentino Forest. (brochure is attached);

- Adhesion, in collaboration with Tuscia, University to the "Ban for the popularization of scientific culture" promoted by the Ministry of Education, presenting a project with the provisional title "Ancient Forests Multimedia. The ancient forest as outdoor educational workshop for the circulation of knowledge on biodiversity and climate change impact.

Finally, in collaboration with the National Park and the University of Tuscia - DAPHNE, have been realized preliminary dendroecological studies finalized to the inclusion of the Ancient Beech forests of Sasso Fratino in the European network of beech forests candidate to join the Natural Heritage of 'Humanity by UNESCO.

20. Doñana National Park – Spain

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. The Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that development projects of Port of Sevilla have no significant environmental impact on the ecosystems of Doñana. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a supplementary to the report (EIA) Environmental Impact Assessment study.

The project remains paralyzed.

2. The Government of Andalusia, responsible for managing the national park and also for the water management should ensure a high quality of the water entering the national park and eliminate illegal extraction of groundwater; in accordance with the Framework Directive on Water, it should check the condition of the aquifer underlying the national park and the surrounding land, the extent of extraction of groundwater and water quality;

First it should be clarified that currently the Government of Andalusia is not responsible for water management in the Guadalquivir basin. The competencies in this area correspond to the General Spanish Administration. However, there is close cooperation in this regard between both administrations .

Since the adoption of the Guadalquivir River Basin Hydrological Plan, the actions of the authorities responsible for water management in the Doñana area are primarily aimed at ensuring compliance with the law through monitoring, control and closure of illegal wells. They have also started the drafting of a second planning cycle for the period 2015-2021

The state of the aquifer is permanently monitored. The Confederation of the Guadalquivir River (water management agency) published in 2013 a new report called "REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE GROUNDWATER BODY 05.51" ALMONTE MARISMAS " in which a thorough assessment of it is done.

It must also be highlighted that the ‘Special Management Plan for Irrigated Lands Located North of the Forest Crown of Doñana’ is close to approval, as a result of a long and complex process of public participation and stakeholder agreement, involving almost 4.000 allegations which had to be studied and properly answered.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

2. A specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared, and a map of natural hazards should be developed

There have been no changes since the previous 2013 report was issued. The Doñana Natural Space (Espacio Natural) has a Self-Protection Plan against oil spills and is included as a priority area in the plan for wild fire prevention and fighting in Andalusia: INFOCA Plan.

3. Implementation of the action plans for the conservation of flagship species, in particular the Iberian lynx and the Spanish imperial eagle, must be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be developed, if necessary.

There have been no substantial changes since the previous 2013 report was issued. Conservation activities under the ‘Iberlynce’ LIFE project are still being developed, and there are also several ongoing regional recovery and conservation programs that include most endangered species in Doñana:

Recovery and Conservation Plan for Scavenging Birds, including the red kite (*Milvus milvus*) as an endangered species.

Recovery and Conservation Plan for Steppe Birds. It includes two endangered species, the great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and the Andalusian hemipode (*Turnix sylvatica*), which used to have breeding populations in Doñana until a few years ago. It also includes five vulnerable species of which at least three have regular presence in this Natural Space: Montagu's Harrier, sandgrouse and little bustard.

Recovery and Conservation Plan for Waterfowl. It includes a vulnerable species -the osprey- and six endangered species: bittern, marbled teal, ferruginous duck, white-headed duck, crested coot and squacco heron, all of them present in Doñana.

Recovery and Conservation Plan for Fish and Freshwater Invertebrates, which includes eight endangered species and seven vulnerable species, including in Doñana the Andalusian killifish, the sturgeon and the sea lamprey.

Dunes, Sandy Areas and Coastal Cliffs Plan. A large number of threatened plant species present in Doñana live in these environments, including *Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp. *macrocarpa* and *Linaria tursica*.

4. Regarding development projects for the Port of Seville, the Spanish authorities should draw upon the best international scientific experience and also take into account relevant international conventions such as the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Berne Convention, and should work closely with relevant international organizations, including the European Union and the European Environment Agency.

There have been no substantial changes since the previous report was issued

5. The management plan updating process should start in 2011;

A draft of the decree which will eventually establish the Doñana Natural Space management plans is currently undergoing a procedure of Public Information and stakeholder consultation, according to the Andalusian law, for subsequent final approval. This draft itself emerged after an intense public participation process, in which members of the Doñana Participation Council have been heavily involved, and it was developed through several participatory workshops in which the rest of the socioeconomic stakeholders in the Doñana area were able to participate.

6. The extension of the Doñana 2005 project for the riparian vegetation, for correcting erosion problems or for extending its scope to cultivated marshlands, should be undertaken.

After completing the projects for forms 1-5, the ones for forms 6 and 7 (processed during 2014) are being developed. At this moment the permeabilization of the river levee and the reclamation of Caño Travieso are under way; these works were planned for the summer of 2014 (this part was already finished) and the summer of 2015 (remaining part), because this kind of work can only be done during the summer season.

7. The possibility of developing cooperation with other deltas holding the European Diploma, such as the National Reserve of Camargue (France) and the Biosphere Reserve of the Danube Delta (Romania), should be explored

The Twinning Agreement between Doñana and the Regional Nature Park of the Camargue, signed in 2008, continues to develop normally.

In February 2014 the Doñana Natural Space received an award obtained in a 'Flower Prairies contest' organized by the French park.

There have also been several meetings to promote the "Doñana-Camargue Horse Trail", including a conference held in Almonte on June 24, the Twinning Committee Meeting on June 25, and the "Saca de las Yeguas" event on June 25-26

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The staff and financial resources of the National Park have been stable in the last year, despite the context of economic and financial crisis being experienced by the economy of our country

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There have been no changes to the boundaries of the national park. These limits are stable since the last enlargement made in 2004. It must be noted that a new enlargement proposal of the Doñana Natural Park is under way. This enlargement would enhance the role of the Natural Park as a ‘peripheral protection zone’ that mitigates impacts that may affect the core National Park

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

21. Bayerischer Wald National Park – Germany

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions attached

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

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;

The policy of large-scale non-intervention in the processes of nature with the goal “Leave nature to nature” has been secured on a long-term basis by the statutory regulations covering the Bayerischer Wald National Park.

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;

As of 1 December 2014, the non-intervention nature zone in the extension area of the National Park was extended by a further 316 hectares. It therefore currently totals 4,718 hectares (44.2 %). The non-intervention nature zone now covers 14,204 hectares (58.6 %) of the whole National Park. The relevant minister in the Bavarian State Government has recently once again confirmed the target stipulated in the National Park Regulations to gradually exempt 75 % of the area of the National Park from use by 2027 and to integrate it into the nature zone.

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);

Targeted measures to control and combat bark beetle development on the periphery of the National Park have reliably prevented infestations from spreading to neighboring private woodlands.

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;

Dialogue with the National Park local communities and associations could be substantially intensified and cooperation in the field of tourism development was further enhanced. There is currently little political will on local level to re-establish the “biosphere reserve” as a protection category.

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;

After a difficult phase with efforts (in the meantime discontinued) on the Czech side to give up the Šumava National Park protection category, coupled with the desire to use the vast majority of the territory on a long-term basis and to develop tourist potential in sensitive and central areas, the collaboration originally conducted in a spirit of trust was resumed early in 2013. Both National Park Administrations are seeking to create and legally secure a large contiguous core zone (non-intervention nature zone) on both sides of the border. The recommended integration of the surrounding protected areas (Protected Landscapes Areas, Ramsar Site Biosphere Reserve) into a zoning concept with coordinated management appears to be very complex requiring even more time for the necessary coordination process. Initial steps in this direction are currently being taken with the envisaged joint application for the Transboundary Park Certificate from EUROPARC Federation.

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.

The continued operation of the “Igelbus” local public transport service is still secured by a mixed financing system with the participation of the National Park municipalities and the State of Bavaria. Timetables are coordinated with the local public transport system on the Czech side (green Šumava buses). Investigations are currently being carried out to examine whether a cross-border electromobility component could be added to the local public transport system.

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Within the scope of the reorganization of the National Park Administration that became effective on 1 December 2013, two sectors have been combined and several fields of responsibility restructured.

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

It was possible to realign the park area in a meaningful manner on the periphery of the National Park and to simultaneously reduce conflicts with owners of adjacent private forests by purchasing 7 hectares of ecologically valuable bog woodlands and wetlands using funding from the LIFE Project and the Bavarian Nature Conservation Fund.

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Against the reservations of the National Park Administration, the regional planning conditions were established for setting up a wind park with up to 24 wind turbines (200 m high) in the direct vicinity of

the National Park (up to 1 km from the National Park boundary), in which endangered animal species such as lynx, Ural owl and various species of bats are present and which together with the National Park is of particular importance to tourism.

22. Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park – Sweden

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions exist.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1.- Implement the National Park's management plan in accordance with the land use and management plan (PRUG) drawn up in 2004 and Law no. 5/2007 of 3 April on the Network of National Parks.

The law 5/2007 of April the 3rd on the Network of National Parks was modified by the law 7/2013 of June the 25th by the declaration of the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park. However, this modification is limited to adding article 7(ii) dealing with the state of emergency in National Parks and also to 7(iii) dealing with the obligation of the managing administrators of the National Parks to present the necessary information to the autonomous National Park Agency and not to have an effect on article 17, relative to the governing plans for use and management. On the other hand, nothing new has been produced on the development of law 5/2007 of the 3rd by means of the corresponding Royal Decree in which the new legal basis for the regulation of the Directional Plan of the National Parks Network was established, which will determine the framework to which management documents of Spanish National Parks must be adapted.

In spite of the new directional plan which substitutes the prorogued by law 5/2007 still not having been approved, the Aragon Government started work in 2012 on a draft of the PRUG starting from the text elaborated in 2004. The procedure followed is framed in a deductive plan specifically set out in the Logframe System, a methodology which has been recommended by different organisations (AECI, UNEP..etc.) for use in the establishing of plans and programmes, and which has been used in the elaboration of planning documents and management of diverse protected spaces. The said draft was presented to the Patronato (Board of Management) at their meeting on May 29th 2013, with the object of making members aware of it and start a period of time for the collection of suggestions, in writing, or in sectional meetings with the National Park technical team.

Written suggestions were received from a conservationist association (Foundation for the conservation of bearded vulture) (03/07/2013), The Geological and Mining Institute of Spain and from one of the representatives of the State Administration (Eduardo Martinez de Pisón) (07/10/2013). Furthermore, reunions have been held with the Aragón Federation of Mountaineering to ask for suggestions (07/17/2013) The Aragón Federation of Pot-holing (06/24/2013), the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology and the University of Zaragoza (07/09/2013), the representatives of private property (07/17/2013), the Civil Guard and the Autonomous National Parks Agency (07/22/2013), The Odesa and Monte Perdido Livestock Breeders Association (08/05/2013), the Torla Council (10/07/2013), the Tella-Sin Council (10/14/2013), the Fanlo Coincil (10/14/2013), the Broto Council (10/15/2013), the Pyrenees National Park (10/16/2013), the Bielsa Council (10/21/2013), the Puertolas Council (10/21/2013), the Sobrarbe District and the Sobrarbe Geopark of (10/22/2013), personnel of The National Park (guards and monitors) (11/04/2013), representatives of other departments of the Aragón Government and a representative of Protection of the Aragon Environment Council (11/06/3013) and lastly with the representative of the

Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment (11/06/2013). Furthermore the meetings with the local Councils were open for the residents to give greater participation and voice to local interests. With the suggestions incorporated in the draft text, the document was submitted at the meeting of the Patronato on December 10th 2013 at which a favourable response was given.

In 2014, the document has been made available for public information. During the established period of time, 19 documents of allegations have been received from the following persons and organisations. Don Joaquin Solanilla Rivera and Don José Maria Mir Garcés; the Fanlo Council; Don Jorge Galíndez Arribas; the Broto Council; the Broto Valley Assotiation (Vico de Broto-Buesa-Asin); the Broto Valley Assotiation (Vico de Oto-Sarvisé); Don Jorge Castiella Monclús; the Local Organization of Buesa; the Local Organization of Oto; the Local Organization of Sarvisé; the Neighbours Association “Albarosa”; the Broto Valley Forestry Assotiation; the Local Organisation of Asin de Broto; the Sobrarbe District; the Bielsa Council; Spanish Society of Ornithology-Birdlife; the Torla Council; the Professional College of Biologists in Aragón and the Federation of Mountaineering in Aragón. All the documents of allegations have been replied to giving motives for the acceptance or refusal of each.

In the same way in 2014 a report from the Territory Planning Council in Aragon has been sought, which has been favourable as well as a favourable report from the Aragon Environment Council.

On the other hand, in 2014 an official public enquiry has been opened for the Councils, the Ebro Hydrographic Board, The Aragon Mountaineering Federation, The Spanish Society of Ornithology, The Foundation for the Conservation of bearded vulture and Ecologists in Action, for the presentation of allegations. During the established period for the presentation of documents four documents have been received from the following entities: the Broto Council, the Local Organization of Oto, the Fanlo Council and The Ebro Hydrographic Board. All the documents have been replied to giving the reason for acceptance or refusal of the allegations.

Further, a report by the Juridical Service of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment has been sought and states that the text of the PRUG is agreed and correct. Also obligatory reports by the National Parks Network Council, the Department of Finance and Public Administration of Aragón have been sought. At the moment replies to these requests are awaited. Once these reports are received confirmation of the PRUG will be proceeded by means of a Government of Aragón Decree. It is considered that the new PRUG will be in force at the end of 2014.

2.- Finalise the feasibility study on moving the Pineta Valley municipal campsite and examine the available options.

In 2009 the writing of the study 'New situation of the camping site in Pineta Valley (Peripheral area of protection of the Odesa and Monte Perdido National Park) was finished. The study contemplates 14 alternatives, six of them on public land (including an alternative of keeping the camping area in the same place) and 8 on private land. On all of them an analysis and evaluation of the risk of flooding, forest fires, soil movement, falling trees, the proximity of a public way, lighting, technological origin and avalanches has been carried out.

On seeing the conclusions at the beginning of the summer of 2011, the Bielsa Council publicised the closure of the camping site at the deep of the Pineta Valley, sited on land held by them in an area outside the National Park but bordering it. At the present time, the camping area is definitively closed. In the place previously destined as a camping area, the Bielsa Council has conditioned the land for use as a vehicle parking area. Actually, given that the aforementioned land is part of a mountain in public use, the Provincial Service of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment has included the vehicle parking area for recreational tourist use in the annual plan for the exploitation of the mountain.

This recommendation has been fully complied with these actions.

3.- Pursue the scheme to make the Añisclo Canyon open to pedestrians.

In 2007 the writing of the study into the risk of landslides and flooding was completed, within the action of pedestrianising the Añisclo Canyon, in the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park. The study establishes that the risk of landslides is already considerably high in the canyon and that transforming the access to a pedestrian one, increases the exposure time, since the speed of passing through is reduced thereby multiplying the risks. To this it is necessary to add that the impact of medium and small material on a person could be lethal, while the same impact on the chassis of a vehicle only causes material damage.

With regard to landslides, the study contains a series of risk lists for 34 sites extending over a distance of 3,322 metres along the road to which it is necessary to add the respective lists on the creation of two viewing points situated at 9.500 and 10.950 kilometer points. For each of these thirty-four sites the study proposes a series of corrective measures consistent with anchoring bolts, metal nets and fences which would extend along the length indicated with heights of between 3 and 6 meters.

With regard to flooding, the study proposes a series of corrective measures based on signs and the installation of electric detectors, warnings and intercommunication.

The proposed measures in the study of the aforementioned 34 sites are unacceptable from the viewpoint of the environment and landscape since they would radically transform the Canyon of Añisco, making it lose a substantial part of its natural values. The study includes a separate evaluation of the environmental impact which indicates that fences and fastened meshes would have an irreversible effect locally on the landscape, the biological environment and the wildlife. Notwithstanding, in 2007 work of preparing the two sites designated for viewing points were undertaken, installing elements of security and interpretation: with these two actions, two areas have been endowed with viewing points in the Añisclo Canyon with information and interpretation panels, and at the same time the risk of landslides has been reduced by means of the installation of corresponding safety measures. In both cases the work consisted of preparation of the platform, construction of a perimeter wall, the lining in wood of the existing safety fences, the placing of elements of protection and the installation of interpretation panels dealing with the botanic, fauna and geomorphological aspects most representative in the area.

For all of the aforesaid, it has been decided to maintain the regime of visits in private vehicles, regulating the circulation along the road HU-631 and the asphalted forest track extending from Ereta de Bies to La Tella in an ascending direction with an exit using the asphalted track Puyarruego-Buerba during the period of maximum public access (Easter and summer time) and maintaining a two way flow of traffic during the rest of the year. The PRUG next to be approved provisionally maintains this regulation until the Puyarruego-Buerba road is included in the Aragon Roads network. From that time on circulation will be carried out only in an ascending direction from the entrance to the National Park and exiting by means of the Puyarruego-Buerba road.

On the other hand, a parallel track to the road from the parking area to the bridge of San Urbez has been enabled in order to avoid the transit of walkers along the asphalted way. Furthermore, from San Urbez two tracks which form a part of the network of park tracks, set out, one being of short distance and being self-guided and interpreted, the SIA1, from San Urbez to the Molino de Aso and the other of longer distance, also self-guided the SA1 from San Urbez to the Coll of Añisclo by Fuen Blanca, which both serve to meet the demand of tracks for visitors who arrive by vehicles at San Urbez by the Canyon of Añisclo.

4.- In collaboration with the Pyrenees National Park (France), implement the co-operation measures set out in the Agreement on joint activities of the two National Parks.

During the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 the collaboration between the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park (OMPNP) and the Pyrenees National Park (PNP) has been carried out in three inter-related ways: The habitual collaboration between both National Parks within the framework of the letter of cooperation,

the joint work within the framework of The World Heritage Site Pyrenees Monte Perdido and the work related to POCTEFA

With regard to the habitual collaboration between the two parks within the framework of the letter of collaboration, the visit made on March the 30th 2012 by the personnel of the PNP led by its director stands out; It was a visit to the supplementary feeding area in Escuin to observe the work of bringing food to the bearded vulture. On the other hand on May 17th 2012 there was a session of the Patronato of the OMPNP to which the PNP was invited. The participation of the PNP by invitation has stopped being a mere courtesy and has become institutionalised by means of the decree 232/2012 of the October 23rd by the Aragon Government by which the organs of participation in the Protected National Spaces declared in Aragón was modified and in article 1 of the aforementioned Decree the participation of the PNP was laid out. Similarly the Director of The Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park was designated in 2013 a member of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the PNP, making stronger the presence of each National Park in the organs of the other, now that the Assistant Director of the PNP, as has been said, has been a member of the Heritage of the OMPNP since 2012, and the Head of the team for Public Use of the OMPNP has been a member of the Scientific Council of the PNP since 2011. In this way the presence of the aforementioned members of each National Park in the organs of the other has become habitual during the three year period, and it guarantees the reciprocation of information about both National Parks.

On the other hand, the General Director of Environmental Conservation, the Director of the Provincial Service of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment and the Director of OMPNP assisted at the meeting on October 26th 2012 in Saint Giron, in response to an invitation made by the PNP together with the Catalan Pyrenees Regional Natural Park and the Ariegeoises Pyrenees Regional Natural Park in collaboration with the Pyrenees Work Community (CTP) with the object of dealing with the possibility of the creation of a network of Pyrenean Natural Spaces. In the same way a representative of the Autonomous National Parks Agency, the head of Services of Natural Spaces and Sustainable Development of the Aragon Government and the Director of the OMPNP assisted at the meeting on July the 4th 2013 in Tarbes, in response to an invitation made by the PNP together with the Catalan Pyrenees Regional Natural Park and the Ariegeoises Pyrenees Regional Natural Park with the object of continuing the contacts initiated in 2012 for the creation of a network of Pyrenean Natural Spaces. Similarly the head of Services of Natural Spaces and Sustainable Development of the Aragon Government and the Director of OMPNP were present at a meeting on September the 16th 2014 in La Massana (Andorra) in reply to an invitation made by the PNP together with the the Catalan Pyrenees Regional Natural Park, the Ariegeoises Pyrenees Regional Natural Park and the Community of Valls of Comapedrosa Natural Park with the object of continuing the contacts maintained in 2012 and 2013.

On the other hand on April the 12th 2013 the Ricardo Pascual showroom dedicated to the Bucardo museum in the visitors centre of OMPNP in Torla, was opened with an act to which Personal of the PNP that had had a relationship with the work on the Pyrenees Ibex in the Spanish park before the death of the last specimen were invited. Furthermore on April the 29th and 30th 2013 the ACTI (Association pour la Coopération Transfrontalière et Interrégionale) organised on the campus of Bayonne of the Pau University and with the patronage of the PNP, the “European Day of the cooperation of Natural Parks, denominated “Nature without Frontiers” at which the relation of the French Frontier Parks with other parks of bordering countries was presented, in the case of the French-Spanish frontier interventions were carried out by the President of the PNP and the Director of the OMPNP. Also, the Director and Head of the Public Use department of the OMPNP were present, invited by the PNP, at a meeting of the French National Parks which took place in Luz-Saint Sauveur on September 25th and 26th 2013. Finally at a request by the PNP on the October the 9th 2013 the OMPNP welcomed the visit of two park rangers from the PNP accompanied by two others park rangers from the Iguazu National Park (Argentina) who were on an interchange visit with the PNP.

Within the framework of the Pyrenees Mont Perdu World Heritage site (PMPWHS) on January 2012, the declaration of exceptional world value was handed out at the World Heritage Centre, as well as for the

first time, a joint report on the state of the PMPWHS (Pyrenees Mont Perdu World Heritage site) in stead of the separated reports formerly made by the both countries. Furthermore on January the 23rd 2012 the Joint Committee of Direction (JCD) of the PMPWHS was constituted in Tarbes and was made up of peer representation of 10 members from each country. Spain is represented by a representative from the Ministry of Culture (Director General of Historic Heritage), four from the Aragon Government (Presidency and Justice Counselor, the Director General of Conservation of the Natural Environment, the Director General of Cultural Heritage and Director of OMPNP), four of the local entities (President of Sobrarbe District, and the Mayors of the Torla, Puertolas and Tella-Sin councils) and one from the Livestock Breeders Association; France is represented by three representatives of the State (one of them the Director of PNP), four from the High Pyrenees General Council, one from the Regional Council for the Mid-Pyrenees and two from local entities. The committee has a rotational Presidency changing every two years between France and Spain, being the first president the President of the High Pyrenees General Council during the first two years and a representative of the Government of Aragon during the 2nd ones. On March the 11th 2013, the JCD of PMPWHS met in Tarbes to approve the extension of the JCD by one member for each country (a representative of French livestock breeders and a representative of the Spanish Autonomous National Parks Agency), consider the management report corresponding to 2012, provide information about the extension of the Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve, deal with the management plan and the proposed modification of the POCTEFA project and provide information on the decision adopted by the World Heritage Board at its 36th session on July 2012 in St. Petersburg. On December the 18th 2013 the JCD PMPWHS met in Tarbes to approve the joint report on the management of the PMPWHS, deal with the modification of the Declaration of universal exceptional value, deal with the processing of the periodical report of the site, and pass the Presidency of the JCD to the Counselor for Agriculture, Livestock and Environment of the Aragon Government and the JCD's secretary to the Director of the OMPNP during the two period of 2014-2015. Finally the Directors of the JCD met in Huesca on May the 6th to approve the periodic report of the PMPWHS; approve the modification of the Declaration of universal exception value, to know the advances in the elaboration of the management plan of PMPWHS and present the book "El camino histórico del Puerto de Bujaruelo". Furthermore, the JCD counts on a technical group of 3 people per country made up of a representative of the State, another from the regional or autonomous administration (on the Spanish side, it is the Director of the OMPNP) and another from the local administration. This group has met regularly since the settlement of the JCD to prepare the meetings, coordinate the joint reports and follow up on the elaboration of the management plan of the PMPWHS.

Also within the framework of the PMPWHS and related to the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, various acts were carried out in 2012: Throughout the year a documentary film was projected once in the morning and again in the afternoon in the projection room of the visitors centre of the OMPNP in Torla, on September the 14th 2012 there was an act organised by the Institute of Spanish Cultural Heritage (IPCE) in Madrid, at which the Director of OMPNP took part as representative of the Cultural Landscape of Monte Perdido speaking about the characteristics and management of the PMPWHS. On September the 16th 2012 the Sobrarbe District organised the "Geodía 40th anniversary of world Heritage in collaboration with the community of Communes Gédre-Gavarnie at which personal from PNP and OMPNP took part and which consisted of a cross frontier geological trip from both sides of the frontier and joining up at Bernatuarra Lake; on October 22nd to 24th 2012 in Santiago de Compostela, the local council and the Secretary of State for Culture organised the VI meeting of managers of World Heritage Sites where the director of OMPNP was invited to present the paper "the management of a Natural World Heritage site and the policy of sustainable development. The example Pyrenees-Monte Perdido".

Finally within the framework of POCTEFA, a cross frontier project in which PNP and OMPNP participate as well as the General Directors of the Cultural Heritage of the Aragon Government, the High Pyrenees General Council, the Community of Gédre-Gavarnie, the Union Commission of the Valley of Barèges, and as head of the file, the Sobrarbe District have had regular meeting for coordination among

its members. Among the work included in the POCTEFA there is a biannual action 2012- 2013 which has been prolonged into 2014, included in the action 3 “Getting to know and promoting the heritage” consisting of the joint edition by both National Parks of common informative material which is pinpointed in the publication of a book about the Torla-Gavarnie way together with the re-issuing of a joint map of the two National Parks. The OMPNP with the supervision of the PNP have ordered the book's edition, published in Spanish, French and English in 2014 and the PNP have been responsible for the re-edition of the map with supervision by the OMPNP- The PNP have just made available to the OMPNP the draft of the map and its revision is about to be finished.

Another of the activities of POCTEFA included in Action 2 “A shared Heritage” is the realisation of day work, one in France and another in Spain on specific themes with the objective of using the conclusions reached in them, in the elaboration of the management plan of PMPWHS; on November the 22nd 2012 the first of them took place in Gèdre with the object of dealing with grazing and the landscape; on June the 19th 2013 the second of them took place in Boltaña on the World Heritage Site as a resource for the development of the territory and fostering of tourism. In both the workdays the assistance and participation of the Director of the OMPNP and the Associate Director of the PNP was counted on.

Another activity in Action 2 “a shared heritage” of POCTEFA consists in bettering the knowledge of the other slope by each country's knowledgeable people. In this way, monitors of the OMPNP and of the Spanish Tourist office visited the French slope of the World Heritage Site on May the 6th and 7th 2013 and on October the 16th and 17th 2014 and monitors from the PNP and the French Tourist office visited the Spanish slope on October the 7th and 8th 2013 and on June the 10th and 11th 2014.

Action 1 “Discovering the heritage” of POCTEFA includes another activity, being the making of an audio visual presentation of the geomorphology of the Pyrenees-Monte Perdido site which is currently carrying out.

The educational activity “Know The Pyrenees-Monte Perdido World Heritage Site” included in the Action 2 “a shared heritage” of POCTEFA which has consisted of the interchange of students from both slopes to the other country's slope. In this way the students from Ainsa and Broto visited Gèdre and Gavarnie and The Pyrenees National Park on June 19th and 20th 2014 while the students from Luz-Saint Sauveur visited Bielsa, Torla and The Ordesa Monte Perdido National Park on June the 23rd, 24th and 25th 2014.

Also within the framework of POCTEFA and within the activities organised by the Sobrarbe District in the European Network of Geoparks week dedicated in Ainsa to the Pyrenees Monte Perdido site, on May the 23rd 2013 the Director of the OMPNP and the Associate Director of PNP presented learned papers on the respective National Parks.

5.- Study the proposal to extend the Park and organise the consultation study.

In this respect there is nothing new other than those indicated in earlier years. A consensus on the possible extension towards the valley of Bujaruelo still doesn't exist, fundamentally because of the high quality of the naturalness and the current state of conservation of the actual National Park which would weaken with the incorporation of new territory (the valley of Bujaruelo) through which an electric high tension line passes at the moment. Notwithstanding this, one of the ten specific objectives that the next approval new PRUG contemplates is to set in motion the extension of the National Park and its peripheral area in the future. For that reason the programme of activities N° 9 of the PRUG derived from the aforementioned specific objective, counts on the following directive: “Establish ways for assessment and collaboration with social agents and public administrations concerned to set in motion the extension of the National Park and its peripheral region of protection,” which result on the activities of: “to undertake a study of the natural resources in the neighbouring territory of the National Park in order to estimate its adaptability to form part of the National Park and a better execution of the objectives of this” and “carry out meetings with administrations and local social agents in order to know the level of acceptance of a possible

extension of the National Park and its peripheral area of protection, taking as a base the report done by the Autonomous National Parks Agency in 2002”.

Notwithstanding the previous, its necessary to emphasise that among the spaces of the Nature Network 2000, the SPA Ordesa and Monte Perdido and the SCI Ordesa-Monte Perdido coincides with the limits of the OMPMP. Furthermore, two SPA, Viñamala and Upper Cinca, partially coincide with the peripheral area of Protection, extending beyond its limits; and eight SCI, Bujaruelo-Garganta of the Navarros, the river Aires basin, river Ara, the moors cave, the high Cinca Valley, River Cinca (Pineta Valley), the Tendeñera and Panticosa pass, Bramatuero and Brazatos, partially coincide with the peripheral area of Protection also extending beyond its limits. On the other hand the Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve was extended in 2013 and counts on an area of 117.364 hectares, in order to include in its core area the whole OMPNP; in its tampon area the whole peripheral area of Protection of the National Park, and in its transitional area to the part of the area of socio-economic influence of the Park which the councils have agreed to include in the Biosphere Reserve as well as the total area of the 5 municipalities of the High Gállego District which formed part of the Biosphere Reserve before its extension. Furthermore, the OMPNP and its peripheral area of protection are within the Sobrarbe District, whose surface area of 220.00, was declared as a Geopark in Belfast on September the 21st 2006 during the Annual Conference of the European Network of Geoparks. Finally, the OMPNP and part of its peripheral protection area are included within the World Heritage Site Pyrenees-Monte Perdido, coinciding also with the Cultural Landscape Pyrenees-Monte Pedido with a surface area of 31.182.55 hectares.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No modifications exist in the management concerning aspects of the environment. The only modification concerning financial resources is that the State didn't apport funds for the grants in the social economic area of influence in 2013 nor in 2014 and to fill this gap in State financing the Aragon Government has allocated funds for this objective.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes of limits exist. Maps of the other protected areas which one included in OMPNP and the peripheral areas of protection are attached. Network Nature 2000, Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site and Geopark.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

No comments

23. Store Mosse National Park – Sweden

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions are listed in the Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)14 on the renewal of the European Diploma.
No conditions are listed in the Resolution (88)11 on the award of the European Diploma.

Therefore there are no conditions to be explained.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. *Hydrological survey and completion of management plan:* The hydrological survey takes place every second year and next time will be during 2015. Therefore no survey was conducted during 2014. Work with management plan has been ongoing and the park management staff has fulfilled its part. Sadly the same cannot be said for the central authority (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency). The latter has not allocated sufficient funds for the work and therefore no decision has been made. Estimated time for completion of the new management plan is May 2015.

2. *Changing inflow of water to Lakes Häradsösjön and Kävsjön:* No changes in inflow have been recorded during 2014 but the situation is not favorable for the birdlife or the habitats in or around the lakes. In the draft to the new management plan new and better management actions for the water flow in and out of the lakes are proposed. Hopefully we can start to work according to these new actions in late 2015.

3. *Monitor the situation of bark beetles (Ips typographus):* The bark beetles are not a problem in the surrounding forest any more. No connections can be made between the bark beetles in the park and damages in the forest landscape. No actions have been undertaken.

4. *Promote scientific research:* We actively cooperate with universities in Sweden and Europe but the interest from their part is sometimes low. There are different scientific research programmes running in the park. We have limited resources to conduct scientific research on our own so cooperation with other organisations are desirable. Store Mosse are part of the nationwide research projected conducted by the SEPA but it so far only covers certain habitats in the park.

5. *Pursue the work on extending the protected area:* All remaining issues regarding land ownership are now completed but that only solves problem within the park. Work with appointing the adjacent Långö Mosse and previous Lake Svanasjön as nature reserve is undergoing. The land within that nature reserve is the same hydrological system as the national park.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The funding for management was slightly decreased for 2014, especially for the visitors' center. Although the staff remained the same, 1.8 full time employees in the national park and 2.0 full time employees in the visitors center in the national park.

The funding situation for 2015 is due to the parliamentary situation very unclear. Hopefully we will receive substantial increase in funds. The decision will be taken in December 2015

The national park staff has worked with normal management such as maintenance of trails and other facilities for visitors, actions for preserve and increase the biological diversity in the park and information to park visitors.

One special area that needs to be mentioned is that we have created artificial floating islands in Lake Kävsjön to facilitate breeding and nesting of black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). The black-headed gull has bred in the lake earlier but the above mentioned difficulties with water levels have decreased the number of breeding pairs.

Another interesting subject is the Junior Ranger programme in cooperation with Europarc that we have conducted during 2014. A total of 11 youths aged 12 to 14 years have participated in the programme and learned about national park management and Ranger work.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes have been made, except for the remaining land ownership issues that are explained above. But these areas are completely within the national park boundaries and therefore do not change its outer perimeter.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Nothing that springs to mind other than that the Award of the European Diploma of protected areas is important, especially for the international visitors coming to the park. The award is important for the prestige and status of the Store Mosse National Park. Although more marketing of the diploma on a European level are probably necessary.

24. Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves - Sweden

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. The management plans for the two nature reserves have not yet been updated.
2. Talks with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency about making the Bullerö nature reserve a national park are at the moment resting.
3. The proliferation of toxic algae in the archipelago is being assessed on a regular basis.
4. The sources of disturbances in the reserves and the bird sanctuaries are being supervised. The efforts to limit the mink population continue.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. The management plans for the two nature reserves have not yet been updated.
2. Talks with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency about making the Bullerö nature reserve a national park are at the moment resting.
3. The proliferation of toxic algae in the archipelago is being assessed on a regular basis.
4. The sources of disturbances in the reserves and the bird sanctuaries are being supervised. The efforts to limit the mink population continue.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

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25. Montecristo Island Nature Reserve – Italy

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No conditions were attached to the renewal

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. in co-operation with the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, finalise and implement the Territorial Information System (TIS) for the planning of management initiatives; **All the informations about the reserve are stored in a Information System, used for the management activities.**

2. under the TIS, map the vegetation types present in the reserve, and in particular quantify the spread and distribution of *Ailanthus* populations on the island with a view to control measures; **The Ailanthus has been almost totally eradicated thanks to the Project LIFE 08/NAT/IT/000353 “Montecristo2010”. Monitoring activities are ongoing and will be carried on until 2019 at least, according to the After Life conservation program. More informations can be obtained visiting the project website www.montecristo2010.it The Ailanthus map was the first step for a working plan for the invasive eradication, and was one of the LIFE project deliveries.**

3. limit the spread of *Ailanthus* as far as possible through selective systems and explore the possibility of eradicating it; **See above n. 2**

4. pursue efforts to regenerate the population of oak trees by monitoring and conducting regular checks on their development; **An action implemented in Life project mentioned above included the building of fences to preserve natural vegetation from goats. In these areas many helm oak seedlings have been planted. the acorn for seedlings production were collected from the old trees in Montecristo. Also a collezione for ex situ conservation is maintained in the National Center for Biodiversity Conservation, together with other important species such as *Arbutus unedo*, *Myrtus communis*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Dryopteris tyrrena*. Another ongoing LIFE project, LIFE13 nat/it/000471 RESTO CON LIFE, includes action for vegetation protection and creation of seed banks for Montecristo species provenances.**

5. maintain the island's goat population at its current level and take steps to protect the other components of the ecosystem which are under particular threat from the goat population; **Again in project LIFE Montecristo2010 special action for goat preservation were performed. Every year a**

population census is carried out, and 13 samples were equipped with gps collar for monitoring. The wild goat population amount is quite stable and shows a good resilience. Five goats have been moved from Montecristo to the Bioparco in Rome, for ex situ conservation and for project demopnstration to a wide audience (about 600.000 visitors per year). This little population is increasing.

6. continue to apply the quota of 1 000 visitors a year recommended when the European Diploma was awarded and pursue the feasibility study on setting up a remote surveillance system; maintain arrangements for supervising groups of visitors; **The limit was met and a remote surveillance system was settled by the Coast Guard, for illegal income prevention. A wider surveillance system will be settled in the next 2015, for a complete monitoring. Visitors are guided by Forest personnel and are not allowed to go to the tracks alone.**

7. pursue discussion and investigations with a view to replacing the diesel generator and using renewable energy sources on the island; **The project and the funding for the replacement have been stated. In the next 2015 we predict to be able to set some photovoltaic panels and a little wind mill, so that the diesel generator will be used only in case of emergency**

8. gain more in-depth knowledge of the flora and fauna; **the above mentioned LIFE projects allowed to gain such knowledge.**

9. inform the secretariat of the progress made in securing approval of the reserve's management plan by the Tuscan regional authorities. **The National Park's Management Plan has been adopted in 2010.**

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes reported

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes reported

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

The project LIFE Montecristo2010 achieved the eradication of black rat. After that nesting Yeolkuan shearwater reproductive success increased from almost 0 to over 90%. Several benefits was observed on the conservation status of other species after rat eradication.

For this positively conticted action, the project was chosen among the 163 participants to to Natura 2000 Award 2014 as one of the 22 finalist. The awartding ceremony took place in Bruxelles on May 21th. Tho project didn't achieve the prize, but just participation as the only italian project was satisfactory anyway.

We are sure that we started a new age fo Montecristo protection, anf for habitat restoration on the Island.

Goat conservation is an important issue that must be seriously faced in the next years. Goat is the "third invasive alien" after tree of heaven and the rat, and severely limitates the natural vegetation. It i a real threat to the conservation of the habitats in Montecristo, as it inhibits the renewal of oaks and actually of every other species.

26. Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve – Germany

1. Conditions for extension of the European Diploma

No conditions have been imposed

2. Recommendations for extension of the European Diploma

Recommendation 1:

The peat eco-museum in the outlying area of the reserve will constitute a new attraction. It should provide information about protection issues, and appropriate facilities – in particular a tall tower with a panoramic view – should be installed. Funding should preferably be sought on a partnership basis.

Re. Recommendation 1:

The Peat Museum with the Peat Railway and Peat Educational Trail has evolved into an attraction and an important and well-attended building block of the educational work carried out in the Wurzacher Ried, with annual visitor numbers reaching around 15,000. It is generously run on a voluntary basis by the local culture and heritage preservation society “Wurzen”. It has regrettably not yet been possible to implement the planned viewing tower. However, there are still plans to expand the educational facilities and add the viewing tower.

Recommendation 2:

The scale of the projects carried out by a small permanent team is considerable. The special effort made to provide guided tours and cater for school parties deserves support. It is necessary to find means of obtaining such support in consultation with the education authorities.

Re. Recommendation 2:

In the Nature Conservation Centre Wurzacher Ried, just under 300 events and projects are executed every year, which are attended by around 22,000 visitors. Around 80 projects in particular are aimed at children, youngsters and school classes within the framework of the nature study curriculum, and these are attended by around 1,500 participants.

Contact has been made with the responsible Education Ministry with a view to arranging for an increase in staffing for the Nature Conservation Centre team by the school administration authorities, regrettably to date without success. During the year under review, 16 voluntary moor guides were trained by the Nature Conservation Centre. These new recruits are already integrated into the educational program, and have made a considerable difference to reducing the workload of the Nature Conservation Centre team.

Recommendation 3:

The B465 trunk road that cuts across the Ried is now less of a problem, thanks to the measures taken. In the medium or longer term, the downgrading of the road should make it possible to eliminate motor vehicle traffic, in favour of pedestrians and cyclists.

Re. Recommendation 3:

Now that the recommendations of the European Council have been successfully implemented on the relevant road section of the B 465, there are currently no further changes to report.

Recommendation 4:

The areas cultivated with maize on the slopes surrounding the peat bog should be restricted, for example by buying up land. This would also have a beneficial impact on the quality of the water.

Recommendation 5:

The major effort made to buy up land in the outlying area should continue. The problem concerning the slopes of Albers, where five hectares that have been purchased are still being intensively farmed, needs to be addressed.

Re. Recommendation 4 und 5:

The acquisition of land will be continued as the financial circumstances of the State of Baden-Württemberg and the existing offers from private land owners allow. Intensive efforts are currently being made to possibly acquire of the hillside areas around Albers.

Recommendation 6:

The proliferation of high-voltage power lines over the outlying area is blighting the landscape. Requests that they be buried must continue to be reiterated, even if the costs are high.

Re. Recommendation 6:

In respect of the demolition or underground laying of high-voltage conductors in Wurzacher Ried nature reserve, contact has been made with the responsible utility company. However, to date no suitable measures have been achieved.

3. Site management

In the renaturation areas, the vegetation development initiated in line with the stipulations of the maintenance and development plan progressed further. Overall, the waterlogging areas are developing as hoped and in various reed moor areas gratifying regeneration tendencies are in evidence with increased peat moss growth. The irrigation measures have permitted the undergrowth proliferation and forestation of the moor to be significantly reduced. The damming activity of the beavers (castor fiber) in residence since the year 2000 is supporting this development. The beaver population remains stable with 6 – 7 families.

The maintenance and development work carried out in cooperation with local farmers within the maintenance and extensivation zone has been continued as in past years in accordance with the maintenance and development plan (appr. 300 hectares; 35 local farmers).

The same level of scientific monitoring as previously has also been continued during the period under review.

The most important informative facility for visitors is the Bad Wurzach Nature Conservation Centre. During the year under review, around 280 environmental education events were offered here, and the Centre was visited by around 22,000 guests. The new exhibition “MOOR EXTREM” opened in 2013 at a financial cost of around 800,000 Euro is still enjoying increasing popularity. The final relocation of the administrative wing of the Nature Conservation Centre into the renovated historic monastery building Marie Rosengarten is expected to take place by the end of 2015.

4. Site boundaries

There were no changes in the year under review

5. Further information

A proposal for an industrial estate planned to be constructed on the Haidgauer Heide in the direct vicinity of the Wurzacher Ried European Diploma Region was reviewed by the Administrative Court of Mannheim in the spring of 2014 and rejected. This allowed any detrimental effects to be avoided right from the planning phase.

Within the framework of endeavours to encourage regenerative forms of energy creation, to date it has been possible to eliminate the Wurzbacher Basin as a possible location for the installation of wind power plants, partially also on the basis of recommendations to this effect by the European Council.

27. Berchtesgaden National Park – Germany

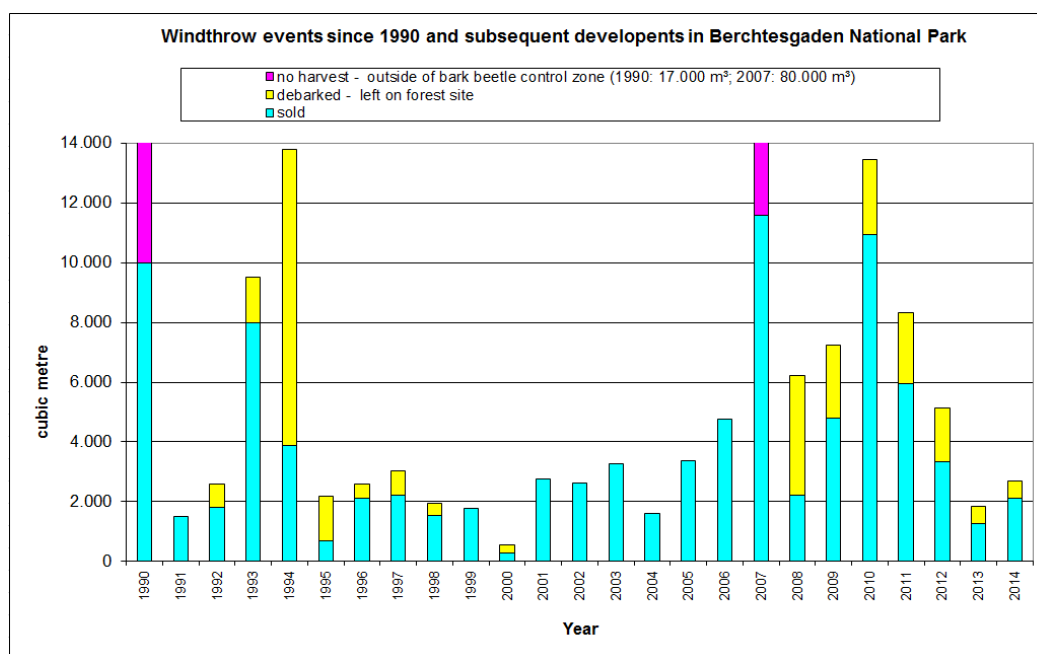
- a. Prepare and adopt by 2012 a new management plan including quantitative objectives to be reached during the following period and, to this effect, provide the necessary financial and human resources

Within the department being responsible for the planning purposes new staff members could be employed in August/September 2014, unfortunately due to financial restrictions the contracts could only be concluded until December 2015.

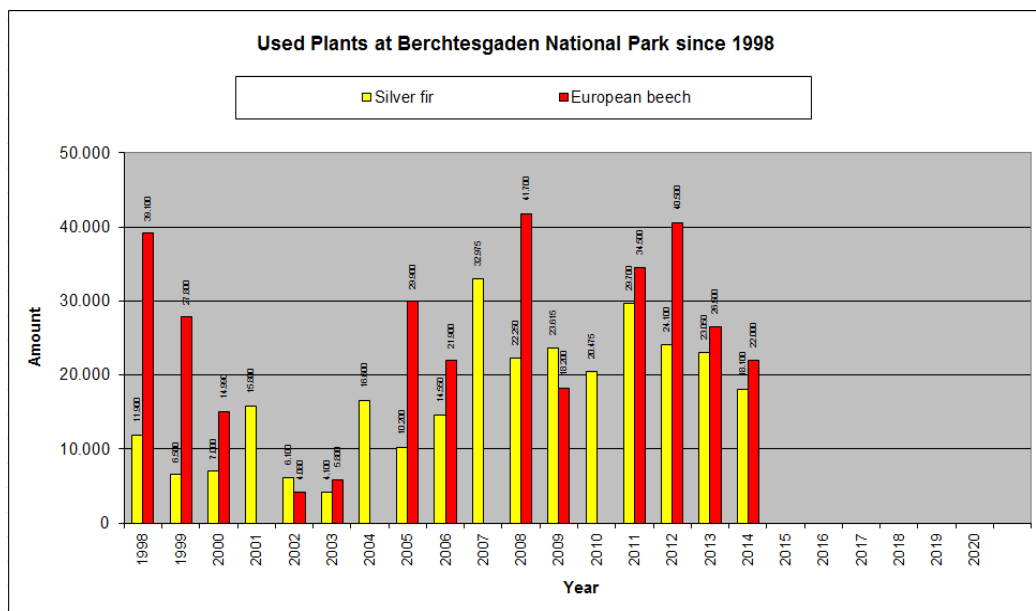
Safeguarding these additional staff capacities will be essential to make progress with the management plan.

- b. Prepare sectoral plans for activities and the use of resources that are compatible with conservation objectives
- c. Transformation of spruce forests into mixed forests - control bark beetle - maintain game browsing at an acceptable level.

Caused by two large-scale wind throw events in 2007 (“Kyrill”) and 2008 (“Emma”) Berchtesgaden National Park was heavily affected by a bark beetle calamity between 2009 and 2012. Therefore, most parts of human resources and capital had to be appointed to combat bark beetle infestation within the bark beetle management zone. Due to the intensive bark beetle control, the infestation decreased from 14.000 m³ in 2010 to 8.000 m³ in 2011 and approximately 1.500 m³ in 2012. In 2013 and in 2014, there was still a clear decline in newly damaged spruce trees. Only 300 m³ of in total 1400 m³ of timber cut in the national park was attacked by bark beetles in 2014. The 300 m³ were debarked and left on forest site (yellow column). The high proportion of debarked wood, left on the poor sites, is necessary due to sustainable site fertility and for deadwood restricted organisms.



The forest gaps were used to re-establish mixed forests with planted Silver fir (18.100) and European beech (22.000). Additionally, the forest conversion was continued by establishing small scale patchy gaps in young pure spruce stands. Regulation of game within the management zone of the National Park is of outstanding importance to enable the rejuvenation of close to nature forest types and conversion of unnatural spruce forests. Therefore, game control will be still enforced in 2014 and the following years.



- d. The scientific project “Forest development after bark beetle induced spruce die-back in Alpine mountain forests” showed clearly effects on biodiversity of vascular plants, wood-decaying fungi, mollusks and selected species groups of arthropods as well as tree natural regeneration. The study demonstrates the conservation potential of strict large-scale nature reserves as National Parks in cultural landscapes like Central Europe and indicates a gradual recovery of unmanaged forest ecosystems. In summary, non-intervening to the bark beetle calamities in the core zone of the National park leads to large-scale, rich forest structures and habitat conditions that support the maintenance of biodiversity.
- e. Pursue the collaboration with the Austrian administration and the Nature Park and develop synergies with the Berchtesgaden Alps Biosphere Reserve and the Natura 2000 network; promote exchanges of best management practices with other alpine protected areas
- f. In the course of the project ECONNECT the collaboration with the Austrian administration as well as with the Nature Park Weißbach was successfully intensified in 2011. ECONNECT (which was completed in November 2011) was part of the commitment of the Berchtesgaden National Park Administration to support the establishment of an ecological network in the transboundary pilot region "Berchtesgaden-Salzburg". ECONNECT facilitated the implementation of several measures aiming at the improvement of connectivity in the region. The planning and implementation of these activities have been organised together with the protected areas in the region in a participatory process which involved stakeholders from several sectors. Focus areas of activities were extensively utilised grasslands (including Natura 2000 sites), the revitalisation of a river, and connectivity for amphibians along roads. Additionally to these specific activities a workshop was organised to bring together experts and stakeholders from the field of spatial planning in Germany and Austria in order to develop recommendations regarding the integration of ecological connectivity into planning instruments.
- g. The regional process for ecological connectivity has proved to be very positive. The participatory approach increased the awareness and acceptance of the issue of connectivity in the region and allowed for the development of strong partnerships. Based on the additional financial resources provided by the Bavarian Ministry for Environment and Consumer Protection a contract of cooperation was signed between the National Park administration and the five communities in the foreground of the National Park (Markt Berchtesgaden, Gemeinde Bischofswiesen, Markt Schellenberg, Gemeinde Ramsau b. Berchtesgaden, Gemeinde Schönau a.Königssee) to establish

landscape- and area use – plannings for the communities as well as a landscape frame planning for the National Park and its forefield. The plannings already exist as drafts and are at present in the public proceedings. Therefore the main results of ECONNECT will be transferred and fixed in legal binding plannings.

- h. The strong cooperation with partners in the region (protected areas as well as relevant stakeholders of different sectors) which was build up during the project had and has a great potential to contribute to the conservation of Alpine biodiversity.
- i. The establishment of the National Park Centre “Haus der Berge” in the public by increasing the marketing strategies, especially to bus companies has been successful - but is also still in flow. Up to 16 months after opening of the centre, there have been more than 360,000 visitors in the information centre as well as about 140,000 visitors in the exhibition “Vertical Wilderness”. These numbers show that the “Haus der Berge” is meanwhile universally accepted as a meeting place for the public and other partners. An important point in that context still are different, regularly talks in different local boards as well as events by many different regional and local partners. The National Park administration was not able to adapt the number of staff to this development, but was able to buffer possible negative trends by setting a sufficient number of trainees. The main exhibition has been optimized on the basis of the results of a one-year evaluation, which has been conducted by a company from Berlin. The area in the ground floor, which is rather planned for a shop, is still used as an area for changing exhibitions. The outdoor area is completely sited and will be completed by playground-area in 2015. The homepage www.haus-der-berge.bayern.de has been recruited. The programmes within the education centre have been enlarged and already reached a capacity which cannot be increased because of too less staff. The other, smaller information centres will be optimized in the future e. g. the so called “Klausbachhaus” is getting a new exhibition expected in 2015. The outdoor area of the information centre “Wimbachbrücke” has been enlarged and enhanced.

28. Ecrins National Park – France

2

1. Conditions liées à l'obtention du diplôme

La résolution CM/ResDip(2010)14 relative au renouvellement du diplôme européen du Parc national des Ecrins jusqu'au 17 juillet 2020, n'a pas été assortie de conditions, mais de 10 recommandations, rappelées au point « 2 » du présent rapport.

2. Suivi des recommandations



Rec. 2.1. Conforter les partenariats avec les communes du parc, les intercommunalités et les projets de territoire afin de développer les synergies nécessaires à la réalisation d'une politique exemplaire de préservation du patrimoine dans une perspective de développement durable

La phase d'adhésion des communes à la charte du Parc national s'est achevée en juillet 2013 avec 78% de communes adhérentes (46 sur 59). Le Parc national a animé une réflexion auprès des communes et intercommunalités, pour identifier les projets sur les 3 ans à venir qui répondent aux objectifs de la charte et contribueront à sa mise en œuvre. L'appui apporté par l'établissement public auprès des collectivités a porté sur un accompagnement dans la définition des projets, un partenariat technique dans leur réalisation, un appui en matière d'ingénierie financière et dans certains cas une participation financière.

Le partenariat entre les communes ou intercommunalités et le Parc national a été formalisé par des conventions d'application de la charte signées pour 3 ans. A la date d'émission du présent rapport, 36 des 46 communes adhérentes (78 %) ont signé la convention de partenariat. Au 31 décembre 2014, le Parc national devrait avoir finalisé une convention de partenariat avec chacune des 46 communes adhérentes et engagé une démarche analogue auprès des intercommunalités.

Ce travail se poursuivra en 2015. Des contrats de partenariat seront également signés avec d'autres structures comme les chambres consulaires et quelques associations représentatives.

Dans une perspective d'accueil et de sensibilisation des publics, différents projets partenariaux structurants ont abouti dès 2014. C'est le cas, notamment de :

- la maison du Parc de Vallouise, entièrement rénovée et qui offre une nouvelle scénographie à destination des visiteurs. Elle a été inaugurée le 5 juillet 2014 par Madame la Ministre Ségolène Royal.
 - la salle audiovisuelle de la maison du parc du Bourg d'Oisans, inaugurée le 20 septembre 2014.
- Il s'agit d'un projet conduit en lien étroit avec la commune, cette salle faisant aussi office de salle de cinéma communale.

Rec. 2.2. Renforcer les dispositifs de recueil permanent, de catalogage et de diffusion des données patrimoniales, avec une attention particulière aux données culturelles et celles relatives aux savoir-faire locaux, et rendre compte de l'expertise développée par le parc et ses partenaires en application de la charte

2014 est une « année charnière » pour la gestion de données environnementales. La « geo-data base » a été réalisée et mise à disposition de tous les agents du Parc national des Ecrins. Dans le cadre du Système d'information sur la nature et les paysages (SINP), le Parc national a livré, au Ministère de l'écologie, à ce jour 471 230 données, soit 50% des données fournies par l'ensemble des parcs nationaux.

La mise en place des plates-formes régionales du SINP a notablement limité les demandes de données directement formulées auprès de l'établissement ; cet outil joue donc pleinement son rôle.

Ainsi en 2014 près d'une dizaine de conventions de mise à disposition ou d'échange de données ont été réalisées, principalement avec des organismes universitaires. Le Parc national a également réalisé des porter à connaissance, constituant autant de situations où la connaissance acquise a pu être valorisée. Pour compléter, l'établissement met à disposition du grand public, via son site Internet, de nombreuses données comme les localisations GPS des bouquetins équipés de balises ou des informations sur les randonnées pédestres. Ces applications sont les premières briques du futur système d'information territoriale. En outre, les partenariats se poursuivent au sein des différents réseaux dont le Parc national est partenaire, on citera en particulier les travaux réalisés au sein du réseau conservation flore « Alpes-Ain » ou la zone atelier Alpes (CNRS-IRSTEA).

Au niveau culturel, les travaux avec le centre de l'oralité alpine (Conseil général des Hautes-Alpes) se sont poursuivis.

Le Parc a par ailleurs collaboré à une étude sur le thème « Changement climatique et alpinisme » dirigée par Philippe Bourdeau (Institut de géographie alpine de Grenoble).
Il a développé une expertise sur la mise en oeuvre de techniques innovantes de suivi des ongulés (bouquetins) au moyen de balises satellites. Les données collectées sont immédiatement mises à disposition du public et des scientifiques (travaux de post-doctorat envisagés).
Enfin, de nombreux partenaires sollicitent le Parc national, pour sa capacité à modéliser et créer des systèmes d'information opérationnels et fiables : rien que pour l'année 2014, les équipes du Parc ont

- fourni une expertise pour la mise à disposition de Geotrek pour 12 parcs (PNR et PN) ;
- contribué à la structuration des données du réseau de veille "Lacs sentinelles" ;
- appuyé le réseau conservation flore « Alpes-Ain » ;
- participé à la conceptualisation de l'organisation des données et méta-données de la zone atelier Alpes (CNRS-IRSTEA).

Rec. 2.3. Positionner le parc national comme sentinelle environnementale, au sein de réseaux d'acteurs institutionnels, en réponse à l'exigence d'observation permanente des changements associés au réchauffement climatique

Dans cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie scientifique de l'établissement, les programmes de monitoring liés au changement climatique sont maintenus ou renforcés.
Le suivi des glaciers se poursuit avec la volonté d'intégrer à terme le réseau « Glacioclim ».
Le programme alpages sentinelles suscite de plus en plus d'intérêt, aussi bien localement (éleveurs, bergers, élus régionaux) que plus largement (PNR du Lubéron et du Haut-Jura, parcs Italiens...).
Pour les lacs sentinelles, un groupement d'intérêt scientifique (GIS) regroupe désormais 14 signataires, ce qui devrait permettre de stabiliser ce réseau d'acteurs et de mobiliser les financements nécessaires.
Enfin, un troisième réseau "sentinelle" est en projet autour des refuges, qui doit permettre de suivre l'évolution des pratiques sportives, de la phénologie et du climat d'altitude, en lien avec le changement climatique.
La réserve intégrale de Lauvitel constitue un dispositif de recherche de premier ordre pour suivre les conséquences des changements globaux du fait de ses dispositifs de mesure (station météo et bathymétrie) ses archives sédimentaires (sédiment du lac) et sa zone sans impact humain direct depuis plus de 50 ans.



Rec. 2.4. Poursuivre, en lien avec les acteurs locaux, le développement de partenariats valorisant les missions d'appui méthodologique, d'évaluation et d'appui technique du parc national, en vue de garantir l'insertion environnementale des activités

Poursuite des actions engagées. Pas d'élément nouveau significatif.

Rec. 2.5 Renforcer le partenariat avec l'Office national des forêts (ONF), les communes forestières et les gestionnaires de la forêt privée (Centres régionaux de la propriété forestière – CRPF) pour inciter à un meilleur échange de données et à la pratique d'une gestion forestière multi-fonctionnelle exemplaire

Des échanges avec l'Office national des Forêts sont en cours, pour arrêter une stratégie relative à la gestion des sentiers en terrain domanial. Il s'agit en particulier de rendre opérationnelles les stratégies départementales de gestion des PDIPR et de clarifier les objectifs relatifs à l'entretien du réseau de sentiers en cœur de parc national.

Rec. 2.6. Perfectionner les méthodes et les outils existants de suivi physionomique du territoire et les outils de sensibilisation, notamment en vue de dégager des axes d'action futurs et de sensibiliser les acteurs du territoire aux grandes évolutions des paysages

Dans le cadre de sa politique d'animation et de prise en compte des enjeux environnementaux, l'établissement public a mis au point une méthode pour la prise en compte du paysage dans les projets d'aménagement et de gestion du territoire. Cette démarche a permis l'élaboration d'un guide pratique : la boîte à outils « Motif Paysages ». Cet outil, support d'une démarche d'accompagnement des porteurs de projets et acteurs du territoire par un apport structuré de connaissance (notamment éléments de tendances socio-économiques) et d'orientations, doit contribuer à de meilleures intégrations et prises en compte dans les projets des milieux et paysages du territoire des Ecrins.

Rec. 2.7. Etre particulièrement attentif au développement des diverses formes d'activités de loisirs et sportives, notamment en améliorant le suivi de la fréquentation en nombre de visiteurs et en sensibilisant les usagers à des pratiques plus respectueuses des espèces et des milieux

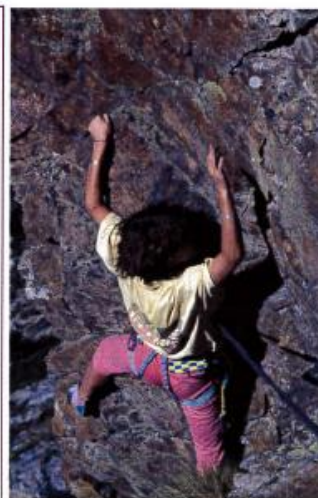
Trois principaux domaines d'intervention pour l'année 2014.

- Animation des conventions concernant les pratiques sportives

Trois conventions formalisent le partenariat entre les fédérations sportives et l'établissement public, pour une meilleure gestion des activités sportives réglementées en cœur de parc. Elles portent sur les pratiques de l'alpinisme, de l'escalade et du canyonisme pour l'une, du vol libre pour la seconde et du vol à voile pour la troisième. Les réunions des comités de pilotage sont régulièrement organisées par l'établissement public, pour faire l'évaluation des pratiques sportives et du respect de la réglementation.

La baisse significative du nombre d'infractions en matière de survol en parapente et en planeur tendrait à prouver la bonne adéquation entre protection de l'espace naturel, sensibilisation des pratiquants et maîtrise des impacts potentiels des pratiques sportives. L'efficacité et la cordialité du dialogue entretenu entre les partenaires concernés ne sont pas étrangères à ce bilan globalement encourageant.

D'autre part, les membres des comités émanant de ces conventions formulent des avis consultatifs sur les demandes d'aménagement soumises à l'autorisation du directeur du Parc national, notamment pour l'équipement de voies d'escalade et certains équipements de sécurité en montagne.



- Outils d'accompagnement de la découverte : la montée en puissance de « Rando-Ecrins »

Dans le domaine de la randonnée, le Parc national propose désormais aux visiteurs, différents outils d'aide à la découverte du territoire et de ses patrimoines, intégrant à la fois des conseils sur le déplacement en montagne, des aspects réglementaires et la valorisation des patrimoines. « Rando Ecrins », l'application en ligne du Parc national s'est étoffée, et certains itinéraires sont à présent traduits en Anglais et en Italien, de façon à s'ouvrir à un plus large public.

- Participation aux travaux sur la Marque, appliquée aux activités d'accompagnement et réflexions sur les activités de pleine nature.

En 2014, le Parc national des Ecrins participe aux travaux du réseau des parcs nationaux, notamment sur la marque « Esprit Parc national ». Cette marque permettra de valoriser entre autres, des activités respectueuses de l'environnement (maîtrise des impacts et sensibilisation des pratiquants). La marque sera déployée au sein du Parc à compter de 2015, en premier lieu auprès des accompagnateurs en montagne.

Rec. 2.8. Assurer le suivi des survols d'engins, motorisés ou non au cœur du parc et contenir les besoins en hélicoptage en engageant avec les alpagistes, les propriétaires et les exploitants des refuges, une réflexion concertée sur la nécessité de réduire les impacts sur les espèces et sur la naturalité des zones parcourues

Pour la période de référence 1^{er} janvier 2015 – 15 octobre 2015, le nombre d'autorisations de survol du cœur n'a pas connu d'évolution significative.

La légère augmentation (+ 6) par rapport à l'année 2013 n'est pas sans rapport avec, d'une part la rénovation du refuge de l'Aigle, et d'autre part la nécessité de transport de cabanes hélicoptables, comme suite à des attaques répétées de Loup en cœur de parc national.

Globalement, la qualité des relations avec les sociétés d'hélicoptage, les refuges et les alpagistes permet un encadrement des pratiques.

A noter, l'organisation d'une formation « hélicoptage » à l'attention des agents du Parc national, à des fins d'amélioration des conditions de sécurité en cours d'opération.

Rec. 2.9. Poursuivre, en lien avec la stratégie nationale, les actions de coopération et de solidarité avec le monde rural afin de concilier au mieux le retour des grands prédateurs avec les activités pastorales

2014 est une année de participation active aux constats de prédation par les grands prédateurs (dont le coordination est assurée par les DDT 05 et 38). Les statistiques au 15 octobre indiquent un triplement du nombre des attaques de Loup sur les troupeaux en 2014 par rapport aux années précédentes.

La mise en place d'un plan d'intervention d'urgence (hélicoptage de cabanes temporaires, présence accrue sur le terrain des agents du Parc, aide à la mise en place d'un réseau radio pour les bergers...) est décidée, comme suite à des attaques répétées de troupeaux en cœur de parc dans la vallée du Valgaudemar.

Par ailleurs, l'établissement participe activement au groupe de travail « cœurs de parcs nationaux et réserves naturelles », mis en place par les ministères en charge de l'écologie et de l'agriculture, en application des « principes de gestion différenciée » prévus par le plan d'action Loup 2013/2017, et en cohérence avec la charte du parc national (orientations 3.2 et 3.6). En résulte l'élaboration d'un panel de propositions, visant, dans les champs de la connaissance et de la gestion, à accompagner le retour du Loup dans les espaces protégés.

A la fin de l'été 2014, une action de sensibilisation des communes du parc national permet de les inciter à engager des travaux d'amélioration ou de construction de cabanes d'alpage, dans des secteurs où les enjeux d'amélioration des pratiques pastorales le justifient. Des demandes de subvention en ce sens sont déposées auprès de l'établissement par les maîtres d'ouvrages.

Un plan d'actions Loup est adopté par le Conseil d'administration du 14 novembre.

Une réflexion est en cours, pour le montage d'un projet inter-parcs dans ce domaine.



Rec. 10. Finaliser la charte et par la suite réaliser son évaluation périodique, ainsi que celle des conventions et des programmes d'action pris en son application, et procéder à des ajustements si nécessaire.

Le processus d'adhésion à la charte est clos depuis le 9 juillet 2013. Il s'est soldé par l'adhésion de 46 communes.

Le programme d'actions pour la mise en œuvre de la charte

On notera pour l'année 2014,

- la finalisation du programme d'actions de la charte (programme sur 3 ans recensant l'ensemble des actions portées par les partenaires)
- la signature des conventions d'application de la charte avec 36 des 46 communes adhérentes à la date du 30 octobre (les autres signatures sont attendues d'ici la fin de l'année 2014)
- la signature de conventions avec les autres collectivités territoriales a débuté et se poursuivra en 2015 de même que la signature de contrats de partenariat avec d'autres partenaires (chambres consulaires, associations...)



- la préparation d'une convention entre la Région Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur et les 4 Parcs nationaux de cette région. La finalisation du projet de convention devrait donner lieu à une signature officielle en décembre 2014.

Mise en place du dispositif d'évaluation de la charte

2014 et l'année ...

- de la participation active de l'établissement au groupe de travail inter-parcs support de la mise en place de l'évaluation des chartes ;
- de la mise en place d'un groupe de travail avec le Conseil scientifique, en vue de consolider le processus d'évaluation.

Après ces deux premières étapes suivront la présentation au Conseil scientifique et au Conseil d'administration du processus finalisé d'évaluation de la charte et la mise en place des processus opérationnels (outils et procédures de suivi, etc.).

En 2014, le Parc national a procédé à l'évaluation des outils disponibles pour le suivi des programmes d'actions et d'évaluation de la charte. Cela a donné lieu, dans le cadre des travaux pilotés par Parcs nationaux de France, au test de l'outil « Eva » utilisé par les PNR pour le suivi et l'évaluation de leur charte. Le PNE a été « parc pilote », pour la communauté des parcs nationaux, pour le test de ce nouvel outil.

La préparation d'une seconde vague d'adhésion à la charte

Les communes n'ayant pas désiré adhérer à la charte en 2013 ont la possibilité de solliciter, cette fois-ci auprès du Conseil d'administration, leur adhésion pour la durée restant de validité de la charte.

L'échéance pour un conseil municipal n'ayant pas adhéré en 2013, pour délibérer à nouveau en vue d'une demande d'adhésion, est fixée au 31 décembre 2015.

Afin, notamment de répondre aux interrogations des nouvelles équipes municipales (post élections municipales du printemps 2014) et d'accompagner les élus dans leur réflexion, une série de rencontres avec les conseils municipaux est engagée.

Ces contacts se poursuivront tout au long de l'année 2015.

3. Gestion du site

Moyens humains et financiers

L'année 2014 est caractérisée par de fortes tensions budgétaires, liées au contexte de réduction de la dette publique. La tension sur les effectifs se traduit notamment par une moindre capacité à recruter des agents saisonniers pour l'entretien des sentiers.

S'agissant de l'optimisation des missions, des moyens et de l'organisation, de l'établissement public met en œuvre du second volet de sa réorganisation, qui prévoit notamment la fusion de secteurs administratifs, sans pour autant amoindrir la présence des agents sur le terrain, l'effectif des gardes moniteurs étant globalement préservé. La fusion effective des secteurs débutera en 2015.

Durant l'été 2014, on notera des difficultés accrues de gestion des missions sur le terrain, dans un contexte estival d'accroissement très important des attaques de cheptels par les grands prédateurs.

Ce contexte critique motive une forte implication de l'établissement dans les réflexions nationales, visant à un meilleur accompagnement du retour du Loup.

4. Frontières

Pas d'élément nouveau significatif.

5. Autres informations

Comme suite aux délibérations favorables des communes de Le Monétier-Les Bains, Villar-d'Arène et Pelvoux (2013), les premiers contacts sont établis avec les services de l'Etat, en vue de préciser les procédures et d'anticiper la préparation des dossiers d'enquête publique.

Il s'agit, en application de la mesure 3.2.3. de la charte, « gérer les réserves naturelles nationales contiguës au cœur du parc et envisager leur évolution » d'intégrer en cœur de parc national, les réserves naturelles du « Torrent de Saint-Pierre » et des « Versants nord des pics du Combeynot ».

La procédure se déroulera tout au long de l'année 2015.

Pour le directeur du Parc national des Ecrins,
Le Directeur-adjoint,
Thierry DURAND.



29. Maremma Regional Park – Italy

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

To give importance to the points of view of the Scientific Council: this condition was amply satisfied in 2011 too (year of renewal of the European Diploma), thanks to the Park Plan of 2008, made, overall following the recommendations by the Scientific Council. It represents a summary between the necessity to protect the biodiversity and the landscape of the area, and the necessity of a balanced socio-economic development.

Today the Scientific Council attends in every situation where the Park has to take action about the management of specific areas (forest management, wild fauna management, research plans, and actions against the coastal erosion). In all these cases it has been always possible to work together with full harmony, with the Scientific Council.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. To develop, in cooperation with the local in charge authorities, a plan for the management of the Ombrone river final flow: to verify the ecological condition of the Ombrone river final flow and the surrounding habitat, the Park is making a monitoring about the granulometry of the soil, the water, the plant communities in the different habitats (the Pine wood, the dunes and the wetlands), the arthropod communities, the fish communities, the dynamism of *C. nodosa* and the birds communities. It will be useful to have the essential knowledges to begin possible management actions by all the local in charge authorities.

The Tuscany Region has identified this area as a sea SIC area.

2. To follow and to develop the wolf return program and to value its effect on the demography of wild ungulates population: the Park is one of the partner of the EU Life Ibriwolf project, now in progress, but today any wolf lives in the area of the Park. The last data:

- 2006-2011: presence of 1 herd. Reproduction in 2006, in 2007 and in 2008. Herd size: from 4 to 7 animals. 2009-2011: 2 animals, without reproduction. Some huntings of domestic mammals (sheep overall), but the diet was made overall by wild ungulates (about 90%), and the fallow deer was the main prey (about 50%).
- 2012-2013: presence of 1 animal.
- 2 series of capture of 14, 15 days each in the south area of the Park, during the months of November and December 2012 (Ibriwolf Project), totally negative.
- 2013-2014: any presence and a series of wolf-howling during the month of July 2014 has been totally negative.

3. To extend the Regional Park to the sea environment following the indications of the biodiversity and protected areas convention (Curitiba, 2006; Dec. VIII/24):

- All studies on the sea protected area are included in the three-years plan of scientific research.
- An office to a marine biologist has been given.
- All necessary studies to fill in the format of request for the Environment Ministry, have been taken.

- From January 2015 a series of meetings between the Park and the stakeholders will be organized, to discuss together the proposal of management of the sea protected area, to send to the Environment Ministry.

4. To nominate the Trappola area as an international important wetland, following the Ramsar Convention on wetlands: the Trappola area has been included in the wetlands areas of Ramsar Convention. DM 304 21/10/2013.

5. To increase the human resources for the control of the protected area: it's isn't possible increase the human resources of the Park because national and regional directives have stopped the employments.

6. To increase the technical support to local small business to develop organic agricultural activities and the promotion of local products and services:

- The Park trademark: during this year a series of meeting with the local business have been organized and the idea to create a Park trademark has been illustrated during the last two meetings. The proposal is to work together to a guideline draft of the trademark to register it to the authority in charge.

- CETS: European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. During the last meeting with the local business the Park illustrated the intent to start the process to join the Charter.

7. To develop the anthropological element in the Park and to protect it: from April to November 2015 the exposition "Romani di Alberese" will be at the Park offices. The exposition will show the restored archeological finds of the "Scoglietto" and "Spolverino" sites. This year the site of "Scoglietto" has been concluded. About "Spolverino", we have three active site areas and a new archeological area has been located and started during the last summer 2014.

8. To ensure a good level of funding for the increasing needs for the good management of the protected area: actually the situation is getting worse, not only because the global crisis, but because the recession of Italy, today in progress. It has caused a decrease of regional and local fundings. Beyond expectation the number of visitors from the 1st January to the 31 October 2014 is about 25% more than 2013. This is because the opening of five new horse-riding itineraries, the summer events at the Talamone Aquarium and Sea Turtles Rescue Center and the website constantly update.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Increase of the beach in the area of Marina di Alberese, thanks to the works done during these last years against the coastal erosion and overall thanks to the building of the sea "brushes".

2. New opening of the Sea Turtles Rescue Center in Talamone, thanks to the authorization by the Environment Ministry.

3. Advisory about the presence of a relict station of *Salamandrina terdigitata* (presence of eggs and larvas) and for this reason the area has a particular way of management.

4. Finances: decrease of regional and local fundings in 2014 compared with 2013.

5. Staff: from this year the wild ungulates control system is done totally by the Park rangers.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No change.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

1. The Park has organized for 2014 too the event “Park’s Festival” during the last two weekends of May. The festival represents an important tourist project about trekking and cultural events in different parks in Tuscany, to celebrate the institution of the first Park in Europe. In the Maremma Park it was possible to participate, free, to a lot of activities: canoe, trekking, horseback, bicycle excursions, tastings and folk show. The result has been a great success about the number of visitors.

2. The “sustainable mobility” project experimented during 2007 and repurposed in the summer 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 is an excellent managerial model aimed to encourage people to use free public transport rather than private cars. This project, combined with the cycle path from Alberese to Marina di Alberese and the automatic system of the parking area, represents a low environmental impact system of access to the beach and an innovative sustainable model of great importance for a protected area. For the last four summers the Park has done a big sacrifice, because there wasn’t any financing from the Region; a symbolic price of 1, 00 and 1, 50 euro for the bus ticket has been asked to visitors.

It’s the fourth winter we have the “shuttle bus on call” service to visit the Maremma Park. The shuttle bus is used only if there are people who want to visit the Park. That is a way to economize and to respect the environment.

During last summer the visitors could rent an electric car at the Alberese Visitor Center, to go to the beach in Marina di Alberese.

3. The success about the reintroduction of osprey. This summer we had 1 juvenile.

4. We participated from 8 to 17 August 2014 to the “Festambiente” Festival in Enaoli with a stand where there was a photographic exhibition about the archeological sites in the Park and a video with a series of Park movies.

5. From 2 November to 4 November the Park, as one of the partner of the Ibrwolf Project, has organized an international conference with foreign speakers about the hybridization. The title was “Hybridization between wild and domestic mammals as a conservation threat and opportunity”, at the Hotel Granduca, in Grosseto.

6. The Park is inside the Tuscany net cetacean mammals and sea turtles observatory. The Park takes part to the Regional Go Green Mare Project and in this moment it’s monitoring and studying the behavior of a sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), recovered at the Talamone Sea Turtles Rescue Center, released and monitored by a GPS system.

7. About the environmental education there is a new didactic project 2014/2015 with relative brochures, about various subjects: prehistory, how to feel the environment, Talamone Aquarium, Maremma Park in general, biodiversity, environment energies, Ombrone river, the sea, the beach and the dune ecological system. All oriented towards the infant, primary and secondary schools. There’s an open didactic laboratory inside the Park.

8. The opening of new 5 horseback itineraries. All to promote and increase the tourist offering. This is very important to increase the economic condition of the different companies in the territory which work with the tourism.

30. Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve – Portugal

I. Conditions:

1. that The Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Selvagens Islands and to unequivocally support the Madeira Regional

Government in all matters concerning the nature reserve, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 15/86 of 21 May 1986: The legal status of the Reserve has not been changed and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur, even considering a far future.

II. Recommendations:

- 1. Continue to take all precautions to ensure that no non-native species of plants and animals are introduced:** No changes or deterioration of the environment occurred and the policies presented on the earlier annual reports still apply.
- 2. Continue to improve the accommodation and the radio/phone system, which provides the capacity for wardens to contact their authorities in Madeira and their families:** A VSAT phone system with national indicative is installed, fundamental for contacts, either with authorities as family. Small reconstruction and maintenance work was carried out at the biological stations of Selvagem Grande and Selvagem Pequena, to provide a better logistic support to the projects on going in the field and the comfort of the visitors.
- 3. Continue the studies to survey the effect of the eradication of the alien species of the flora and fauna for the next few years:** The flora and fauna conservation status is improving due to the success of the alien species eradication project (2001 – 2004) (details given on the 2002 annual report). Monitoring of the main actions of this project, is maintained up to present, involving an intensive monitoring on both flora and fauna: evaluate the effects of the programme on non-target species, namely gecko *Tarentola boettgeri* and pipit *Anthus berthelotii*; evaluate quantitatively the regeneration of the natural habitats of the island. Qualitative and quantitative data is being obtained every year and reports are being produced accordingly. During 2014, local and foreign scientists develop various research projects in the fields of flora and fauna in Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora.
- 4. Make efforts to eliminate the breeding of the Yellow-legged Gull (*L. m. atlantis*) on Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora:** Although the yellow-legged gull (Atlantic form) *Larus michahellis atlantis* should not be considered an alien species, there is a constant effort to prevent their breeding on the islands (Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Fora). Due to the remoteness of Selvagens Islands and to their characteristics this is an easy and forward task.
- 5. Increase the awareness of the importance of the cultural and geological heritage:** No changes occurred and the policies presented on the earlier annual reports still apply.
- 6. Continue the programme of reconstruction of the remaining unrestored rubble walls:** Most of the remaining unrestored rubble walls of the plateau are now well preserved and maintenance efforts are considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Island.

III. Site management

Changes in legislation or regulations: Legislation and regulation were relevantly improved: Selvagens Islands are a Nature 2000 Network Special Protection Area (SPA), which was expanded to offshore areas by Decreto Regulamentar Regional nr. 3/2014/M (for details refer to: <http://www.gov-madeira.pt/joram/1serie/Ano%20de%202014/ISerie-033-2014-03-03.pdf>).

Infringement of regulations and damages: During 2014, three significant infringements occurred. One regarding the unauthorized presence of two Spanish citizens in Selvagem Pequena and two regarding illegal fishing. The violation reports were sent to national authorities, responsible for providing appropriate follow-up to the international authorities.

IV. Boundaries

No changes occurred.

V. Other information

| |
|-----------------------|
| No other information. |
|-----------------------|

31. Maritime Alps Nature Park – Italy

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

*Attaches the following **conditions** to this renewal (2008):*

- 1) 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;*
- 2) same condition for the proposed project concerning the piping of the hot spa water from Terme di Valdieri down the valley.*

1) The proposed hydroelectric plant in the Meris valley has been abandoned as we foresaw in the 2013 report. Work has begun to rehabilitate an old hydroelectric plant serving the village of Tetti Gaina inside the Park. In 2015 the restoration work will be finished. The work was followed by the Park both at the planning stage and during the work. The principle that no new hydroelectric plants will be authorized in the Park was reaffirmed.

2) The proposed pipeline to bring spa water down the valley from Terme di Valdieri will not go ahead. This project has been completely abandoned.

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

*Attaches the following **reccomendations** to this renewal (2008):*

- 1) pursue co-operation efforts to financially support research activity on biodiversity protection and sustainable development;*
- 2) examine the opportunity to implement measures relating to the regional legislation on contiguous areas to the territory of the municipality of Vinadio and to the special nature reserve of Phoenician juniper; and step up, as far as possible, a territorial management project for the area;*
- 3) inform and organise actions for the awareness-raising of local stakeholders, in particular concerning sustainable tourism. Development projects, even those located outside the park border, should be avoided when having potential negative impact on the protected area, considering the priority for conservation and sustainable tourism of the territory as a whole.*
- 4) pursue the co-operation with Mercantour National Park, in order to set up a transfrontier protected area.*

1) 2014 saw the closure of the Marittime-Mercantour Integrated Transboundary Project (the final report is annexed). This was financed as part of the European ALCOTRA programme. The Park has had another two projects approved within the same programme, one for actions in favour of sustainable tourism, the other for improving Alpine pasture and woodland habitats. These projects will close in 2015. A further two projects at the end of 2014 under the same directive were approved one concerning environmental education actions the other the actions necessary for drawing up a dossier for the Marittime Mercantour area's candidature as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (description of the projects annexed). In 2014 all the actions foreseen in the LIFE project, LIFE12

NAT/IT/000807 LIFE WOLFALPS (www.lifewolfalps.eu) which will end in 2018. Thanks to the EGTC “Parco Europeo Marittimo Mercantour” Marittimo and Mercantour Parks have a collaboration agreement (annexed) with Marguareis Regional Park, Alpi Liguri Regional Park, Province of Imperia and the Hanbury Gardens protected area and are working on an action plan to access new European funding in the 2014-2020 programme. Contact has been made with the Monaco Government and the Prince Albert II foundation to renew the agreements to finance projects concerning Biodiversity in particular the General Biological Inventory and the studies and communication connected to the UNESCO World Heritage candidature dossier.

2) Currently Piedmont Region is revising regional law no. 19 of 29 June 2009. The provisional law provides for the annexing of the neighbouring Marguareis Park and a number of Nature Reserves in the Province of Cuneo to Alpi Marittimo Park. The protected area will exceed 38,000 hectares. In 2014 efforts have been made to involve municipalities bordering on the protected area, including Vinadio for the UNESCO candidature. All the municipalities (Cuneo, Vignolo, Cervasca, Roccasparvera, Gaiola, Moiola, Demonte, Vinadio, Pietraporzio, Sambuco, Argentera) have adhered, deliberating in favour. This process will entail considerable planning and the production of a World Heritage Management Plan.

3) While planning the SCI sites' management and developing the UNESCO World Heritage candidature the Park has had occasion to debate with local administrations (not just those within the Park area, but from an area including those mentioned in the point above), from these talks the necessity emerged to maintain a close watch on conservation and sustainability issues while pursuing territorial development. This is a prerequisite for a successful World Heritage Site candidature. Conservation and sustainable development are also at the base of discussions with local tourism stakeholders within the Alcotra 171-Tourism project, in which the principles of the Charter for Sustainable Tourism in the protected areas became the basis for an improved tourist offer, applied over a wider territory including the Marguareis Park's municipalities, so a considerably broader than Alpi Marittimo's current area of influence.

4) The “Parco Europeo Marittimo Mercantour” EGTC formally began in 2014 formed by Parco Alpi Marittimo and Parc du Mercantour. There have been two EGTC assemblies so far and the staff involved have begun to tackle problems linked to the workings of this International organ. The EGTC has signed collaboration agreements with Marguareis Regional Park, Alpi Liguri Regional Park, Province of Imperia and the Hanbury Gardens protected area (annexed) specifically for the UNESCO World Heritage dossier.

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No territorial changes took place in 2014. There continue to be serious staffing and financial shortages. Piedmont Region blocked any new employment contracts for 2014 and the renewal of those that were expiring. Currently the Park has 31 members of staff, wholly inadequate to manage the protected area. The financial resources available for 2014 were €250,000 for ordinary management after staff costs. Thanks to European funding much can be done in favour of Biodiversity and for the sustainable management of the Park, but it is paramount to have more staff to implement these projects.

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No territorial changes took place in 2014. The boundaries remain those described in the 2013 report.

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

None

32. Wachau Protected Landscape – Austria

1. Conditions

Condition #1: The scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein has to be abandoned definitely, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma:

The condition has been totally fulfilled – no such plan has recently been discussed nor has any action taken place to create such plans or schemes.

2. Recommendations

Recommendation #1: The existence of the Jauerling protected zone should continue to be guaranteed

The production of an outdoor visitor center for Jauerling-Wachau Nature Park connected with a theme path around the peak of Jauerling hill has started and has to be finished by April 2015. It is co-financed by the European Union as a Leader project.

Until the end of 2014, the staff of the nature park is financed by another Leader project. The nature park plans to employ its staff independently and to create an office of his own in the central village of the nature park, Maria Laach, next year. The costs of staff are covered until April 2015. We hope that the new Austrian programme for rural development will be operative by May 2015 and that we can integrate the necessary nature park management into a new rural development project starting from them.

The nature park will, in addition to that, review its current strategy in 2015, since most of the action plan of the current strategy, stemming from 2006, has successfully been completed.

Recommendation #2: The river should be maintained at its present level, guaranteeing the survival of the last alluvial forests

Via Donau, the authority in charge of maintaining the Danube as a waterway, have continued to re-use the gravel dug up in the navigation corridor of the river to create islands along the corridor. They have the purpose to block the waves of the ships against the zones between the banks of the river and the islands, which by this way become valuable breeding grounds for the typical fish of the freely flowing Danube.

This summer, another LIFE+ project dealing with the Danube and its alluvial forests, has been granted by the EU. It is called “Alluvial Forest Wilderness Wachau” and will a.o. deal with safeguarding the black

poplar as the most important tree of the typical alluvial forests. It will create breeding ponds for amphibiae and try to make the white-tailed eagle settle again all year long in the region.

Recommendation #3: Work on restoration of the terraces and integration of the irrigation network should continue

The wine producing area has stayed constant during the last years. On the contrary, at some spots winegrowers started to re-use formerly abandoned wine terraces, like at the very visibly located Atzberg between Spitz and St. Michael.

The irrigation systems were not in use this year because of the very wet summer. This means that no need to replace parts of the systems occurred. In case something has to be changed at the last remaining

aluminum tube systems, these parts are replaced with black plastic tubes much less visible in the landscape.

Recommendation #4: Strict standards should be imposed on river tourism traffic, to ensure that it meets appropriate quality requirements for the Wachau

Making use of the Danube for tourism purposes and controlling the jetties is still the job of private enterprises. This is why we can only try to create awareness and lobby our interests at the people responsible for these private enterprises.

The key stakeholders along the topic are part of the strategic network of regional and tourism development, anyway. This is why we would know who to address in case trouble occurs.

Recommendation #5: The refurbishment of the Spitz quarry should finally be started; works should be staggered until 2019

The municipality of Spitz has finally purchased the quarry and has found a company which is ready to exploit the quarry until it has become geologically stable. Works can start after the necessary permits have been issued by the Austrian authorities, which still might take some time because it includes widening the tunnels under the monument-protected railway line. Anyhow, the final exploitation will probably take around 20 years, which means that works will go on longer than until 2019. Anyway, we are sure that we will be able to present some progress during a potential expert visit in 2018.

Recommendation #6: The moufflon population should be brought within a limit compatible with natural regeneration of the forest, without systematic recourse to protection fences

The works still continue following the principles agreed upon in 2007. We didn't record any additional damage to the protection forests in the region. An evaluation meeting will be called in well ahead of the potential expert visit in 2018.

Recommendation #7: Efforts should be continued to preserve the apricot orchards

The Wachau apricot Genussregion has been integrated into joint marketing efforts together with tourism, arts and culture and winegrowing enterprises. Through cross-selling and re-positioning we hope to help the apricot farmers strengthen their position on the regional market.

The farmers themselves keep producing and selling new trees made out of the typical varieties of the region.

Recommendation #8: Steps should be taken to ensure that consultation on how to protect the Wachau against flooding takes place in cooperation with the local authorities concerned, in order to avoid separating the river from the hinterland by a substantial dyke

After the centennial flood in June 2013, the Austrian and Lower Austrian authorities have set aside more money for creating flood protection systems in the remaining unprotected villages in the area.

Also in this case, it is the local municipalities who are in charge of drafting these plans. Therefore it is assured that all flood protection devices can only be built with a strong link to the needs of the local people.

In 2014, the flood protection system in the city of Melk was opened. In addition to the immediate protection measures, the city used the opportunity to re-shape parts of its inner city in a modern style which created a better living space for both citizens and visitors of Melk.

In Dürnstein/Loiben, the system is about to be finished. In the case of Loiben, the municipality chose to use existing walls along the main road and replace them with flood protection walls. This means that at some spots the village is separated from the Danube by substantial walls, but on the other side, the whole protection system is built up much quicker by less people, which is essential to a municipality with

around 850 inhabitants, and the municipality needs much smaller storage halls for the aluminum elements, which is essential to the landscape impact of the protection system.

3. Site management

The number of staff has stayed constant during the last year, although the total weekly workload of the four persons in charge of managing the site has been reduced slightly. The weekly workload of the person who is in charge of nature protection projects will be raised again next year, following the start of the new LIFE+ project.

2015 will be a transitional year, since the old European grants have been used up and the new European grants are still to be defined. The region re-applied as Leader region recently and has therefore developed a new regional strategy based on a participatory process with the local stakeholders, but the decision if the region can go on will not be taken before May 2015. By the end of 2015, we should know if there was some chance to integrate the European Diploma management into a larger bundle of nature protection related management projects and receive grants from EU programmes.

Recently, an agreement has been negotiated with the Austrian and Lower Austrian governments that, finally, a management plan for the UNESCO World Heritage site will be created. The team of consultants which will be in charge of writing the plan should be chosen by the middle of February 2015. The UNESCO World Heritage management plan will have a lot to do with a management plan for the European Diploma site, since both are very familiar to each other and require similar things to do and agree upon. We hope to be able to finish the plan by the end of 2015. The council of Europe will receive a copy of the plan when it is finished.

4. Boundaries

No changes.

5. Other information

We will try to participate in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas but still have to discuss within Austria how we plan to do so. We will use this opportunity to get a closer contact to the other two Diploma holding areas in Austria. Following the start of a new National Park director, we have more often discussed common issues concerning the Diploma with Thayatal National Park. We still have to get into touch with the relevant stakeholders around the Krimml Waterfalls, though.

33. Oka National Biosphere Reserve – Russian Federation

Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. There were no changes in the territory, territorial integrity, the reserve there is a natural dynamics of ungulates, predatory animals | |
| 2. External zoning remains unchanged : Biosphere Polygon (buffer zone) | security zone (zone of cooperation) |
| 3. Effective protection of the reserve | |
| 4. Continued research in full, including habitat restoration Desman | |
| 5. The ecological education and interaction with the local population | |
| All the conditions have been met | |

1. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Provide conditions for continued research in full

Condition is satisfied, increased funding of the reserve

2. Take action to join the reserve floodplain meadows along the left bank of the river south of Pra 169-173 quarters Woodland

Joining land is currently not possible because the territory was divided between many landowners, but work in this direction is underway

3. Increase the level of information, environmental education outreach

Condition is satisfied The level of environmental education and information outreach: every year about 9,000 people attend Reserve, more than 500 excursions organized by the ecological paths, nursery of rare species of cranes and bison nursery, Museum of Nature. Annually, there are ecological holidays: ethno-ecological (carnival), Crane, March for Parks. In a newly opened Center of ecological information and education (Visit Center) hosts conferences with students, concerts ecological orientation, workshops with teachers and other events.

2. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Changes in the management of the reserve has not happened, funding and staff remained at the same level

3. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There aren't changes to the boundaries of the biosphere reserve since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe.

4. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

In 2014, work continued on the cultural heritage of the reserve placed notices with explanation of the text to the ancient settlement, the remnants of glass works of the last century; brochure: "Oka Reserve to commandments."

New species were revealed on the territory of the reserve in 2014:

- fungi – 2
- insect - 3
- water invertebrate – 3

In 2014, the reserve staff published three monographs: "Flora Oka Reserve", "Amphibians and Reptiles of the Ryazan region", "Structure and dynamics of vegetation waters Oka Reserve"

34. Ipolytarnóc Protected Area – Hungary

1. Conditions:

The Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)15 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area (Hungary) (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 at the 1091st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies) renewed the Diploma to Ipolytarnóc Fossils until 11 September 2020. During the renewal no special conditions were specified.

2. Recommendations:

The Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)15 attached the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

I.. Recognising the site's high potential for further discoveries of geological interest, research – especially the palaeontological excavations – should continue; all appropriate measures should be taken to preserve and, if possible, exhibit the natural resources; the results of scientific research should be made publicly available;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

New areas with fossil footprints have been excavated along the geological study trail and the presence of new animal species have been identified this year. The site provides high-tech interpretation techniques of the prehistoric habitat, gained scientific knowledge is on display and new papers have been made accessible and downloadable on the site's website.

II. The site should take an active role in the management of the Slovak-Hungarian transborder Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark, in order to preserve and interpret the natural assets of the region and to become a focal, multilingual information point for geotourism;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

The trans-boundary Novohrad-Nograd Geopark with the essential endorsement of the BNPD, became member of the European and Global Geoparks Networks in 2010. After 4 years the revalidation process of the Geopark took place this year with the experts' special visit to Ipolytarnoc, which is the main gateway to the Geopark. After seeing the site the evaluators confirmed the positive outcome for the revalidation.

As the scientific centre of the geopark, Ipolytarnoc is a driving force in order to preserve the geological heritage of the whole geopark and it advocates its resources to the visitors during special events, like the usual Geopark Week at the turn of May.

An example of international recognition: a special Thai expert group visited the site to consult on the successful creation of geoparks.

III. The Entrance to the protected area should have an appropriate gateway displaying information in order to control tourism within the site and the buffer zone; the buildings along the geological trail should be further integrated into the landscape; the power line that runs between the village and the visitor centre should be replaced with an underground cable;

Action taken by the site to comply with the new recommendation:

There is panel emplaced in front of the entrance gate, QR code and old Hungarian script alphabet are used beside Hungarian, Slovak and English languages to inform visitors about the site. Due to fire-protection restrictions vegetation cover of buildings can not be adopted. the newer buildings are more organically blend into the landscape. There is a new project plan to restructure the visitor information system, it includes landscape oriented extended buildings erected above excavation areas, in place of the old alien structures.

Although there are no new developments with the power line's replacement, yet the very same plan focuses on the laying of underground cable. We try to apply for funds to achieve this till 2020.

IV. The gradual replacement of the exotic trees with indigenous species should be continued by assisting the natural succession process through ecologically sensitive land management practices; the control of game – causing considerable damage to vegetation and protected animal species – should be continued;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

A larger scale forestry activity goes on covering some 10 hectares, where the former acacia forest section's transformation by indigenous tree samplings is going well. Game management is an ongoing activity throughout the year, since the whole area is a specially designated hunting area managed by the BNPD.

V. The balance between open spaces and wooded areas on the western side of the conservation area, close to the nearby settlement, should be maintained to preserve the mosaic structure of the landscapes there;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

Effective animal husbandry, racka sheep grazing and hay cutting activities manage the mosaic-like structure of open spaces with forested areas at the buffer zone of the Fossils. In the border zone tree thinning on forest edges also maintains the mixed vegetation cover of the landscape.

3.Site Management:

The BNPD provides leadership and special management work from the Headquarters. The site itself has 3 in situ permanent staff members (including 2 rangers with law enforcement licenses) running the site all around the year. They are a bit overextended, since they have to supervise the contracted partners and seasonal workers as well, beside the daily management. As a geotourism centre the Fossils provided, with extensions, a year-long seasonal work opportunity for the locally unemployed of the nearby 4 settlements. With the extra help of these 35 seasonal workers the site could meet the demands of the successful management this year.

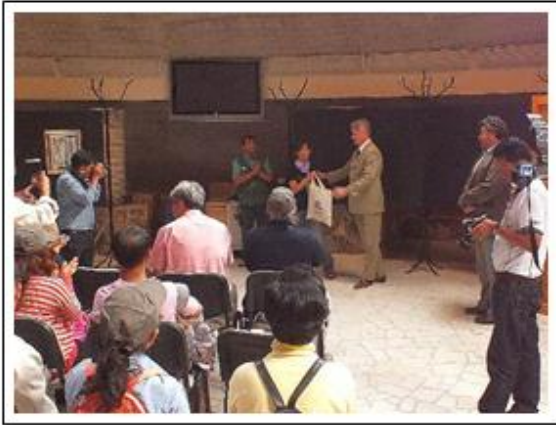
4.Boundaries:

No boundary changes concerned the site, its buffer and core zones are well defined.

5.Other information:

During the reevaluation of the Tentative List of the Hungarian World Heritage Sites the Ipolytarnoc Fossils was reenlisted this year. The site celebrated its 70 anniversary for the protection status with special events, more than 35 thousand people visited it in 2014.

For detailed developments, please check on the Fossils website : <http://osmaradvanyok.hu>



Thai Experts' Visit

Thai specialists came to Ipolytarnóc in September to consult on the creation of geoparks, on petrified trees and the fossil resources of the Miocene Park of the site.



Track Discovery

Prof. L. Kordos interprets the footprinted sandstone features to the media.
Sensational new animal species have been identified on the geological trail.



Visitors at the Bükkábrány trees

Several groups from overseas visited the famous 7 million-year-old bükkábrány trees this year.

35. Szénás Hills Protected Areas – Hungary

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

- no conditions

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. the management of the area should be carried out in close co-operation by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company; the activities of the finished LIFE Programme, such as the conversion of Black pine forests, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring, should be continued jointly; the area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site's national and European importance;

- Results of the annual agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest :
- conservation of habitats : Black pine stand conversation – 200 m³
- monitoring of fenced sample areas – areas keeping big game out
- monitoring of the whole popullaiton of *Linum dolomiticum*
- monitoring of the Black pine succession
- employing environmental educator
- environmental education
- servicing of fence

2. inside and near the area, permission should be given only for such game population management operations as are strictly consonant with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the area, particularly as regards eradication of the moufflon and reduction of the populations of large herbivores to a level compatible with the preservation of the dolomitic grasslands and natural woodlands; these population control operations should be planned on the basis of accurate population monitoring;

- The game population management (like the annual driven game shooting) is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company. Changes in numbers of big game populations, resulting from fence building and the operation of game traps, are monitored also in the frame of the agreement.

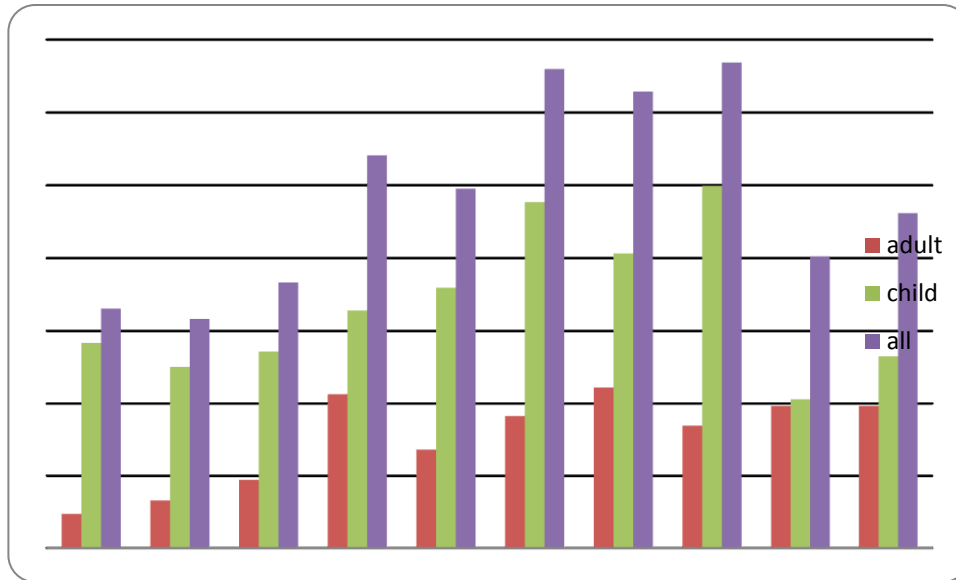
3. the fence enclosing the protected area must be maintained in good condition to prevent technical sport activities from encroaching upon it and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation;

- Maintaining of the fence is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company. This year 200 000 HUF were provided for this purpose.

4. visitor reception capacity should be increased by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, to make the public more aware of the importance of preserving the habitats in the area; measures should be taken to prevent motor vehicles from crossing the area;

- The environmental educator keeps a nature conservation course for local school children weekly.
- Our rangers and the environmental educator regularly guide groups in the field to interpret the natural assets. The most popular guided tours are the *Linum dolomiticum* hikes in May.

- Large-scale events were held on World Water Day (22/03/2014) and International Bird Watching Day (04/10/2014). The following programmes were held at these events: hydrobiological tests for children, pond cleaning, free guided tours on the nature trail, open-air market of nature publications, bird ringing.
- Field exercises were held for university students (several weeks).
- More renovations of the visitor centre at Pilisszentiván were carried out in 2014 (renovation of garden buildings, covered garden education room)
- Number of participants of professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2014: adult 983, children 1325, all 2308 visitors;



5. regulations must be worked out for horse riding paths in the area; also a mountain bike trail should be designated so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area;

- In the fenced and strictly protected area horse riding and mountain biking is regulated by the *“Decree of the Minister of Environment and Water No. 17/2008. (VI. 3.) KvVM on the nature conservation management plan of the Szénás Hills European Diploma holding site”* as follows:

3.2.3. Visiting

Management zone „A”

- Rock climbing, paragliding, cycling, orienteering, motorbike and horse-riding are prohibited.

Management zone „B”

- Cycling in the zone requires permission from the nature conservation authority and the property manager, and is only allowed on the routes and in the periods specified in the permit.

- Horse-riding is only allowed on the designated riding trails bearing the individual badge issued by the nature conservation authority and the property manager.

6. the protected landscape status of the two areas adjoining the special protection area, which were also the subject of the diploma application, should be maintained to keep them functioning properly as buffer zones; construction in these areas should not be allowed;

- no changes this year

7. urbanisation pressure must be handled properly; any new development plans of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba should be examined carefully;

- no changes this year

8. co-operation with volunteers (schools, non-governmental organisations, local governments, scouts) must be continued, as well as with local residents, police and civil guards.

- Managing some team-building days of different groups (mainly company groups) in the zone C. In these occasions cutting of Black pine, planting of deciduous tree plants or painting wooden equipments of the nature trails happened.
- Leading field exercises for university students (several groups from two university). The students did some conservation jobs (cutting of Black pine and invasive tree species, planting of deciduous tree plants) and guided tours were kept for them to get know the area and its natural assets.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

- In the first days of December 2014 freezing rain, ice and strong wind have been caused serious natural damages in the woods above 350 metres height above sea level in Buda Hills. Numberless of the trees have broken parts or fallen down and approximately 30 % of the fence around the Szénás Hills Protected Area have been injured. Estimating the damages and managing the situation are tasks of the next year.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

- no changes

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

- no other informations

36. Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve – Belarus

1. Conditions:

- The protection regime and ownership of the land should be kept unchanged.*

Ownership of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve remained unchanged and thus, there were no changes in the reserve's current protection status. Protection regime of the reserved area is carried out in accordance with the current nature protection laws.

2. Recommendations:

- Sufficient resources need to be generated both by the Government and by the Reserve – to protect effectively the biodiversity resources and to continue scientific research. In addition to extra-budgetary sources of income, other sources should be tapped especially in cooperation with*

NGOs such as Akhova Ptushak Batskaushchyny (APB) – BirdLife Belarus, and WWF.

In order to improve the protection of natural systems and their management the project "Development and actualization of geographic information system of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve and ensuring its functioning" has been implemented, which had government funding. The scientific studies have been completed with additional funding by APB for the project «Assessment of influence of changes of the Berezina River's and its tributaries' hydrological regime on the state of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve's wetlands and their resistance to climatic changes». A component of the EU/UNDP Project «Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for the international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus» has been completed.

The reserve constantly widens its international contacts to promote its worldwide image, creates the new and strengthen the existing forms of transboundary cooperation with other biosphere reserves of Belarus, Russia, the Ukraine and the European Union for the effective management, conservation and sustainable development of ecosystems, on the basis of "green" economy. With the Coordination Committee of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA/IUCN), one of the members of which is the employee of Berezinsky Reserve, the regional action plan for the Northern Eurasia region has been developed. Since the current year the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve is a partner of the European Wilderness Society environmental organisation.

2. *Further efforts should be taken to prevent negative effects of fragmentation of the Reserve by the M3 road, and to preserve the integrity of the core zone.*

Monitoring was organized to assess the impact of the M3 road on death of large mammals and the effectiveness of the existing crossings for amphibians.

3. *Further study of the dynamics of the mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration between the core and the buffer zones should be carried out – to monitor the current situation affected by hunting.*

Implementation of the following parts of scientific and research work are continued: «Assessment of seasonal and long-term changes in the structure of theriological complexes at the Berezinsky Reserve» and «Seasonal and long-term dynamics in the structure of ornithological complexes at the Berezinsky Reserve». Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of bison's micropopulation for the years 2015 - 2019 has been developed. Photo-traps were installed in the places of bison's migration in order to track their numbers and identify potential threats to their population in the Berezinsky.

4. *Continue with the efforts for ensuring that the development of tourism is well controlled.*

Tourism development is controlled effectively on the basis of scientific research. With assistance of the scientific department the recommendations for the sustainable eco-tourism development were made. Primary emphasis is made on environmental awareness. The Museum of Nature was overhauled and completely renovated. Proper information policy to attract visitors for the purpose of environmental education is carried out.

5. *In order to mitigate possible risks and hazards connected with climatic changes and possible large-scale disturbances on the reserve, the study program focused on these topics should be carried out.*

With the assistance of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus a research work "To assess the effects of adverse climate events on the state of old-age coniferous and deciduous forests of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve" has been conducted. On the results of this research a scenario of development of the stands in the areas of mass windfall and windbreak was developed and proposals for their restoration were made. The research programs «Dynamics characteristics of the phytocoenosis floristic composition in association with changes of weather and climatic conditions» and «Dynamics assessment of meadow and bog phytocoenosis under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors» are continue to carry out.

3. Site Management:

The current management plan continues to adequately execute, which allows the effective functioning of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve's territory.

During the reporting period new jobs were created, which increased the staff of the Berezinsky reserve by 31 people. New office buildings of two forestries were constructed, another fire tower was set.

4. Boundaries:

Proposals were developed to expand the boundaries of the biosphere reserve (within the MaB program) by increasing the transition zone (a zone of cooperation).

5. Other information:

In the current year the Berezinsky successfully confirmed the status of a biosphere reserve: the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR) of UNESCO has once again recognized that the Berezinsky Reserve meets the criteria of the regulatory and legal framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" (MaB) Program. An action plan was developed for celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Berezinsky reserve in 2015, under which there will be organized the celebrations dated for the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma as well. In this connection the managers of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve kindly invite the Chairman or any one of the members of the Secretariat to visit the Berezinsky reserve and take part in the official celebrating events (the exact date will be announced later).

37. De Weerribben-De Wieden Nature Reserve – Netherlands

1. Conditions: List here all conditions that attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

On 6 January 2014, the Ministry of Economic Affairs confirmed the definitive N2000 designation for the Weerribben and the Wieden reserves respectively.

The Natura 2000 Management Plan for the Weerribben and the Wieden has not yet been drawn up. Both Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten are already working in the spirit of the Management Plan, because the Natura 2000 Management Plan has regrettably not yet been formally adopted, and the resting areas do not yet have a definitive status; however, Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonument are already acting in accordance with the draft Management Plan.

The Province of Overijssel is responsible for its adoption. The Province has started to update the draft so that the Provincial Executive will be able to adopt the Plan as soon as possible.

On 8 December 2014, the Integrated Approach to Nitrogen (*Programmatiese Aanpak Stikstof - PAS*) was signed by the Province of Overijssel and by all relevant administrative and social partners among which Staatsbosbeheer in respect of the Weerribben and Natuurmonumenten in respect of the Wieden.

Within the framework of the so-called Spring Agreement (*Lenteakkoord*), which is PAS related, at least EUR 5,000,000 will be spent on restoration measures around the Weerribben and the Wieden.

Discussions with recreation entrepreneurs about the growth of underwater plants are ongoing. The problem has now been identified. It was proposed to experiment with several solutions, for which attention was called through the administrative consultations on the touristic development of Steenwijkerland. On the one hand, mowing should not be allowed freely (protected species) but on the other, there should be a structural plan to keep the shipping routes open. Several parties are responsible for this process (Water Board, Province, Municipality and the organisations that manage the terrain).

August 2014: completion of the new nature programme for Wetering Oost and West, and completion of the N333 wildlife underpass. This project has resulted in around 350 ha of new nature for the Weerribben

and Wieden reserves consisting of marsh reedlands, bog moss and floating fen reedlands. The wildlife underpass on the N333 has resulted in a proper link between the Wieden and the Weerribben for both plants and animals.

The new nature in Wetering Oost and West is the result of a broad-based public process.

Staatsbosbeheer will continue the discussion with the inhabitants of Wetering and Kalenberg about any management operations in 2015.

2014: the Life3 Projects to restore vegetation mats was approved.

2014: natural embankments were developed along Molengracht to make an ecological buffer zone between the Bovenwijde and the Zuideindigerwijde areas.

Land development Vollenhove-Blokzijl: from purely agricultural parcelisation to developments that include the realisation of an Ecological National Network (EHS).

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations that were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Continue the efforts for establishing a broader physical connection between the Weerribben and the Wieden reserves by further transforming the Wetering polders into marshland or extensive meadows; also extend the connection along the wet axis between the Rottige Meente and the Staphorsterveld reserves.

In total, 300 ha of nature were realised in the wet axis between the Weerribben and the Wieden. In 2016, the zone will be improved through specific projects in these two reserves.

The buffer zone between the Wieden and the Staphorsterveld area was also completed.

The buffer zone between the Weerribben and the Rottige Meente area has not yet been accomplished, although land was purchased for that purpose.

2. Consider modifying the N333 road that crosses the corridor between both reserves to mitigate its barrier effect.

The wildlife corridor (N333) has been implemented. The Wieden and Weerribben are much better connected for wildlife.

3. Translate the 'visitors management plan' into strict guidelines and binding regulations for all authorities and stakeholders concerned; persist in the permanent monitoring of recreation in order to collect relevant data for future nature impact assessments.

The visitor management plan is part of the Natura 2000 Management Plan. Regrettably, this plan has not yet been drawn up. There are, however, new resting areas that are not accessible during the breeding season. Unfortunately, there is still no proper system to monitor recreation. This is partly due to the enormous budget cuts that are currently taking place.

4. Carefully investigate potential alternatives for reducing the recreational pressure caused by intensive boating on Kalenbergergracht and related facilities; also check whether the designated tranquillity of rest zones is respected by the public.

There is a clear drop in the number of boats in Kalenbergergracht due to the recession. A few big mooring places in the centre of the area have been redeveloped.

This also applies to the navigation area in the Wieden, where there is a huge drop in boat traffic and the use of jetties. An example is Arembergergracht.

5. Continue the processes to change traditionally commercial reed exploitation towards ecologically sound and sustainable reed management (in line with recommendation 6 of 2005).

Partly due to joint efforts by the field managers and the reedland tenants, a great deal of progress was made in recent years. Most tenants have attended the course for certified nature manager and they can now also be deployed for the management of nutrient-poor grasslands, etc.

6. Develop up-to-date regulations concerning fisheries (zoning, activities and tools) that are compatible with the core nature conservation function of the reserve, in line with the Natura 2000 requirements; also ensure the development of a fish stock management plan covering all species.

There is no longer professional fishing taking place in the Weerribben. Anglers have a licence for controlled locations and their ensuing regulations in accordance with the Fisheries Act. In the Wieden, arrangements have been made with the professional fishermen, and a fish management plan has been drawn up.

7. Ensure the availability of habitats for breeding, foraging and resting of bird species (especially the red listed *Circus aeruginosus* and *Ardea purpurea*), notably the feeding grounds between the Weerribben reserve and the Staphorsterveld area; ensure that this open area becomes fully safeguarded from negative developments, such as intensification of agriculture and lowering of polder water levels, establishment of windfarms, extension of industry, active recreation or settlements.”

Expansion of foraging areas with new marshlands in Wetering Oost and West (approx. 300 ha).

The Municipality of Steenwijkerland has announced that it will refrain from placing windmills around the National Park.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

As a result of scale enlargement and budget cuts, Staatsbosbeheer has closed its office in Kalenberg. Staatsbosbeheer itself no longer employs field staff for operational management activities (due to ageing, retirement). However, SBB does employ staff for directional and supervisory tasks (increased tasks). These tasks are coordinated from Ossenzijl. The Kalenberg location is still used, however, only for the partial accommodation of volunteers.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The Birds Directive boundaries have been relocated/decreased as a result of arrangements with neighbouring farmers. This has been processed in the N2000 designation.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site that you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

In 2014, the National and Provincial authorities stopped providing cooperation and funds for the conservation and development of National Parks in the Province of Overijssel, in fact closing down the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. Together with partners, the Municipality of Steenwijkerland is now dedicated to maintaining the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. Within the framework of a transitional year, the Province has made a one-time payment of EUR 250,000. This should lead to a plan for a Weerribben-Wieden National Park ‘On its Own Two Feet’ in 2015. The ultimate aim is that the Park will be funded by both public and private means and will also be able to generate its own income. The organisations managing the terrains are and will remain responsible for the management of landscape and nature through the Nature and Landscape subsidy.

38. Seitseminen National Park – Finland

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Implement the new masterplan for the Seitseminen National Park and evaluate by 2014 if there is a need of an updated management plan.

Implementation is going on and no need of an updated management plan has occurred.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Inform the Secretariat of the result of the management effectiveness evaluations (Report of the state of the parks) which will be made at five years intervals;

- the latest report is published in 2007 and the next is planned to be ready in 2016.

2. Continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue arrangements for the appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity;

- complying as planned, especially grazing of meadows has been successful

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;

- complying as planned

4. Deepen co-operation with local stakeholders, especially in the nature tourism sector:

- complying as planned

5. Provide the necessary funding to continue the renovation of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed;

- complying as planned

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

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39. Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) – Finland

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

Actions taken in order are explained in sections I/1, I/2, I/3 and I/5.

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.

As an annex to the management plan, a proposal to enlarge the national park was included. The Ministry doesn't normally approve annexes, but the recommendations made in the annex will be taken into consideration within a few years as the process goes on. Metsähallitus made Year of Gulf of Finland 2014 an appraisal on the needs to development of the existing marina national parks (Archipelago, Ekenäs Archipelago and Eastern Gulf of Finland NPs) and NP network in the area of the Gulf of Finland. The enlargement of Ekenäs Archipelago NP will be examined in pursuance of this process .

Attaches to the renewal the following six recommendations:

1. make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan;
- *Actions are explained in sections I/1, I/2, I/3 and I/5.*
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;
- *See 5.2.3 in the annual report*
3. continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to :
- the inventory of marine habitats and the improvement of the methods involved; and
- the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien invasive species;
- *See 3.2.1 and 5.1.1*
- *The removal of alien plant species started 2009 and now all the known invasive plant species patches are under yearly control (5 patches of R. rugosa have disappeared). Invasive plant R. rugosa is now also controlled in proximity of The National Park. Also efforts in the removal of minks and raccoon dogs in the outer islands (most important bird colonies) have increased)*
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; and
- raise the public's awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park;
- *The recreational facilities were renewed (see 5.1.3)*
- *Customer service and nature interpretation developed) (see 3.1.1): new guidance packages and film were made to the nature centre, webpages were renewed totally*
5. review and where necessary renew the regulations of the national park within two years;
- *Renewing of the regulations was completed already year 2013.*
6. deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators.
- *Collaboration with Novia University of Applied Sciences, Raseborg continued. Metsähallitus offered professional training for one student.*
- *One new sustainable nature tourism contract was signed between Metsähallitus and local entrepreneur.*
- *Seminar on sustainable nature tourism was arranged together with the city of Raseborg.*
- *Regular taxi boat services were further developed with the Municipality of Raseborg and local entrepreneurs*
- *New entrepreneurs were looked for Jussarö (see 4.2 and 3.1.1)*

40. Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park – Belarus

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. The implementation of the new conservation law in the National Park, including the implementation on site of the relevant conservation management plan attached to the new zonation, is completed within a period of three years

New environmental legislation was approved and adopted in 2012.

2. Any development with possible negative effects on the National Park and its integrity, including the buffer zones, should be subject to an environmental impact assessment and the National Park authorities should be duly consulted

Under the current environmental legislation, conducting any types of infrastructure works inside a national park and its buffer zone, except for construction in the settlements are possible only after the EIA with participation of the national park administration.

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. *continue the move from economically driven to ecologically driven management by reducing the forestry activities in the regulated zones and special habitats in other parts of the National Park, by excluding parcels with old trees in all zones (including the buffer zones) from logging, and by presenting data on harvested wood volumes in the annual reports;*

Removing the timber not conducted in strictly protected areas (57 th.ha) and the especially protected areas outside the strict protection (5 th.ha). The obtaining of timber is prohibited at 90% of the old-age stands (over 100 years old). The annual volume of timber harvested in 2014 amounted to 90 thousand cubic meters, mainly in the artificial forests and secondary stands younger the 100 years.

2. *working with the Government of Belarus, ensure that the National Park authorities have the responsibility for the management of a. the zones of special significance for specific habitats outside the strictly protected areas, b. the buffer zones and c. the game zones within the boundaries of the National Park*

There is an interaction and constant monitoring on the management of resources of the National Park by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

3. discussions between the National Park authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture to compensate an agricultural area of 2 000 ha recently excluded from the National Park, by including abandoned agricultural areas elsewhere – also in the buffer zones – and by promoting a gradual extensification of agricultural activities leading to semi-natural habitats (hayfields and low-intensity, grazed meadows with only moderate or no use of fertilisers)

There is a constant interaction with the district authorities on the transfer of areas of former agricultural land bordering or surrounded by national park lands under the national park management, as their excluding from active economic using. In 2014, about 150 hectares of such land transferred to the management of the national park.

4. *working with the Government of Belarus, increase budgets for both applied ecological research and nature conservation activities in view of the principles of sustainable management either currently present in, or to be included in, the management plan; special attention is needed both within the National Park and its buffer zones for a. hydrological restoration of all wetland (bog and marsh)*

ecosystems surrounding the forest, b. water and soil quality in river valleys and c. semi-natural traditionally managed or abandoned farmland;

These types of works will be carried out if funding is available.

5. reconsider the management of large herbivores with a view to reducing the winter food supply so as to prevent abnormally large population densities (overpopulation), rather than reducing excess numbers by continued or increased hunting practices; this is motivated by aiming to alleviate possible damage to both forestry and agriculture;

Since 2012 It was reduces the winter feeding of ungulates. There was dismantled 54 sites of winter feeding ungulates in the territory that became part of the strictly protected area.

6. continue research on the genetic aspects of the bison populations, applying the results to further investigate the restoration of a transboundary migration corridor with Poland;

It's conducted genetic researches of bison populations in the national park. 74 genetic tests taken from bison that live in the Belarusian part of the Bialowieza Forest were studied. It's found the presence of Caucasian subspecies gene pool.

7. carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) concerning mass tourism in the heart of the National Park, including a reappraisal of the boundaries, location and zoning of "Father Frost's Manor", and the effects of traffic and pollution, taking into account the increased accessibility of the National Park; in the annual reports state how any concerns demonstrated by the EIA are being addressed in practice;

It's conducted constant monitoring of the number of visitors to the "Father Frost's Manor", in order to determine the it's impact on the environment and to avoid exceeding the limit of visitor's number.

8. monitor and evaluate the ecological side effects of a. the new bypass road, b. the use of fauna tunnels (eco-tunnels) by various species (such as herpetofauna, badgers and large herbivores), c. the expected regional economic investments, d. the increasing agro-tourism developments and e. the additional recreation initiatives around the outskirts of the National Park; and report annually on the results of the monitoring and evaluation;

It's planned the revision of the national park's management plan in 2015, which will include the above mentioned kinds of works.

9. intensify the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of actual activities such as agriculture (drainage, water quality, use of chemicals), forestry (logging, removal of dead wood, bark beetle effects) and hunting (introduced species, hunting bag statistics), including neighbouring zones outside the National Park, in order to adjust the management plan or to substantiate environmental impact assessments

Constant monitoring of water quality (chemical composition, oxygen, minerals) in lakes and rivers is conducted by the District inspection of natural resources and environmental protection. Monitoring of forestry (logging, the impact of bark beetle) is conducted by Forest department of national park).

Monitoring of wildlife (statistics on the elimination of mammals, populations of alien species) is being by the Department of protection of fauna of the national park.

10. consider a specific adaptation of the prohibition of all activities in the strictly protected zones so as to control the invasive alien species, thus enabling the control of deer (Dama dama) escaped from hunting enclosures and the felling of old red oak (Quercus rubra) trees and seedlings that disturb the natural forest ecosystems;

Changes that allow for activities aimed at active fight against invasive alien species inside the National Park, including the strictly protected area, in coordination with the National Academy of Sciences, introduced in environmental legislation.

11. *prepare a new detailed topographic map (1/50 000) of the National Park and surroundings, indicating the functional zoning (with the buffer zones, game areas, checkpoints, educational trails, etc., all marked) and including the location of the bypass road (with legends in different languages).*

Подготовить новую подробную топографическую карту (1:50 000), Национального парка и окрестностей, с указанием функционального зонирования (с охранной зоной, охотничьими вольерами, контрольно-пропускными пунктами, образовательными тропами и т.д., все указатели), в том числе расположение обходной дороги (с легендами на разных языках).

Currently, the national mapping agency is working to prepare a new national park tourist map scale of 1: 100,000 with new information. Approximately map will be published in 2015.

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

***Управление территорией.** Перечислите все изменения в управлении территорией с Европейским Дипломом, в отношении как наземной так и водной среды (где имеет отношение), и в отношении персонала и финансов, со времени последнего годового отчета, поданного в Совет Европы. Пожалуйста, укажите нерешенные сложности, которые были встречены.*

38 session of the World Heritage Committee adopted re-nomination in the World Heritage List of UNESCO on the new criteria and the new boundaries. Modern World Heritage Site is 140 thousands hectares, 81 thousand ha situated on Belarusian side.

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The boundaries of the territory has not changed

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

41. Port-Cros National Park – France

1. Conditions :

La Résolution CM/ResDip(2012)8 ne comporte pas de conditions particulières.

2. Recommendations :

La Résolution CM/ResDip(2012) 8 renouvelle le diplôme européen jusqu'au 30 septembre 2022 et assortit ce renouvellement des 11 recommandations suivantes :

1. **assurer que le développement du nouveau Grand Parc consolide la protection de Port-Cros et ne l'affaiblisse en aucun cas ; tenir le Comité compétent informé de l'évolution de la situation ;**

Les Décrets no 2012-649 du 04 mai 2012 et n° 2013-418 du 21 mai 2013 (cf. annexe 8 Décrets) portant modification du décret no 2009-449 du 22 avril 2009 pris pour l'adaptation de la délimitation et de la réglementation du Parc national de Port-Cros aux dispositions du code de l'environnement issues de la loi n° 2006-436 du 14 avril 2006 définit d'une part ; les nouvelles limites géographiques du Parc national de Port-Cros comme suit :

Cf annexe 1 L'essentiel de la Charte (p. 1 et 2)

Cœurs terrestres : (1 673 ha)

La totalité de l'île de Port-Cros (690 ha)

Les espaces naturels et les propriétés de l'État de Porquerolles (983 ha)

Cœurs marins : (Port-Cros 1 288 ha Porquerolles 1 645 ha)

Une frange de 600 mètres comptée à partir du trait de côte des deux îles, à l'exclusion de la section marine au droit du port de Porquerolles

Aire potentielle d'adhésion : (24 087 ha)

Composée de tout ou partie des 11 communes littorales comprises entre La Garde à L'ouest et Ramatuelle à l'est

Aire maritime adjacente : (118 745 ha)

Incluant l'ensemble de l'espace marin au droit de ces 11 communes et jusqu'à 3 miles marins au sud des îles

Ce décret définit d'autre part ;

le corpus réglementaire applicable aux cœurs terrestres et marins de Port-Cros et de Porquerolles. Ce cadre réglementaire est précisé dans la charte du parc national par les Modalités d'Application de la Réglementation (MARCoeur) pour les cœurs terrestres et les Propositions de Mesures Réglementaires (PMR) pour les cœurs marins (Cf. charte annexe 2) (p. 71 à 134) tableau récapitulatif des MARcœurs (p. 249 à 303).

Les dispositions applicables à l'aire potentielle d'adhésion et à l'Aire Maritime adjacente sont définies par les Orientation de protection et de mise en valeur et leur déclinaison en Mesures partenariales. (Cf. charte annexe 2) (p. 139 à 247)

L'évaluation environnementale jointe à la procédure de consultation, (Cf. annexe 4), précise les effets anticipés des Marcœurs de la charte et des mesures partenariales (contractuelles ou conventionnelles) . Cette analyse critique, formulée par l'autorité environnementale conformément à la directive CE, ne conclue pas à l'affaiblissement de la protection préexistante. Si, conformément aux dispositions prévues par la loi d'avril 2006, elle formalise par les modalités d'application de la réglementation négociées dans la charte, un droit d'usage dérogatoire au bénéfice des habitants du cœur de Port-Cros, elle confirme et renforce la réglementation du cœur de Port-Cros notamment en ce qui concerne :

la préservation du milieu marin via les propositions de mesures réglementaires dans le cœur marin

la formalisation du cadre des autorisations dérogatoires délivrées par le Directeur

2. mettre en œuvre rapidement la protection formelle de Porquerolles avec sa zone marine adjacente, complément essentiel de Port-Cros ;

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Carte (p. 7)

Mesures 1.III.1 et 1.III.2 (p. 84)

(Cf. carte des vocations annexe 3)

Le classement de l'île de Porquerolles en cœur du parc national conforte la politique conservatoire menée par l'établissement public depuis l'acquisition, en 1974, de 80% de sa surface,.

Le nouveau dispositif étend la protection à la partie marine qui ne bénéficiait jusque que des seules mesures relevant du classement Natura 2 000.

Les deux mesures phares déjà négociées et introduites dans la charte du parc, portent sur l'instauration d'une zone ressource en mer sur la côte sud est de l'île (Cf. charte annexe 2 p 107) Proposition de mesure réglementaire 4) et sur l'ouverture d'une étude pluridisciplinaire pour la définition de la capacité de charge des îles et la mise en œuvre de mesure de maîtrise de la fréquentation. Pour la partie terrestre, les MARcoeurs conduisent à un renforcement la réglementation relative notamment à la circulation des véhicules en milieu naturel (MARcoeur 24), à la L'introduction d'animaux non domestiques de chiens et de végétaux MARcoeur 1) ou encore aux bruit (MARcoeur 3) ...

3. consolider et coordonner la protection de la zone marine environnante initiée dans le cadre de Natura 2000, chercher une solution régionale au problème des eaux sales des bateaux de plaisance ;

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Objectif 2.II (p. 96)

PMR 5, 6, 7 et 8 (p. 102 à 106)

Orientation 2.7 (p. 166) Mesures partenariales 2.7.1 à 2.7.6 (p. 166 à 168)

Orientation 3.4 (p. 180) Mesures partenariales 3.4.1 à 3.4.9 (p. 180 à 182)

Suite à l'extension en mer des périmètres des sites Natura 2000 FR930020 « Îles d'Hyères » et FR9301613 « Rade d'Hyères » (cf. annexe 5 carte Natura 2000), le Parc national de Port-Cros a été désigné opérateur en février 2014 par les membre du Comité de pilotage. A ce titre, il est chargé d'élaborer un nouveau Document d'objectifs et de réactualiser le DOCOB pour les secteurs historiques de la démarche Natura 2000 (îles de Porquerolles, Port-Cros, Levant et les Salins d'Hyères et des Pesquiers) Une cartographie des habitats et biocénoses marines a été réalisée en 2012 (Cf. annexe 6 carte Biocénoses marines – Rade d'Hyères).

Actuellement, le Parc national de Port-Cros finalise avec ses partenaires et acteurs locaux les inventaires écologiques terrestres et l'état des lieux socio-économique du territoire afin de faire ressortir les enjeux de conservation. L'année 2015 sera consacrée à la co-construction des actions opérationnelles du DOCOB avec notamment un focus sur la gestion des mouillages dans la Rade d'Hyères, plus grand herbier de Méditerranée française.

La question de la qualité des eaux littorales est également très prégnante. Un travail d'articulation et de mise en cohérence du nouveau DOCOB avec les démarches telles que le contrat de baie des îles d'or est en cours. Le DOCOB devrait être finalisé et opérationnel fin 2015, permettant ainsi d'amorcer la phase d'animation des sites Natura 2000.

Par ailleurs une première convention avec la Fédération des industries nautiques (FIN) et les premiers partenariats avec 11 représentants locaux de la filière nautique ont été signés en juin 2014. Ce rapprochement a permis de dynamiser localement l'opération nationale « bateau bleu » initiée par la fédération pour prioriser l'utilisation de navires équipés de systèmes de récupération des eaux usées (désormais, tous les navires neufs en sont équipés) accélérer l'équipement des navires en cuves de rétention des eaux noires et de système anti-refoulement de carburant.

Cette démarche sera poursuivie en 2015 et étendue à d'autres AMP du littoral méditerranéen. Un plan d'action triennal est en cours d'élaboration avec ces deux partenaires

4. travailler activement à l'élargissement du Parc national de Port-Cros par l'établissement d'une zone d'adhésion sur le continent et d'une aire maritime adjacente, engager le processus de concertation pour l'élaboration de la charte du Parc en mobilisant le plus largement possible les acteurs du territoire ;

Un important travail de concertation a été conduit en 2013 et poursuivi en 2014, en relation avec le Conseil Économique, Social et Culturel (CESC) installé fin 2012, pour l'élaboration de la charte du parc

national (cf. annexe 2) Charte du parc national . Une quarantaine de réunions spécifiques sur les îles et sur le continent, ont été organisées. Une première série d'ateliers thématiques a produit plus de 1 000 propositions, qui ont servi de base à l'écriture de la charte . Ce premier travail de recueil des propositions a été complété par des réunions en vis à vis avec les élus des collectivités, les représentants des filières professionnelles, les chambres consulaires, le monde associatif et les services de l'État. Le travail réalisé localement a été éclairé par les avis intermédiaires du Conseil National de Protection de la Nature (CNPN), du Comité Interministériel des Parcs Nationaux (CIPN) et les recommandations de la magistrate du Conseil d'État chargée du dossier.

La charte du parc fait actuellement l'objet d'une consultation des personnes publiques. Les premiers avis rendus à ce jour sont très majoritairement favorables, dont notamment ceux émis par les acteurs socio-économiques. L'enquête publique sera diligentée en fin d'année avant l'approbation définitive du projet par le Conseil d'État et sa publication au journal officiel.

5. poursuivre l'évaluation de l'impact des activités de loisirs, mettre en place des indicateurs de capacité de charge et de pression sur l'environnement pour assurer que le seuil de tolérance des milieux naturels terrestres et marins ne soit pas dépassé, surveiller le développement et l'impact d'activités sportives nouvelles afin de les encadrer dès qu'elles émergent ; définir et mobiliser les outils nécessaires pour atteindre cet objectif et associer tous les partenaires à leur mise en œuvre ;

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Objectif 1.III Mesures partenariales 1.III.1 et 1.III.2 (p. 84 et 85)

MARCoeur 27 et 28

PMR 1 (p. 86)

Orientation 1.1 (p. 140) Mesure partenariale 1.1.6 (p. 143)

Orientation 4.2 (p. 204) Mesure partenariale 4.2.3 (p. 205)

(Cf. Évaluation environnementale annexe 4)

L'intensité de la pression du tourisme et des loisirs en période estivale est au premier rang des préoccupations du parc. Les concertations menées pour l'élaboration de la charte ont démontré que cette préoccupation est partagée par un grand nombre de nos partenaires. Plusieurs mesures de la charte visent à poursuivre le travail initié depuis 2004 sur les îles avec l'observatoire de la fréquentation des usages nautiques et terrestres des îles (Bout'île) et l'étendre à certains espaces remarquables du littoral :

Un premier travail a d'ores et déjà été engagé en 2013 avec la réalisation d'une synthèse des données de fréquentation issues du programme Bout'île, afin de déterminer d'une part les évolutions depuis 2004 et de déterminer les corrélations fréquentation/ impact. L'objectif est d'arriver fin 2015 à l'organisation de zones de mouillage en face des trois plages de Porquerolles.

Les MARCoeurs 27 et 28 (Cf. charte annexe 2) (p. 296) concernent l'encadrement des pratiques sportives dans le cadre de manifestations publiques, individuelles ou encadrées. Ces modalités prévoient d'interdire certaines pratiques, de limiter la taille des groupes, de limiter les pratiques dans l'espace et dans le temps dans un but de protection des habitats, des espèces, de la quiétude des lieux. En parallèle, le MARCoeur 22 prévoit que toute activité commerciale nouvelle doit être autorisée au préalable par le Directeur après avis du Conseil scientifique.

Par ailleurs, des actions sont prévues pour renouveler l'offre de découverte afin de réorienter la part excédentaire de la fréquentation des îles sur les espaces de l'aire d'adhésion qui peuvent l'absorber. (Cf. charte annexe 2)

Dans cet esprit le Défi des puffins, raid éco responsable en nature, a été co-organisé en partenariat avec le Comité Départemental Olympique et sportif (CDOS) sur la commune de Hyères du 18 au 20 octobre dernier.

Plusieurs propositions de mesures réglementaires en mer portent sur la limitation des impacts des activités de loisirs sur le milieu par une meilleure répartition spatiale et temporelle des activités : organisation des mouillages (Cf. charte annexe 2) PMR 1 (p. 86), organisation de la plongée (Cf. charte annexe 2) PMR 2 et 3 (p. 100).

6. poursuivre le suivi de la pêche professionnelle et adapter régulièrement la réglementation et les conventions volontaires avec les pêcheurs pour assurer l'utilisation exemplaire d'une ressource locale ; évaluer l'impact de la pêche de loisirs et affiner la réglementation au besoin

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Objectif 2.II (p. 96) PMR 5, 6, 7 et 8 (p. 102 à 106)

Orientation 3.4 (p.180) Mesures 3.4.1 à 3.4.9 (p. 180 à 182)

PMR 4, 5, 6, 7 et 8 (p.102 à 106)

Un dispositif d'enregistrement en ligne des données du carnet de pêche de loisir a été mis en place pour les détenteurs de l'autorisation de pêche par droit d'antériorité à Porquerolles. (600 pêcheurs dont 200 inscrits sur le carnet de pêche en ligne)

Évolution de la réglementation de la pêche professionnelle :

Port-Cros : reprise de l'Arrêté préfectoral et de la charte de pêche dans la proposition de mesure réglementaire PMR n° 6 avec mise en évidence que la réglementation pourra évoluer dans l'objectif de maintenir l'effet réserve. Renforcement des mesures réglementaires qui désormais interdisent aux navires de plus de 10 m de venir pêcher

Porquerolles : la PMR n° 5 vise la mise en place d'un système similaire à celui de Port-Cros (Arrêté préfectoral + charte) à la demande des pêcheurs de Porquerolles qui souhaitent également redynamiser leur section de prud'homie. La création d'une zone ressource interdite à toute activité vise également à créer un effet réserve bénéfique à tous.

Une convention de partenariat a été signée le 7 mai 2014 avec le Comité départemental des pêches maritimes CDPMEM, pour notamment mettre en place des suivis scientifiques sur les cycles biologiques, les connectivités entre milieux, le suivi de certaines espèces halieutiques d'importance, le suivi de l'effort de pêche et de l'occupation du territoire (Programme Recopesca de localisation/suivi en temps réel des navires de pêche artisanale - 3 navires équipés). Il a été également prévu de travailler sur une communication partagée, la promotion des circuits-court, la valorisation des espèces à stock durable, la valorisation de la petite pêche artisanale pluri-métiers, dans une approche plus globale (respect de l'environnement, anti-fouling, recyclage des filets usagers, ...)

Évolution de la réglementation de la pêche de loisir :

Port-Cros : seuls les habitants du cœur du Parc seraient autorisés à pêcher . Actuellement seule la pêche à la traîne reste autorisée au nord de l'île : constatant de nombreuses infractions à cette réglementation en période estivale, une prochaine étape consistera à interdire cette pratique de manière permanente (PMR n°8)

Porquerolles : la PMR n°7 prévoit le maintien du dispositif "d'autorisation de pêche par droit d'antériorité" sur certains espaces du cœur marin ainsi que l'extension de l'obligation des déclarations des captures à l'ensemble du cœur marin. Ce dispositif vise à mieux évaluer l'impact de la pêche de loisirs sur la ressource locale.

A ce stade, un dispositif d'enregistrement en ligne des données du carnet de pêche de loisir a été mis en place pour les détenteurs de l'autorisation de pêche par droit d'antériorité à Porquerolles : 200 inscrits sur les 600 autorisés à pêcher utilisent en 2014 ce système

7. informer les visiteurs qu'ils pénètrent dans un sanctuaire de nature, par des indications plus visibles dans les ports d'entrée et des annonces dans les bateaux navettes, mieux mettre en valeur le Diplôme européen ;

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Objectif 3.1 Mesures partenariales 3.I.1, 3.I.2

Orientation.3.2 (p. 176) Mesures partenariales 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3 (p 176 et 177)

Orientation 4.1 (p. 200) Mesure 4.1.7 (p. 203)

Orientation 4.2 (p.204) Mesure 4.2.3 (p. 205)

L'adaptation de la signalétique, rendue nécessaire par l'évolution des réalités géographiques et fonctionnelles du parc, est programmée en 2015. Ce délai résulte du travail réalisé par PNF pour l'adaptation de la charte graphique des parcs nationaux à leurs nouvelles réalités et au temps nécessaire pour renégocier les choix implantations avec les autorités gestionnaires des sites concernés

8. poursuivre le suivi et le contrôle des espèces exotiques envahissantes comme *Carpobrotus spp.*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, les rats et les chats haret, participer activement au réseau d'alerte Méditerranée sur les nouvelles espèces à risque ;

(Cf. charte en annexe 2)

Objectif 2.1 (p. 92) - Mesure partenariale 2.I.5 (p. 94) et MARCoeurs 1, 10 et 11

Orientation 1.1 Mesure partenariale 1.1.4

Orientation 2.2 - Mesures 2.1.2, 2.2.6 (p. 154 et 155)

Orientation 2.2 - Mesures 2.1.2, 2.2.6 (p. 154 et 155)

Programme de restauration écologique de la réserve intégrale de Bagaud : le travail d'éradication et surveillance continue des rats dans la réserve intégrale de Bagaud a été poursuivi. Aucune capture n'a été observée au cours de la mission de contrôle de septembre 2014, ce qui laisse présager le succès de l'opération initiale lancée en 2011). Après l'arrachage de 2 ha de griffes de sorcière (*Carpobrotus edulis* et *C. acinaciformis*), les travaux d'arrachage des repousses ont eux aussi été poursuivis, en recourant à des équipes spécialisées pour l'intervention en falaises. Les suivis scientifiques mis en place avant les éradications, sur la flore, l'avifaune terrestre et marine, l'entomofaune, l'herpétofaune montrent des réactions positives du milieu naturel à ce dispositif unique de double éradication sous cadrage scientifique, avec une augmentation des effectifs dans certains groupes, parfois pour des espèces endémiques très localisées (Puffin Yelkouan, passereaux, Romulée de Florent).

Les opérations de contrôle (ou « biosécurité ») bénéficient d'une dynamique de partenariats qui s'intensifie. Elles sont l'occasion d'ateliers internationaux de formation de gestionnaires d'autres espaces naturels protégés (initiative Petites Iles de Méditerranée de la mission internationale du Conservatoire du Littoral, et volontaires internationaux de l'association Naturoscope). Le programme Bagaud pourra très prochainement faire l'objet d'une évaluation très intéressante, susceptible d'être utilisée par d'autres gestionnaires d'îles confrontés aux mêmes problèmes dans le monde.

En 2014, l'îlot de la Gabinière a bénéficié d'une action de dératisation et des repasses pour l'arrachage de la griffe de sorcière ont été réalisées par les agents cordistes du PNPC sur cet îlot très escarpé, mais également sur les falaises Sud de Port-Cros en 2013.

Un travail important et régulier de contrôle et veille est également engagé depuis plusieurs années sur l'île de Porquerolles, avec un réseau de placettes faisant l'objet d'une élimination des plantes exotiques envahissantes telles que *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Acacia spp.*, *Carpobrotus spp.* Etc.

9. engager le Parc plus activement et visiblement dans les mesures concernant le développement durable et l'utilisation mesurée de ressources comme l'eau douce et l'énergie

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Objectif 4.1 (p. 120)

Mesures partenariales 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.4.6 (p. 120 et 121)

MACoeurs 6, 7 et 22

Objectif 4.II. - Mesures partenariales 4.II.1, 4.II.2 (p. 122 et 123)

Orientation 2.2 (p. 165) Mesures partenariales 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.8, 2.2.9, 2.2.10, 2.2.11 (p. 154 à 157)

Orientation 3.1 (p.174) Mesures partenariales 3.1.1 à 3.1.5 (p. 174 et 175)

Orientation 3.3 (p. 178) Mesures partenariales 3.3.1 à 3.3.5 (p. 178 et 179)

Orientation 3.4 (p. 180) Mesures partenariales 3.4.1 à 3.4.9 (p. 180 à 182)

Orientation 3.5 (p. 183) Mesures partenariales 3.5.1 à 3.5.13 (p. 183 à 186)

Orientation 3.6 (p. 187) Mesures partenariales 3.6.1 à 3.6.8 (p. 187 à 190)

Orientation 3.7 (p. 191) Mesures partenariales 3.7.1 à 3.7.3 (p. 181 à 192)

Orientation 3.9 (p. 195) Mesures partenariales 3.9.1 à 3.9.4 (p. 195 à 196)

Orientation 4.3 (p. 207) Mesures partenariales 4.3.1 à 4.3.5 (p. 207 à 208)

Orientation 4.4 (p. 209) Mesures partenariales 4.4.1 à 4.4.9 (p. 209 à 212)

L'ambition 3 de la charte consacre l'engagement du parc national en matière de développement durable, en valorisant les potentialités du territoire et en respectant ses capacités. Plusieurs domaines d'activité sont concernés et tout particulièrement le tourisme, l'agriculture, la pêche et la forêt et. Les premières attributions de la marque « Esprit parc national » aux structures d'hébergement et aux guides touristiques partenaires est une première étape initiée en 2014.

Pour ce qui concerne l'énergie, le parc poursuit les actions d'économie sur le patrimoine bâti et les matériels dont il a la gestion (travaux d'isolation, équipements basse consommation, équipement en chauffe-eau solaires, véhicules électriques ...

Une convention a été signée en 2014 entre le parc et l'Association Nationale de Protection du Ciel et de l'Environnement Nocturne (ANPCEN) pour la maîtrise des éclairages en lien avec les mesures de la charte.

Des contacts sont en cours pour associer les communes d'ores et déjà volontaires pour s'engager dans ce programme.

La problématique de l'utilisation mesurée de la ressource en eau est au cœur de l'ambition 4 de la charte. La question de l'approvisionnement en eau de l'île de Porquerolles reste posée à ce jour. Plusieurs mesures de la charte portent sur la récupération de l'eau de pluie et la mise en place de retenues des eaux de ruissellement notamment sur Porquerolles.

10. clarifier les responsabilités et tâches formelles et de fait du Parc national d'une part, et des autres acteurs locaux comme les autorités communales, départementales, maritimes ;

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Orientation 6.1 Mesure 6.1.1 (p.242)

La charte du parc présente l'ensemble des mesures liées à la préservation des patrimoines et à la promotion du développement durable. Cette présentation précise pour chacune des mesures, le rôle de l'Établissement public, la contribution des communes et le rôle des principaux partenaires associés.

Il est en outre prévu de créer en 2015, un comité technique et financier, émanation du CESC, chargé du pilotage pour la mise en œuvre et le suivi de la charte.

11. promouvoir la réappropriation locale du Parc en développant des partenariats avec les acteurs politiques, économiques et associatifs du territoire.

(Cf. Essentiel de la charte annexe 1)

(Cf. charte annexe 2)

Orientation 6.1 (p. 242) Mesures partenariales 6.1.1 à 6.1.4 (p. 242 à 243)

Orientation 6.3 (p. 244) Mesures partenariales 6.2.1 à 6.2.5 (p. 244 à 245)

L'implication très systématique de la société locale dans l'élaboration de la charte a été en elle-même, une première attention à l'appropriation locale du Parc. En ce sens, le projet de territoire est l'expression d'un engagement collectif et partagé et non pas le seul reflet de l'engagement de l'Établissement public du parc national. L'ambition 6 de la charte « Développer une approche intégrée terre/mer par une coopération renforcée, une articulation des outils et une solidarité d'action entre acteurs » et l'orientation 6.2 « Favoriser l'appropriation de la charte par tous » répondent de manière directe à cette préoccupation.

Les conventions dont il est fait état plus haut avec les acteurs des filières, nautique, de la pêche professionnelle, du tourisme, ou de l'agriculture (Programme COPAIN cf annexe 9) démontrent, avant même l'adoption formelle de la charte par les communes, l'attention portée à son appropriation la plus large.

1. Gestion du site :

Alors que les champs d'intervention géographique et technique du parc sont étendus au littoral et s'ouvrent sur les problématiques globales du développement durable, les tensions économiques actuelles se traduisent par une baisse des moyens financiers et humains (-1,5 % ETP et - 2 % subvention du Ministère prévus pour le budget 2015).

Pour palier le risque d'une perte de ses moyens financiers le parc national a complété son effectif en 2012 par le recrutement d'une chargée de mission ingénierie financière et montage de projets complexes. La recherche de moyens financiers sur un périmètre plus large et notamment sur celui du mécénat d'entreprise et des fonds structurels européens devraient permettre, dans une certaine mesure, de pondérer la baisse de la dotation de l'État.

2. Frontières :

Les limites de l'aire potentielle d'adhésion ont été confirmées par le décret n° 2009-449 du 22 avril 2009. Elles constituent l'enveloppe maximale du nouveau parc. En attente du résultat sur le choix d'adhésion des communes, une part d'incertitude demeure sur la configuration du nouveau parc,

Ses limites effectives seront déterminées par l'adhésion des communes. Après promulgation de la charte par décret en Conseil d'État et délibération des conseils municipaux (courant 2015),

ces limites seront calées sur les portions des territoires identifiées dans le décret de 2012 pour les communes qui auront confirmé leur adhésion à la charte.

3. **Autres informations :**

Sans objet : Les sections 6 à 10 du formulaire ne seront à remplir qu'en 2021, année 9 à compter du renouvellement du diplôme. Une description détaillée du territoire du parc national est présentée dans la charte (Cf. charte annexe 1 diagnostic p. 27 à 63).

11. **Incidence de l'octroi du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés**

La reconnaissance du Conseil de l'Europe est en soi un gage de la qualité du territoire et des politiques d'aménagement et d'animation qui lui sont appliquées. Dans un moment où le Parc s'étend géographiquement et s'ouvre à de multiples partenariats de gestion avec les acteurs du territoire et sur des missions nouvelles telles que le développement durable, le diplôme européen est une forme de reconnaissance et un gage de qualité par une autorité reconnue qui ne peut que contribuer au succès du projet. Chacun de ces partenaires engagés au côté du Parc national peut s'enorgueillir d'être à la fois contributeur et bénéficiaire de cette distinction

42. **Białowieża National Park – Poland**

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Draw up a peer-reviewed ten-year management plan for the national park by the end of 2009 - The Minister of the Environment has signed the long term Protection Plan for the Białowieża National Park. The document has been signed on November 7, 2014 (App. 1). The regulation of the Minister of the Environment of November 7, 2014 on the establishment of the protection plan for the Białowieża National Park enters into force on December 23, 2014. English translation of the document is attached to this report (App. 2).

2. Have all primeval forest stands and functional corridors linking the various reserves designated part of the Białowieża forest and afforded full protection - As to the second condition concerning enhancement of the protection of old-growth forests in the whole of the Białowieża Forest we inform that the Minister of the Environment declared that it is a priority for the Ministry to strengthen the protection of the Białowieża Forest. The decision of limiting timber exploitation from the Białowieża Forest managed by the State Forest administration was undertaken by the Ministry in October of 2010. A ten – year management plan for the Forest Districts of the Białowieża Forest was established and accepted by the Ministry of the Environment. It states that for the next ten years (2013 – 2022) the annual timber production cannot exceed 48,5 cubic meters. In addition, the ban on cutting the trees in treestands of over 100 years is continued. Meanwhile, the 5-year management tasks for some nature reserves situated outside of the Białowieża National Park and managed by the State Forest Administration were elaborated. Activities planned include mainly: maintenance of tourist trails, roads, division lines and fences protecting young stands against overgrazing, monitoring of xylophages and cambiohages. It is also planned to shape the selected treestands according to Natura 2000 requirements, in accordance to the needs of priority species. The whole area of the Białowieża Forest is registered as Natura 2000 site according to Habitat Directive and Bird Directive.

A long-term management plan for the Natura 2000 site “Białowieża Forest” is in final stage of preparation. The project was presented for public consultations.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Also recommends that:

1. national park regulations and forest management rules be revised to require districts (counties) located within the state forest and the Voivodship Nature Conservation Officer to work with national park management, the scientific council and independent experts, and that public consultation be undertaken in relation to planned activities in all protected areas;

Institutions involved in the management of the Białowieża Forest try to enhance the cooperation and consultation process on different levels. This is performed mainly by participation of managers, researchers and representatives of local authorities in scientific councils and advisory bodies. The Director of the Regional Directorate of the Environmental Protection is a member of the Scientific Council of the Białowieża National Park. The Director of the Park is a member of the Scientific and Social Council of the Białowieża Forest Promotional Complex. The cooperation between the Białowieża National Park and the State Forest Administration is being enhanced by joint preparation of the application to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on changing the names, boundaries and criteria of inscription of the World Heritage Property “Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest”. The application was analyzed at the World Heritage Committee meeting in 2014 in Doha (Qatar) and all changes suggested by the State Parties of Poland and Belarus have been accepted. Therefore the World Heritage Property “Białowieża Forest” covers almost the whole area of the Forest. The map is attached to this report (App. 3). In order to ameliorate the cooperation among various administrative bodies the agreement regarding establishing of Steering Committee for the World Heritage Site, the Białowieża Forest and the agreement regarding preparation and implementation of the Management Plan for the World Heritage Site, the Białowieża Forest were signed in February and June of 2014. Both documents are attached to the report (App. 4 and App. 5).

2. existing forestry policy and practices be reviewed with a view to maximising biodiversity outside protected areas as well by maintaining the ban on cutting down old trees (more than 100 years old) and significantly increasing the volume of dead wood by ceasing to market wood from sanitation felling and protected reserves; that all data with regard to the characteristics of trees felled within the Białowieża forest complex (species, age, amount of sanitation felling and commercial exploitation) are communicated to the Council of Europe every year and analysed, in order to improve conservation measures;

The administration of the State Forests of the Białowieża Forest maintains the ban on cutting trees older than 100 years. As far as the BNP is concerned, wind fallen and uprooted trees which do not fall over the roads are leaved in the forest for natural decomposition. The quantity of wood sold was 659,28 m³ (including timber used by the BNP). In 2013/2014 BNP did not carry out sanitary logging in forest ecosystems. Most of the timber sold by the BNP comes from the European Bison Breeding Centre where the safety of the animals is the priority so dead wood should be removed. The data of timber sold by the BNP are presented in the table

Table 1. Timber sold by the Białowieża National Park

| Felling type / Age class | SPECIES | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | Pine | Spruce | Ash, Maple, Elm, Oak | Hornbeam | Birch | Alder | Aspen, Poplar, Linden, Willow | Total |
| Improvement felling II age class [21-40] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Improvement felling III age class [41-60] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Emergency logging II age class [21-40] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0,65 | 0 | 0 | 1,3 | 1,95 |
| Emergency logging III age class [41-60] | 0 | 1,4 | 18,36 | 0 | 0 | 5,85 | 11,65 | 37,26 |
| Emergency logging IV older age class [61-80 and older] | 16,06 | 187,83 | 306,28 | 38,7 | 53 | 7,8 | 10,4 | 620,07 |
| TOTAL m³ | 16,06 | 189,23 | 324,64 | 39,35 | 53 | 13,65 | 23,35 | 659,28 |

Table 2. Timber sold by the State Forest Administration

| Species | Pine | Spruce | Ash, Oak | Hornbeam | Birch | Alder | Aspen, Poplar, Linden, Willow | Other coniferous | Other deciduous | Total |
|----------------------|-------|--------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| TOTAL m ³ | 10370 | 18306 | 1949 | 1266 | 8363 | 981 | 1405 | 4567 | 2034 | 5441 |

3. **education and training activities be stepped up so as to support the redistribution of jobs, with a shift away from the forestry sector towards the conservation and sustainable eco-tourism sector, thereby increasing the number of interesting local jobs for young people;**

BNP's Education and Museum Centre provides educational programs to about 60 – 70 thousand people annually, either passive - educational natural science exhibitions or active (about 4 – 5 thousand people) participation in projects such as natural sciences or ecology education. Main activities are such as: educational projects for schools; outdoor activities for youngsters and adults arranged due to visitors' needs or Park's educational assignments; outdoor courses and trainings for teachers; periodical lessons for local schools' pupils and students; natural science knowledge competitions, art and photography contests related to natural science and culture; multiactive exhibitions; museum exposition; educational pathways; publishing works. Visits of the official delegations are also treated as the opportunity for natural education concerning primeval forests and natural processes. Interesting educational events which took part for the first time in BNP :

- Great Day of Bees – about 200 participants. Celebration of the Great Day of Bees was set for 8th August. BNP participated in it for the first time.

- Green Lessons in Park - workshop for teachers organized on behalf of Ministry of Environment, within the frames of the project "Biological diversity and actions for ecosystems – national information

campaign rising consciousness on biodiversity" (BNP's educators won the contest for the best scenario) – 23 teachers participated in it.

- A series of workshops carried in 2013/2014 within the frames of the project "Discover the Magical Charm of Białowieża Forest – handicraft workshop for local communities"- 115 participants.

4. tourist access to fully protected areas be restricted to pre-2006 levels; this means critically reviewing the use of the existing narrow-gauge railway line, including rebuilt "railway stations", in accordance with the national park's admission capacity; kayaking and other aquatic leisure activities on the Narewka and Hwoźna rivers should remain strictly prohibited;

Number of tourists visiting the strictly protected area did not rise significantly during last years. Some fluctuations are observed but so far there are no reasons for applying additional regulations. No new tourist paths were created. The idea of revitalizing of a railway through the forest and the national park was dropped. On the Narewka and Hwoźna rivers, within the borders of BNP, kayaks and canoes are banned.

5. town planning be critically reviewed with a view to preventing the disappearance (as a result of urbanisation) of areas serving as buffer zones for the park and of historic rural landscapes, and guarding against the negative impact of any increase in cross-border motor vehicle traffic within the national park;

The works on establishing the complete buffer zone around BNP including Białowieska and Masiewska Glades are being carried out. The administration of the BNP gives negative opinions on any plans of new infrastructure in the nearest neighborhood of the Park. The current surveys do not show signs of traffic increase within the area of the Park and in its neighborhood.

6. legislative decisions be taken to give Białowieża National Park authorities the necessary rights and resources to manage the free movement of European bison throughout the Białowieża forest, and that efforts be made to co-operate with a view to opening a large mammal corridor in the border fence between Poland and Belarus, inside the world heritage site;

The border fence issue can be solved exclusively by the Belarusian State Party.

7. a bilateral conservation agreement between the competent Polish and Belarus ministries be ratified by the end of 2008, confirming the necessary principles for cross-border co-operation between the Białowieża and Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Parks with regard to priorities for research, management, tourism and education, coupled with ecologically healthy forest management, bearing in mind the "Forest of Hope" appeal, the conclusions of the 2000 Kamenyuki Conference and the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee;

The agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Poland and Republic of Belarus concerning the environmental issues was negotiated and finalized. The agreement was signed in Białowieża, on September 12, 2009. It covers different aspects of cooperation between both countries. The English translation of the agreement was attached to the report of 2012.

In 2012 Polish and Belarusian partners submitted to the World Heritage Center the re-nomination dossier of the World Heritage Site, according to suggestions of UNESCO and IUCN experts. Almost the whole Polish part of the Białowieża Forest is included into the boundaries of enlarged site. The map with administrative boundaries of units creating the World Heritage Property "Białowieża Forest" as accepted by the World Heritage Committee in 2014 is attached to the report (App. 3). The change of criteria of nomination has been also suggested. We suggested change of the criteria as we believed that as far as nature conservation is concerned, the criteria ix and x were much more adequate to the site which was one of the first protected areas in Europe, even before the concept of the national park was introduced in this part of Europe. The Białowieża Forest is known in the world mainly for its unique flora, fauna and unbroken natural processes which are studied carefully by the researches from all over the world. We believe that new criteria reflect better the outstanding universal values of the Site.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The Minister of the Environment has signed the long term Protection Plan for the Białowieża National Park. The document has been signed on November 7, 2014 (App. 1).

Bison in BNP are kept in captivity. Employees of BNP also monitor free-living groups of the bison in the whole of the Białowieża Forest. The counting of bison is carried out during winter. There were 505 animals in free-living herds in the whole of the Białowieża Forest and 40 in captivity. Based on data from previous years we may say that bison population is still increasing.

In the northern part of Białowieża National Park all tourist routes' marking and educational boardwalks are being renovated or exchanged.

The markings of the tourist trails has been renewed on the length of 35,5 km so as the setting of the signposts, according to the guidelines of Polish Association of Tourism and Sightseeing (4 poles and 22 direction signs). Also 832,5 meters of footbridges were modernized and new educational boards (12 pieces) were installed on the educational trail in the section 194C. Single footbridge belonging to the system of footbridges was modernized in the section 190D. New part of the footbridge on the length of 198 meters as settled, in the Masiewo forest district, former Hwoźna Protective District, Białowieża National Park. Other field investments are: renovation of access roads and culverts on the mowed areas (riparian meadows) on the length of 225 meters.

The modernization of the Animal Park has been started. The fences in enclosures of wild animals were exchanged and thanks to that both the aesthetic qualities of the enclosures and safety of animals improved. A daily enclosure for the moose was built. Two observation decks are built to provide tourists with better opportunities to observe animals. Four observation towers are under construction. New breeding enclosures for Elks, Żubroń (bison-cattle hybrid) and wolves, for day use were built. Also 3 ponds were built for the use of animals (in the breeding enclosure of tarpan horses, elks, red deers and roe deers).

A new Educational Glade 'Forest for those who have little time' was created near the Nature Education Centre of BNP in Białowieża. It includes, among other things, tables (with benches) with information about various groups of species on the tops of tables, sections of different forest communities, site to recognize tree species, as well as facilities for children to play.

House building in Stare Masiewo was modernised, where traditional heating system was replaced with an aerial heat pump and solar panels.

By virtue of the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 24 December 2013 the new statute of the Białowieża National Park entered into force. Major changes are:

1. Two protection districts were put together into one named 'Rezerwat' Protection District.
2. Research Unit was put together with Education Unit into one department named Research and Education Unit, while Nature and Forestry Museum was included into Tourism Department.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

43. Poloniny National Park (Vichodme Karpaty) – Slovak Republic

1. Conditions:

Resolution No(2012)19 contains 5 conditions

Condition No. 1: Finalise and adopt the management plan for the park within two years of the renewal

As agreed after the extraordinary mission of the Council of Europe in October 2012, a **pilot project** "to identify main priorities to solve crucial problems, to negotiate them at national and local levels" was prepared. Its log-frame elaborated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (hereafter "State Nature Conservancy") was agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, sent to the Council of Europe for the approval and on September 2013 presented during the 1st meeting of the Joint Management Committee. Log-frame of the pilot project is provided in the Annex I. During reported period **the State Nature Conservancy finalized the detail "action plan"** (available in Slovak, in Annex II) to be discussed within the Joint Management Committee in 2015 as non-legal document (used till the management plan is ready/approved). In 2015 zonation of the national park will be tackled according to the amended legislation.

Condition No. 2: 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.

Forestry issues (changes underlined):

In the previous reports information was given on the Swiss/Slovak-project "**Development of nature conservation and protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians**" implemented by the State Nature Conservancy. The Poloniny NP is a pilot area. The activities relevant to **forestry** are: to map natural forests, to propose their reclassification and to elaborate and issue the guidance on management of natural forests. During the referred period **mapping of natural forests started**, results from this mapping will be provided in the nearest months along with remaining two activities. Delay was caused by long-lasting public tender.

The Poloniny NP is "divided" mainly into 5 forestry units: Starina, Nižná Jablonka, Ulič, Topoľa and Zboj. The sixth **Snina** forestry unit is represented only by a small part (3,55 ha, not significantly relevant for the Poloniny NP).

In 2012 a renewal of forest care program for the **Nižná Jablonka forestry unit was approved** (valid for planning period 2012-2021). This unit represents ca 5 % (1 400 ha) of the area of the Poloniny NP. With respect to the **Starina forestry unit** (nearly half of surface area of the Poloniny NP) the renewal of forest care program was adopted in 2010 (valid for decennium 2010-2019). Details were given in the previous annual reports. For the remaining 3 **forestry units - Ulič, Topoľa and Zboj** (which together represent approximately half of the forested area of the Poloniny NP) the process of renewal of the forest care program for decennium 2014-2023 **was finished in the referred period**.

From the available data the following may be summarized:

1. Categorization of forests and the associated functional orientation of area. A part of protective forests became the productive forests because of their new revision in the process of preparing forest care programs. Comparison of forest categories within the Ulič, Topoľa and Zboj forestry units (within the Poloniny NP) between 2 decennia is given in the table below:

| Category of forest | Previous decennium 2004 - 2013 | New decennium 2014 – 2023 | Difference | Change within the category of forest |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|---|
| | Surface area in ha | | | % |
| Productive forests | 13 529,69 | 13 657,31 | +127,62 | + 0,943 % increase |
| Forests of special purpose | 872,85 | 861,53 | -11,32 | - 1,297 % decrease |
| Protective forests | 1 304,94 | 1 188,64 | -116,30 | - 8,912 % decrease |
| Total: | 15 707,48 | 15 707,48 | | |

2. Applied silvicultural systems. According to the framework internal rules the “rotation period” has been shortened in large part of the forestry units. It was based on determination of exploitable age for beech forest taking into consideration current age composition of forest stands as well as process of forming of so called false tree hearth (causing hearth decay typical for the old beech trees).

3. The changed concept how to use the “succession” forests that during the previous period were not planned to be managed and they evolved naturally.

4. These factors significantly influence **the intensity of logging**.

Game management:

The minimum acreage of a hunting ground for red deer game according to the hunting law³ is **2 000 ha**. But the hunting planning is provided for the whole Poloniny NP which belongs to the **hunting region JXXIV. Poloninské Karpaty**. Then the hunting plans are prescribed for hunting region.

The hunting region has its regional advisory board on game management dealing with all relevant issues (planning for each game species and instructions for hunting associations). The hunting region is divided into 19 hunting grounds (hunting is subject to 10 year agreements with individual hunting associations who rented hunting right for land owners).

Condition No. 3: 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).

In the referred period **new legal framework was created for negotiation with concerned land owners**. Namely **§ 30 of a national law on nature and landscape protection**⁴ was amended – to apply new economic instruments set in §§ 61-63. **These instruments include exchange/purchase/rent** of land allotments in protected areas **as well as contractual measures** (to complement the existing ones – financial compensation, financial contribution and the right of the first refusal). These economic instruments are closely connected with amended **§ 50 (designation of protected areas)** and **§ 54 (documentation of nature protection)** as well as amended **Ministry Ordinance**⁵ and **new legal norm with respect to calculation of compensation of the owners**⁶. In addition **§ 28 (Natura 2000) of the Act** was changed to improve procedure of so called appropriate assessment of plans and projects with possible significant impact (including compensatory measures).

³ the Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on game management and the related Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 344/2009 Coll.

⁴ Act No 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended (4 times amended in the reported period)

⁵ Ordinance of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No 23/2003 Coll. (amendment valid since 15th June, 2014)

⁶ Ordinance of the Government of the Slovak Republic No 7/2014 Coll. on details concerning application for financial compensation, way of its calculation and way of payment for leasing and for contractual management within the compensation of common use of the land (valid since 1st February 2014)

Specifically in the Poloniny NP the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic as well as the State Nature Conservancy **organized several meetings with local stakeholders** with a big **effort to reach an agreement on creation of coherent “no-intervention” belt of forests at the border** with Poland. These negotiations have not been finalized in the referred period.

Condition No. 4: 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.

As mentioned in the above paragraph, new economic instruments and additional negotiations with land owners/users/leasers were undertaken. These created basis for possible action. Details on respective §§ of the Act are given in the Annex III.

Condition No. 5: 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.

The Project of the State Nature Conservancy „**Research and monitoring of population of large carnivores and of the wildcat in Slovakia**“, supported by the EU structural funds (started in 2010, prolonged by 2014) **continued in the referred period**. In the reported period mainly monitoring of carnivores was undertaken. Gathered DNA samples were transported to the Technical University in Zvolen.

The specific research of a ranger within his work on dissertation **continued** with the **research of brown bear**. The aim is to gain more exact information on brown bear population in the Poloniny NP (numbers, structure) and its bionomics (spatial activity, feeding behaviour, etc.). Simultaneously **parasitological research** is done within this dissertation. Results are available at http://www.alparc.org/content/download/22130/209430/version/1/file/04_Stofik.pdf and also published in several articles.

Work of **expert group on management of large carnivores** (under the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic) **continued** tackling specifically issue of wolf.

2. Recommendations

Resolution No(2012)19 contains 7 recommendations

Recommendation No. 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

Responsibilities of the State Nature Conservancy are given by the Act, the Administration of the Poloniny NP is one of its 25 units. The Administration of the Poloniny NP is not an actual manager of land - it is an expert body that provides written opinion for the decision making including the forestry/hunting and at present involved in several projects. Its role should strengthen if new economic instruments are applied.

Recommendation No. 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;

In 2011 the bilateral agreement at the nature protection bodies was signed only with Ukraine (between the State Nature Conservancy and the Uzhansky National Nature Park). There are also regular **meetings of commissions established within the official bilateral governmental agreements on environmental cooperation** (in 1994 Slovak Government signed a bilateral agreement with the Government of Ukraine as well as the bilateral agreement with Poland respectively), State Nature Conservancy takes part to the meetings.

A trilateral agreement on the management of the Východné Karpaty Trilateral Biosphere Reserve among Ukraine, Poland and Slovakia was signed in November 15th, 2013, which includes cooperation on activities related also to the European diploma. Full text is in the Annex IV.

In addition an intensive **trilateral cooperation with respect to the UNESCO site** (Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Germany) since 2007–2012 resulted in the official written agreement. **The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed on 14th May 2014 during the meeting of the Joint Management Committee.** Its aim is a mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the Joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)”. Full text of the document is in the Annex V.

Recommendation No. 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.

Budget provided to the Poloniny NP in 2013 was 227 782,77 EUR (financial sources including operating expenses and wages) **and 4 514,73 EUR** (financial sources only from projects without operating expenses and wages), respectively. **The number of staff members in 2014 was 12 persons.**

Recommendation No. 4: Give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park.

This recommendation has been **complemented since 1st January 2014** when full year protection of wolf within the Poloniny NP, its protective zone and adjacent Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area applies according to the amended hunting legislation (within competency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic)⁷.

In the referred period no wolves were shot in area of the Poloniny NP (in 1998 and 1999 – 0, 2000 – 4, 2001 – 2, 2002 – 0, 2003 – 4, 2004 – 3, 2005 – 3, 2006 – 7, 2007 – 6, 2008 – 5, 2009 – 8, 2010 – 3, 2011 – 3, 2012 – 3, 2013 – 0).

Recommendation No. 5: Strongly consider the designation of a hunting district within the park as a strict cynegetic reserve.

Hunting generally is **not allowed on ca 7 %** of the Poloniny NP, “**common hunting**” is **prohibited within the whole national park**, wolf was agreed to be a fully protected species (with perspective to better control condition of the species that are subject to wolf predation). More information on hunting is given above under condition No 2. Without fulfilling the condition No 2 the strict cynegetic reserve is not realistic. In this respect actual enforcement of the hunting regulations is of the high importance as prohibition of hunting along the national park is not seen as the realistic solution by the bodies in charge of hunting.

Recommendation No. 6: Pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style; the park might devise a charter of architectural rules for local authorities.

In the frame of the above mentioned on-going Swiss/Slovak project financed from the Swiss financial mechanism the State Nature Conservancy of the SR **prepared the small-scale grants** aimed to support both natural and cultural heritage and soft-tourism. The grant was open in summer 2013. **In September 2013 the results were made public** on <http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=20062> – from 20 proposals for the Poloniny NP 10 were adopted and 10 refused. All of the were successfully completed with strong involvement of the local stakeholders.

Recommendation No. 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.

⁷ Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of SR No 489/2013 Coll. amending the Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No 344/2009 Coll. on Implementing of the Hunting Law as amended

This recommendation closely relates to the condition No. 2 and it is connected to the delayed activities of the Swiss/Slovak project. **The communication with main forestry stakeholders has been intensified, concrete results would depend on cost-benefit analysis** (considering income from forestry along with the other possible sources of local income).

3. **Site Management:**

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| No changes of the environment, staff/finances since the last annual report. |
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4. **Boundaries:**

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|------------------------------|
| No change of the boundaries. |
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5. **Other information:**

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| <p>Appart for already mentioned significant changes of nature protection and hunting legislation, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved following 2 documents:</p> |
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- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection by 2020 (approved on 8th January 2014); - Operational Program Quality of the Environment 2014-2020 (approved on 16th April 2014 and after submitted for approval of the European Commission) with specific investment priority “protection and strengthening of biodiversity and soil and of ecosystem services including Natura 2000 and green infrastructure”. |
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| <p>As the Poloniny NP is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Carpathian beech forests and old forest of Germany”, during reported period intensive cross-sector communication took place with respect to preparation of the report and of a monitoring mission of the UNESCO and IUCN expert Pierre Galland to the Slovak part of the site⁸.</p> |
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44. Bieszczady National Park – Poland

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Condition 1: the government concerned must undertake to adopt a management plan for the diploma-holding area, within two years at the most following the renewal of the period of validity;

In 2009-2012 the project of the legal regulation approving conservation plan for the Bieszczady National Park was prepared. On the 4th of September 2012, the project has been sent to the Minister of the Environment.

Regulation of the Minister of Environment in terms of nature conservation for the first time takes into account the wider scope of the Natura 2000 protection plans. Therefore, there are many substantive and legislative uncertainties concerning how to shape the technical and factual presentation of such a document.

Bieszczady National Park within a working relationship with the Department of Forestry and Nature Conservation is currently making regular corrections to the project in accordance to recommendations of Legal Department of the Ministry of Environment and Government Legislation Centre. The current version of the technical draft of the document undergo substantial corrections and improvements and varies substantially from the one sent in 2012.

We do expect that project will ultimately approved by the Minister of the Environment by the end of 2015.

⁸ Monitoring mission took part from September 30th – October 3rd, 2014, the expert report has not been received yet.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Recommendation 1: extend the perimeter of the diploma-holding area by including in the park the territory currently separating its two cores;

The current legal situation in Poland does not make it possible to extend the area of the National Park without consent of local communities. Due to reluctance of local authorities, it is not appropriate to initiate the procedure of Park enlargement. However, in the area separating the enclave of the Park from its main complex, the Promotional Forest Complex "Bieszczady Forests" was created on 29th of November 2011. Complex includes forest districts of Stuposiany, Lutowska and Cisna and covers the area of 24 234 ha. It seems that "Complex" support the nature conservation in acceptable level.

Recommendation 2: implement a programme to study and monitor the status and development of the large predators on the scale of the BNP and the three neighbouring parks of Cisniansko-Wetlinski, Dolina Sanu and Nadsanski; recruit for this purpose a zoologist responsible for this programme to the diploma-holding area's scientific team;

From 2012, the BNP along with the Pro Carpathia Foundation, Magura National Park and 11 forest districts are carrying out the project "Protection of forest wildlife refuges – migration corridors" founded by Swiss - Polish Cooperation Programme. The aim of the project is to ensure consistency of environment for the animals in the southern part the Podkarpackie province by creating new and maintaining existing ecological corridors.

Apart from public roads monitoring leading to the location of the animal crossings, important component of the Bieszczady National Park activity is to identify the presence and state of indicator species (predators and ungulates) in BNP and its buffer zone. The information collected to date is published on the Park website (www.bdpn.pl) in the "Science" - "Fauna" - „Wildlife Monitoring". The project currently employs two researchers performing monitoring tasks. We plan to further develop the research unit of the Park dealing with the monitoring of large carnivores and herbivores.

Recommendation 3: step up cooperation between the management of the BNP and the municipalities, with a view to forging a common vision and designing common objectives for regional planning and development, taking the biological and landscape interest and sensitive nature of the sites into account;

Local governments have their respective representatives in the Science Council of the Bieszczady National Park. The work progress within the Protection Plan has been presented to them at the Scientific Council meetings. Representatives of the BNP take part in meetings of the municipal council of Lutowska where discussion is held on the spatial management and sharing of land for tourism.

Recommendation 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 (4) conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, (5) spatial planning and (7) forestry.

Bieszczady National Park together with the partners from Slovakia and Ukraine is carrying out the tasks of trilateral Transboundary Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians". There is common protective zoning in the Reserve area in the countries involved.

The Park participates in the broad cooperation in terms of the natural heritage protection in Reserve countries, as well as scientific cooperation between institutions dealing with nature protection in the countries stated above.

This includes: organizing and hosting various conferences, seminars, research expeditions and the publication of the scientific journal “Roczniki Bieszczadzkie” (Bieszczady Annals) containing the articles of the Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian authors.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No significant changes. The BNP administration plans to extend the total size of strictly protected areas in the park up to aprox. 79% in 2015

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes of the BNP's external boundaries

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

In 2014, the largest ever number of visitors - 353.7 thousand was recorded on the foot trails. Monitoring of tourism in the BNP (in the period from late April to mid-November) started in 1997.

45. Dobročský National Nature Reserve – Slovakia

1. Conditions:

The following condition has been set up by the Resolution No (2012)11:
 - *pursue the process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests, mainly in the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve, in compliance with the management plan.*

Process of transforming anthropogenic forest in the buffer zone (B zone) of the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve (hereafter “Dobročský prales NNR”) - continued in the reported period, preferably the calamity timber was processed in a volume of 718 m³ (wind calamity – volume of 363 m³, bark beetle calamity – volume of 355 m³). Other interventions in this area have not been implemented.

In the surrounding forest stands, outside of the protected area, prescribed rehabilitation and educational interventions were carried out in accordance with the valid Forest Management Plan as well as the necessary sanitation measures under the current status of the forest stands with an occurrence of the bark beetle calamity and other types of calamity.

2. Recommendations:

Two recommendations have been set up by the Resolution No. (2012)11:
 1. *Promote awareness-raising activities, mainly:*
 - *updating the exhibition on the Dobročský prales NNR in the Pred Skalickou cottage;*
 - *in co-operation with the forestry authorities, installing the information point on the Dobročský prales NNR in the Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská valley, near Čierny Balog.*

With respect to the first part of the recommendation No 1 the following activities were undertaken in the reported period:

- **the exhibition in the Pred Skalickou cottage was updated** (damaged components of the exhibition were replace) **and lacking publications a promotional materials were printed;**
- **cottage was subject of necessary maintenance work** (insulation of building foundations against the water, repairing and painting the wall and ceiling);

With respect to the second part of the recommendation:

On 3rd October 2013 **the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of protection of the Dobročský prales NNR** and the Badínsky prales NNR (protection of the both primeval forests was declared in 1913 by a one legal act) were performed. On this occasion, the director of the State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic, Ctibor Határ and director of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Milan Boroš, ceremonially unveiled a statue **“torso of the dobročská jedľa”**. The statue was made, in its actual size of the largest silver fir in the primeval forest, by Martin Hudáček from Banská Bystrica. It is located close to the information panels installed during the previous reported period. The celebration was attended by over 70 invited guests, including the Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Peter Žiga and representatives of the Swiss Embassy in Slovakia (creation of the statue was financed from the ongoing “Swiss project”).

Information leaflets about the Dobročský prales NNR **in English and Slovak** were issued. Their distribution was carried out by the NGO Vydra, the State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic (its branch Čierny Balog) and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Administration of the Poľana Protected Landscape Area). In November 2013 the Vydra NGO issued a **promotional leaflet** called “Oddych, zábava, poučenie”, in which one section is dedicated to the Dobročský prales NNR

The relevant **information of the Dobročský prales NNR is available** to visitors **in the open air forestry museum** in the Vydrovská Valley in its information centre at the start of “Chodník lesného času” **and also on websites of relevant organizations**⁹.

The public could learn interesting news via the radio and television (such as within the RTVS-session Teleweekend dated on 15.11.2013).

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

Monitoring of the status of the territory does not indicate any significant changes in comparison with the previous period.

Monitoring of frequency visitors indicates a stable frequency of attendance.

The occurrence of invasive alien plants has not been recorded.

In 2013 a **research of occurrence of fungi** including those of typical native and undisturbed forest was realized in this area (led by doc. Ing. Vladimír Kunca, Phd., Technical University in Zvolen). The research resulted for instance in confirmation of extremely rare species *Amylocystis lapponicus* and *Antrodia sitchensis*. The results of this research have not been published yet.

The partial **zoological research** in the core of the forest focused on invertebrates continued (lead by Ing. Peter Potocký, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Administration of the Poľana Protected Landscape Area). It resulted, among others in founding – for the first time in the Dobročský prales NNR – rare species of the Community interest *Rhysodes sulcanus* and reaffirming of occurrence of the species *Cucujus cinaberinus*. This research will continue in the next years.

The **maintenance of the information objects** was ensured by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Administration of the Poľana Protected Landscape Area).

3. Site Management:

In the core zone (zone A) of the Dobročský prales NNR - which represents a fragment of the original ecosystem of the Carpathian natural forest - **the nature processes typical for the forest climax stadium in this environment still run.**

⁹ <http://www.chkopolana.eu/news/narodna-prirodna-rezervacia-dobrotsky-prales/>;
<http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693>; www.pralesy.sk; <http://www.ciernybalog.sk/dobrotsky-prales.phtml?id3=83412>;
<http://www.huculskamagistrala.sk/externe/klaster/home.nsf/page/0be66ae90b0a7bd4c1257baa002a74d9?OpenDocument>;
http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2013/enviro3/22_ste.pdf;

The State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic (branch Čierny Balog) neither did not carry out nor did not record any intentional anthropic interventions in the reported period. From the point of view of the ecological stability this phenomenon confirms the ongoing processes in the primeval communities and this part of the protected territory can be still evaluated as highly stable with favorable conditions for habitats.

Management interventions in the buffer zone (zone B) – altered forests - were aimed mainly to **process the calamity wood in volume** of 718 m³ (wind calamity – volume of 363 m³, bark beetle calamity – volume of 355 m³) in the reported period. Other intentional interventions in this area have not been implemented. These measures were provided by the (State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic (branch Čierny Balog).

In the surroundings forests outside the protected area **prescribed rehabilitation and educational interventions** were carried out in accordance with the valid forest management plan as well as the necessary sanitation measures under the current status of the forest stands with an occurrence of the bark beetle calamity and other types of calamity.

4. Boundaries:

There were no changes of boundaries of the area with the European diploma granted by the Council of Europe - Dobročský prales NNR in the referred period.

5. Other information:

Altogether **11 excursions with a total of 216 professionals visited the Dobročský prales NNR.** The State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic (branch Čierny Balog) organized visits for 6 groups with 100 visitors. Department of the Silviculture of the Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen organized 2 excursions with 54 professionals, Department of Applied Ecology of Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Science of the Technical University Zvolen organized 1 excursion for 2 professionals.

On 3 October 2013 the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Administration of the Poľana Protected Landscape Area) organized a visit for 50 participants within the official 100th anniversary celebration of the protection of the Dobročský prales NNR and in 2014 one visit for 10 eco-tourists.

Within the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales NNR the local **NGO Vydra accompanied 13 groups (141 visitors).** They were students of secondary school, temporary employees from Vydra NGO, scouts from the Czech Republic and individual visitors.

The highest number of visitors of the protected area was recorded between May and August 2014.

Results of the previous research in the Dobročský prales NNR (UJHÁZY K., KRÍŽOVÁ E., MURÍN M., ONDRUŠ M. 2009: The short-term changes in vegetation of fir beech of the Dobročský prales. *Report of the Czech Botanical Society* 44: 59-77) were used in the **dissertation thesis** of Dipl. Ing. Michal Martinák (MARTINÁK M. 2013: The changes in species composition of herbaceous layer due to changes in tree species composition of forests, Dissertation thesis, Zvolen: Technical University in Zvolen, Faculty of Forestry. 123 pages, 7 attachments).

Within the preparation for the construction the an educational trail, in partnership with the State Enterprise Forestry of the Slovak Republic and the Vydra NGO, **the route of the educational trail was designed.** It starts in the parking lot at the State Road Hriňová – Brezno and continues to the forest path to the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales NNR. Through the buffer zone it heads to the boarder of the protected area (primeval forest), but does not interfere with it and in the part of this route passes just over the boundary. Totally 7 information panels are planned on the route. This activity is financed from the financed from the ongoing “Swiss project”).

The results of a one-day research during the symposium “**Cryptogam symposium** on natural beech forests in Slovakia, 2011“, organized by the Institute of Botany of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, are not published yet.

46. Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve – Russian Federation

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There were no conditions, only recommendations were attached to the renewal of the Diploma in 2008 (see below).

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The following recommendations to the renewal of the European Diploma were given in 2008:

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.

In accordance with these items, the Zapovednik’s administration emphasizes the following:

1. In 2014 the equipment from the Steppe project for creation of the monitoring system of the territory of the reserve is delivered:
 - Server
 - Workstation
 - Network equipment (wireless router)
 - Mobile equipment (tablet, etc.)
 - 2 monitors
 - 2 uninterruptible power supplies.
2. The work has been continued on creation of a buffer zone of Poima Psia and Zorinsky sections of the Zapovednik. By present time Regulations about a buffer zone are developed and the approval of a part of land users is received. However some municipal authorities refuse to approve a transitional zone of the reserve therefore on these two sites it is not still formed.
3. In 2014 works have been continued on expansion the zapovednik’s territory and creation of biosphere range "Steppe" in Kursk area of 463 hectares.

4. Since 2010 the Zapovednik is involved in the Steppe Project which is financed by international organizations UNDP and GEF as well as by Federal Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of RF "Improving the coverage and management efficiency of protected areas in the steppe biome of Russia". Only 4 zapovedniks throughout Russia have been chosen as pilot territories for this project.
5. The «Belogorye» Zapovednik is an organization with the separate administration and management; the Tsentral'no-Chernozemny Zapovednik can carry out works on optimization only its own territory.

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

During the reporting period for the first time the reserve faced considerable not mowing of the haying areas on two sites of the reserve. It is connected with the low demand for hay which in turn is caused by gradual decreasing of livestock in the neighboring settlements. The regular number of employees didn't change, financing remained practically at the former level.

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes of borders of the reserve took place in 2014.

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

In 2014 actions were continued for reintroduction of steppe marmots (*Marmota bobac*) on a pasture of the Streletsky site of the TsChZ within the performance of the works according to Steppe project UNDP/GEF/Ministry of Natural Resources RF.

For creation of the guaranteed semi-free population of marmots the pen was built on 1 ha of the former arable land where within three years the works on steppe restoration were carried out. The pen is fenced with a mesh fence, which is earthed on depth of 70 cm, the height of the fence is 90 cm, on all perimeter – a metal peak; all this done to prevent animals from running away. Artificial holes for five family groups are equipped. In July the first party of animals consisting of 20 individuals (5 family groups) was populated in the pen. The second group of steppe marmots was let out in the territory of a pasture.

For the first time in Russia on June 5-15, 2014 there took place the XI annual International conference of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) "Steppes and Semi-Natural Dry Grasslands: Ecology, Transformation and Restoration". 22 experts representing 7 states participated in a field meeting and field excursion on June 11, 2014 to the Streletsky steppe: Austria (3), Hungary (4), Germany (6), Greece (1), Kazakhstan (1), Russia (6) and Finland (1). Especially for this event a colourful bilingual Field Guide "The Streletsky Site of the Central Chernosem Reserve" was issued; the edition was supported by the Steppe project UNDP/GEF/ Federal Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment RF "Improving the coverage and management efficiency of protected areas in the steppe biome of Russia".

47. De Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve – Netherlands

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Any developments of Lelystad regional airport must not have any negative impact on the reserve; this is to be confirmed after the full procedure of EIA including public consultation has been finalized; in particular:

1. All alternative locations with least disturbing effects on the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve and its surroundings.
2. All flight routes and heights and their risks of disturbing the fauna making use of the reserve and its surroundings and the risk of birds with airplanes.

For as far as the development of Lelystad airport is concerned, at this moment there still has no final decision been made about the flight paths of the aircraft. The expansion of the airport itself will take place. For as far as the proposed routes for ascending and descending aircraft the final routes are most likely to remain away from the nature reserve, this mainly due to disturbance and because of the risk of midair collisions with birds.

The conclusions in the Environmental Impact Assessment show that for the chosen variant no significant disturbance of birds in the Oostvaardersplassen is to be expected. When there would nevertheless be opted for another route across the Oostvaardersplassen, then an appropriate assessment has to be made.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Recommendations to the renewal:

- A. The annual reports have to include a specific paragraph on all developments in relation with Lelystad regional airport.
- B. Further convince authorities of the surrounding municipalities and the Province to decrease external impacts on the reserve by reviewing urbanization and zoning plans where appropriate
- C. Ensure the optimal functioning of two visitor centres (Almere and Lelystad) by increasing budgets for personel, including communication experts
- D. Complete the further integration of adjacent green areas such as Hollandse Hout into the reserve management; give priority to rebuilding the railroad along a new trace to the South of this zone with establishment of a new railway station Lelystad-Zuid
- E. Further minimize the visual urbanization impact of Almere aiming a better gradual integration between the city and the open landscape by fully respecting the border and buffer zones of the reserve and by still further lowering the agree building heights and volumes
- F. Implement the recommendations of the ICMO report related to the reserve management and the further extension of the reserve with a corridor to Horsterwold; concentrate all efforts to establish the Oostvaarderswold as a multifunctional corridor with combined importance for conservation, recreation, and water management; review the existing windfarms along the future Oostvaarderswold corridor to reduce risks of bird collisions and maximize "wilderness" aspect; avoid new developments, infrastructures and investments in the future corridor zones other than those related to its specific ecological functions; maximize future ecological connecting potentials by constructing ecoducts and tunnels where needed.

A see the above

B There are regular meetings between the municipalities of Lelystad, Almere, and the province of Flevoland and Staatsbosbeheer at several levels to ensure a proper and well balanced development of the near vicinity of the Oostvaardersplassen, also in regard with Natura 2000. There is a development-programm New Nature for the province of Flevoland that supports the reserve OVP.

C Last year a begin has been made with using both centres as a place where the public can meet the manager (warden) of the reserve. Also there is a new manager at the centre in Almere who has

new idea's about cooperation and developing activities around, en if possible, within the reserve. All being conducted by Staatsbosbeheer. Within Staatsbosbeheer there has been a, nearly finished, reorganisation for staff. During this process in the centre at Lelystad there has been an increase of staff with 1.5.

D Recently the connection between the adjacent area's (Oostvaardersveld and Kotterbos) is realised. Visitors now can enter the Oostvaardersveld through a tunnel from the Oostvaardersplassen. Deer can also use this tunnel, just as it now can use a passage underneath the railroad to the Kotterbos. Also, the connection with the Hollandse Hout looks promising for deer. It is not yet a fact but perhaps in the near future. a new railway and railwaystation is not within the responsibilities of Staatsbosbeheer.

E see B.

F This year the management advisory board, (BAC) installed by the former secretary of State, will give their opinion in their final report. The advice will be included in the new management plan according to Natura 2000. The management plan for the Natura 2000 appointment for the Oostvaardersplassen has now gone public. Early next year the outcome of the public poll will be known, and hopefully, the plan can start. For as far as the Oostvaarderswold project is concerned, this BAC is finally stopped due to costs and change of views by the ministry.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Last year there has been no real changes to the site itself. Howe ever, the writing and bringing out the Natura 2000-plan has been the main topic for this year. Some of the things that have been done this year was the counting of the large herbivores in the Oostvaardersplassen. This counting is done twice a year, (as advised by ICMO2). In spring this is carried out from ground stations, with staff and volunteers, also including members of a local birding society. Later in the year it is done by helicopter (as suggested by ICMO2). During the second counting there also were members of the local birding society present to look at the impact this method of counting has on birdlife. The counting by helicopter is a costly affair. As said, the staff for our information centre has increased by 1.5 FTE. Since the premiere of the film "the Nieuwe Wildernis" in the cinema's, august last year, the number of visitors to the reserve has tripled, or at some moments in the weekends even quadrupled. This means together with the local community we have to solve the problem with parking for our visitors. There are moments that over 250 cars have to find a parkingplace, but cannot find. At this moment planning we are looking for a change in the management building including its surrounding and the parking space.

Because of the fact the adjacent area, the Oostvaardersveld, now has been connected with the Oostvaardersplassen and there are several trails? and footpaths and deer also will shortly get access to this area, there is need to update the management plan especially for this area. This plan will be made with the cooperation of several external stakeholders.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.



The concept National Park Oostvaardersplassen.

There has not been any real change in the boundaries of the reserve itself. However since this year we prefer to speak of the Oostvaardersplassen in a manner that indicates that the reserve consists of a so called “core area” (the original Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve), and the surrounding areas. These outer layer of the area consists of the following areas: Hollandse Hout, (900 ha) Oostvaardersveld (350 ha), Kotterbos (300 ha), and the Oostvaardersbos (140 ha). All of these areas are more or less directly connected with the reserve itself. At the other side of the Lage Vaart, a canal that forms the boundary of the area, there is an area of 360 ha of which 110 ha will be redeveloped for more recreational use, combined with foraging area for bird species appointed by Natura 2000. Further on there is a proposal by the province of Flevoland to transfer an area of 110 ha to Staatsbosbeheer, also to be redeveloped and used for recreation and as foraging area. In total; this means that the total area will be 7760 ha. The centre than can remain a protected area with its special values, while the surrounding 2160 ha will be developed for recreational activities.

Local politics have developed a plan, to appoint the Oostvaardersplassen as a new National Park. This would be by including the earlier mentioned core area and its surrounding areas. (see map)

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Like any other year there has been a new annual report made about the management of last year. This can be found on the website, in the dossier Oostvaardersplassen at:

http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/~media/00%20PDF/Actueel/Dossiers/Oostvaardersplassen/jaarrapportage_monitoring_oostvaardersplassen_2013-2014.ashx

Here one can find the latest development about the large herbivores and bird life in the Oostvaardersplassen. This annual report is made available to the public through the website of Staatsbosbeheer. Also on the website one can find the monthly reports that are written for the secretary of state about the developments of the population of the large herbivores

This year a new start has been made in the participation of the Migratory Birds for People project. Due to several reasons, the participation in this project was put on hold, but now it has been renewed. This is a project between the visitor centres along the flight way of migratory birds in Europe.

The number of tours and visits to the area has increased greatly since the film has been shown in cinema's. 700.000 people saw the movie. It won several awards. At this moment there are ideas to release it also in Germany next year. It has had the international attention of several countries, like Belgium, France, Japan, the U.K. It also has been shown on the international flights from the KLM between Amsterdam and New York.

This year the white tailed eagle did again have a nest in the Oostvaardersplassen, this time with three young, the first time ever recorded in the Netherlands.

48. Podyjí National Park – Czech Republic

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Podmínky: Vypište zde všechny podmínky, které byly připojeny k udělení nebo obnovení evropského diplomu. Pokud byly podmínky zcela splněny, vysvětlete jak, pokud byly splněny částečně, podrobně popište pokrok v plnění každé z nich. Prosíme rovněž uvést veškeré nevyřešené problémy, s nimiž jste se setkali.

There weren't any conditions attached to renewal of European Diploma.

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Doporučení: Vypište zde všechna doporučení, která byla připojena k udělení nebo obnovení evropského diplomu. Pokud byla doporučení zcela splněna, vysvětlete jak, pokud byla splněna částečně, podrobně popište pokrok v plnění každého z nich. Prosíme rovněž uvést veškeré nevyřešené problémy, s nimiž jste se setkali.

Recommendation:

1. ensure, in collaboration with the operator of the hydroelectric power station at Vranov, that the negative amplitudes in the flow regime from the dam sluices are reduced and that a minimum residual flow rate is guaranteed

The current flow regime is already fulfilling part of the requirements of the Podyji National Park Administration (minimal residual flow is now around 3 m³ / s, three turbines are running only exceptionally). Nevertheless, this condition is not legally enforceable. The original permission of water usage has not been yet extended due to the negative standpoint of the Podyjí National Park Administration. Our organization is currently negotiating with the plant operator on how to present positive changes in water flow regime embedded into enforceable act.

2. secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019

The Management plan was approved on June 28, 2012 for the time period 2012-2020. The measures set in the Management plan are being implemented.

3. control the development of leisure activities, and in particular avoid the use of the River Dyje for water sports;

There are no changes planned. According to the current Management plan (2012-2020), the Dyje river in national park won't be able to be used for water sports.

4. intensify co-operation with the Thayatal National Park to harmonise the fishing regulations within the two parks and reduce the negative effects of fishing in the core zones

There is an agreement on assignment of joint research study to assess the negative impact of angling on aquatic and terrestrial biota in the area. Study will also propose an appropriate alteration of sport fishing regulation on the Dyje river. Ministry of the Environment will try to discuss with the Ministry of Agriculture legislative changes that would facilitate the regulation of sport fishing rules on the Dyje.

5. develop relations with municipalities and the local community in order to encourage sustainable management of their land within the national park, in line with the principles and rules laid down in the management plan

After a comprehensive land consolidation in the vicinity of Čížov village, the landlords leases on arable land have been changed. About 1/3 of the cultivated part of the land there will begin a gradual transition to ecological farming now.

6. pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones;

Agricultural landscape of buffer zone has been enriched with two new alleys. The Territorial System of Ecological Stability project has been finished in cadastre of Lukov village. The execution of the project, scheduled for 2015, will improve the structure of the landscape in the buffer zone.

7. grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter

The building of sewer systems in three villages in the buffer zone has started. Water treatment plants in small villages can be now funded from Grant programme to support communities in national parks regions of the Ministry of Environment.

8. undertake research on the influence of the artificial barriers on the ecosystem of the Dyje River. Mitigation measures on the riparian ecosystems should be adopted

Research on the impact of weirs on fish migration in the Dyje river will be completed by the end of 2014.

3. **Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Management: *Vypište zde veškeré změny v managementu suchozemských i vodních ekosystémů realizované držitelem Evropského diplomu od poslední výroční zprávy včetně personálních a finančních informací. Prosíme rovněž uvést veškeré nevyřešené problémy, s nimiž jste se setkali.*

New forest management plan for forests managed by the National Park Podyjí Administration was approved. It has set a number of exemptions from mandatory forest management. These exceptions will increase the diversity of forests, improve species protection in them and also give more space to the natural processes in the national park. The new forest management plan also defines areas for forests with continuous management. In these areas will be carried out special interventions in favor of biodiversity (maintaining a low canopy of trees, leaving clearings to the succession, etc..). The definition of these areas is the result of efforts to resolve the conflicts between the National Park protection requirements of (preference for natural processes) and biodiversity conservation in the Natura 2000 areas. Conservation of some European significant species and sites requires permanent management of forests communities. This is in contrary to the requirement of the natural processes preference. The question of whether the above-described spatial definition helps reconcile these two objectives of nature conservation will answer coming years.

The intensity of grazing on heathland and dry grasslands (previously insufficient) was increased by about 20%.

Most areas of mowed grassland formerly managed by Podýjí National Park Administration, were rented to those interested in mowing. This leads to better compliance with the appropriate terms of mowing and overall improvement of care for these areas.

4. **Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

***Hranice:** Uved'te podrobnosti o všech změnách hranic území oceněného Evropským diplomem od poslední výroční zprávy předložené Radě Evropy. Pokud se vyskytnou nějaké změny, přiložte příslušnou mapu k této zprávě. Prosíme rovněž uvést veškeré nevyřešené problémy, s nimiž jste se setkali.*

No changes.

5. **Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

***Další informace:** Vypište zde jakékoliv další informace o území, které by podle Vás měly být poskytnuty Radě Evropy.*

Council of Europe exceptional visit (Michael Usher and Tatiana State-Mason) took place in Podýjí NP and Thayatal NP from 15th to 17th September 2014. The visitors focused on these main topics: planned wind power station Windpark Nord, water flows in Dyje River (regime of Vranov power station) and sport fishing in the Czech part of area. The report on the situation will be given by prof. Usher at the beginning of the next year.

49. Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve – Romania

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There were no conditions attached to the renewal of the European Diploma.

2. **Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned (Moldova, Romania and Ukraine) should be continued and strengthened and the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area should be considered in the framework of the trilateral agreement signed by the three countries concerned, under the auspices of the Council of Europe;

At this moment Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority is Partner in two projects financed under the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013, with the participation of entities from all the three countries:

- Consolidation of the nature protected areas' network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region (PAN Nature)
- Inventory, assessment and remediation of anthropogenic sources of pollution in the Lower Danube Region of Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova

2. the possibility or reactivating the co-operation between other European Diploma sites which are deltas (Camargue National Reserve (France) and Donana National Park (Spain)) should be explored;

It was prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes, Romania, and the Donana Biological Station, the Donana National Park and the Ministry of Agriculture, Alimentation and Environment, Spain. It was sent to the Romanian Ministry of Environment for approval and for contacting the Ministry of Environment from Spain, according to the Romanian legislation in this field.

3. the monitoring of the ecological services and of the socio-economic activities carried out on the reserve (fishing, hunting, shipping, agriculture, forestry, logging, tourism) should be strengthened in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural ecosystems and the value of the reserve; special attention should be paid to the shipping activities (movement of boats and speeding) as well as to illegal fishing and hunting;

The integrated monitoring programme of the reserve includes monitoring of the ecological services and of the socio-economic activities carried out on the reserve (fishing, hunting, shipping, agriculture, forestry, logging, tourism) and all the other aspects mentioned above. In 2012, DDBRA prepared a draft Governmental Decision regarding the rules for navigation inside the reserve. The legal document is under approval.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority implemented during the period 2012 – 2014, as partner, the Project DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0 – Anchoring the Danube River Network of Protected Areas as Platform for Preservation of Danube Natural Heritage, under the SEE Programme 2007 – 2013. One of the main results of the projects, completed by Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority under the project, was the Study "*The assesment of carrying capacity for the visitor management in protected areas (study case for Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve)*", and the *Reccomendations for the protected areas regardind the visitor management, according to the carrying capacity of the touristic areas, used in the context of sustainable tourism.*

This study includes a set of indicators proposed for defining the carrying capacity of DDBR, the description of a monitoring methodology and system, in order to have a clear evidence and control of incoming visitors and tourists flow, to understand the indicators tendencies and evolution. Based on zoning for tourism and recreation, the study proposed a set of recommendations for a better visitor management and an adequate carrying capacity management strategy, as well as recommendations regarding the development of sustainable transport network.

Based on carrying capacity assessment, DDBRA also developed a digital tourist handbook for the DDBR, in the form of an application for mobile devices, to lead visitors only on the designated tourist routes and to provide necessary information to them. The App can be downloaded both for Android and for iPhone, for free, on Google Play and App Store.

4. potential external threats should be continually monitored, especially the likely adverse transboundary impact on the ecosystem of the whole delta of the works related to the Bystroe canal in the Ukrainean sector;

The integrated monitoring programme of the reserve includes as well the monitoring of the aspects on the impact of the transport activities from the Chilia channel, as a consequence of the functioning of the navigation channel Danube- Black Sea (Bistroe), built on the Ukrainian side of the river.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has on its Agenda for 2015 the elaboration of a study for the assessment of the cross-border impact of the Bistroe channel on the environment.

5. the usefulness of banning hunting, or of managing hunting on a demonstrably sustainable basis, on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, especially in the most sensitive areas, should be studied;

The hunting activity on the protected area's territory was banned from 2013.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has on its Agenda for 2015 the elaboration of a study for the assessment of the negative effects of the uncontrolled development of the fauna from Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve as a consequence of banning hunting.

6. a system for better management of natural fisheries resources should be explored for the benefit of the local people, in order to reduce the categories and number of intermediary actors/stakeholders; the fish resources should be managed by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority;

Through the Order no. 44/1195 from 18 of February 2011, were approved the Rules regarding the access to the living aquatic resources from the State public domain, for commercial fishing in natural fishing habitats from natural protected areas. The funds rising from the authorization of the industrial fishing activity will be incomes at the budgets of local authorities, to be used for projects for local development. By the Law 136/2011, the local population has the right of exclusiveness at the renewable natural resources use through traditional economic activities.

7. information concerning access of boats to vulnerable parts of the reserve should be made readily available to the public;

All the necessary information related to the economic activities allowed on the protected area's territory are posted on the web page: www.ddbra.ro

8. the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to bring technical and financial assistance to the local populations, municipalities and private operators in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment) and assist with information on organizing and developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve, such as ecotourism, bird watching and handicrafts;

In October 2014 was finalized the draft of the Integrated Strategy for sustainable development in Danube Delta (2030) by the World Bank, at the request of Romania Government, through the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration. The Strategy was developed based on a technical systematical analysis and on a participative process.

According to this Strategy, the vision for the Danube Delta is: A "living delta" (an area where people live and work) with support for environment and community; a healthy, sustainable local economy; based on nature and cultural tourism; and which to include a planning process (residents, administrations, business environment).

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority participated actively to all the activities conducted by the World Bank team in producing the Strategy.

In 2013, the Operational Programme for Fishing 2007-2013, launched the first call for project proposals. The projects approved so far are addressed to different kind of activities and stakeholders and beneficiaries, with the same purpose – to enhance the living standards and to offer new opportunities to local communities

9. the restoration programme of the existing buildings should be continued, using traditional materials and natural local products; the cultural value of the reserve, especially the different ethnic roots of the populations, should be enhanced with the engineering and technical input of specialized institutes;

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority surveys the ways that the objectives presented by the implementation of the Building Regulation in Reserve are followed.

A local NGO, Letea in UNESCO, in partnership with Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, will implement the project "The reed is concrete! Local initiative to protect the traditional rural landscape". The project will mobilize the local community in view to sustainably develop the living means through the protection of the authentic rural landscape and the promotion of the traditional products from the Letea village, inside the reserve.

10. an external review and assessment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's Conservation Strategy (for example, priorities, management objectives, operational objectives and financial requirement) should be organised in 2010, ten years after its declaration, with the support of international expertise;

It was done a proposal to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes in Romania to ensure the necessary funds for 2015 in view to organize an international meeting for an external review and assessment of the Conservation Strategy for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

11. the necessary funding should be provided in order to improve the capacities/ performance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority; a feasibility study on the creation of a financial mechanism should be undertaken so that all commercial activities and uses (not only tourist activities) contribute to the financing of the reserve;

In 2013 was approved the Law 216/2013 for the approval of the Governmental Emergency Order 127/2010 for the adoption of some measures foreseen for the economic-social development of the area "Danube Delta". This legal document offers a financial mechanism for DDBRA to use the funds from taxes, fees, permits and authorizations issuing. The Law 216/2013 brings as well some modifications to the Law 82/1993 for the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, to support DDBRA in its activity.

12. the adoption of the legal framework (master plan, Law on the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Law on the Protected Areas) should be accelerated;

During the year 2013 started, under the Sectoral Operational Programme "Environment" 2007-2013, the implementation of the project Integrated Management plan for the Danube Delta area.

13. noting that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is in operation, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority should continue to analyse carefully the requests for new wind farms in the neighbourhood of the reserve

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve surveys carefully the development of wind farms in the reserve's neighborhood area.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes in site management in relation to staff and finances since the last report.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There are no changes to the boundaries of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve since the last report.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

50. Thayatal national park – Austria

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There are no conditions attached to the award or to the renewal of the European Diploma.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

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;

The current flow regime is already fulfilling part of the requirements of the Podyji National Park

Administration (minimal residual flow is now around 3 m³ / s, three turbines are running only exceptionally).

There was a meeting in Vranov/Fraun on April 10th where Nationalpark Director Ludwig Schleritzko spoke with Czech environment minister Richard Brabec and his colleague Nationalpark Director Tomás Rothrockl concerning this matter. NP Podyjí is currently negotiating with the plant operator on how to present positive changes in water flow regime embedded into enforceable act.

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;

The bilateral project started in November 2012 will end in December 2014. There will be suggestions to improve the connectivity (removing part of the sills or installing fish passes) in the report.

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;

At the last meeting of the “Thayatal Kommission” on October 22nd an agreement for a new study concerning fish ecology and fishing in the river Thaya/Dyje was determined. It should start in 2015 and it should be financed with funds of the European Union (Interreg).

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;

In 2014 we have started a new study concerning the occurrence of white-tailed eagle in the area next to National Park and the possibility of breeding in the area of National Park.

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.

In November 2014 we have presented a new brochure with our program for pupils, there are some special offers which are connecting the visit of Kaja Castle ruins with some nature-education offers.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Changes of aquatic environments – see 1. recommendation

Since January 1st hunting with lead-ammunition is not allowed in National Park Thayatal.

Staff: Ludwig Schleritzko is new director of National Park administration.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There are no Changes of Boundaries!

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe exceptional visit (Michael Usher and Tatiana State-Mason) took place in Thayatal and Podyjí NP from 15th to 17th September 2014. The visitors focused on these topics:

- (1) help identifying the possible negative impact on threatened species and habitats, due to the possible construction of large wind turbines park(s) in Northern Austria,
- (2) assess the management of the hydropower plant Vranov with a view to ensure ecologically bearable flows under Vranov reservoir, Thaya river and Thaya tributaries, and
- (3) evaluate the harmonisation of the fishing regulations within the two parks.

51. Matsalu National Park – Estonia

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Conditions attached to the award are:

1. That the ongoing land reform process does not change in any way the characteristics of the present state of the nature reserve or be detrimental to the nature reserve's biodiversity – *this condition has been complied with. The land reform is nearly finished and it has not caused any major problems. This stable situation is probably caused by the fact that a huge proportion of lands has been given to the State. We have had some misunderstanding with the maintenance of some visiting sites situated on the private land (whether the administrator is the state or the land owner), but all the misapprehensions have been dealt with or will be in the future. In some cases (e.g. Haeska bird watching tower) the owners themselves have taken the responsibility to take care of the tower and informed the publicity about it. In other cases (e.g. Suitsu hiking trail) the objects are planned to relocate in the future to state owned land.*

2. That private open land cannot be developed in any way which would be incompatible with the aims of the reserve – *this condition has almost entirely been complied with. Matsalu National Park has relatively low number of private lands – approximately half of the National Park is sea (56%). The other half of it is mainland and islets, and only 40% (ca 8775 ha) of that other half is private land. There was a slightly stronger pressure for development when real estate bubble was in action in 2007, but our firm laws, distance from big centres (Tallinn and Pärnu) and effective surveillance prevented big real estate developments. Although we have had some smaller issues with illegal development, these cases are processed by The Environmental Inspectorate.*

In addition, most of the private open lands are semi-natural meadows. They are all mapped and registered and also protected by the protection rules. The State with the help of EU has provided different support schemes for the management of those meadows and this ensures their sustainability.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Recommendations attached to the award:

1. The management plan for the area of Matsalu Nature Reserve is finalized by the end of the current year – *the management plan is being endorsed at the moment;*
2. The maintenance of the meadows, particularly coastal ones, should be given high priority – *the maintenance of meadows, especially coastal meadows, has been the highest priority. The high priority has been set by the protection rules and management plan;*
3. The nature reserve's administration should have a guaranteed budget with the necessary funds to continue its monitoring, enforcement and environmental education activities – *the sub-divisions of Environmental Ministry, including the administration of Matsalu National Park, underwent several reforms that united some sub-divisions into larger institutions. The former sub-divisions' assignments and tasks were also distributed to the new institutions, for example the former administrator of Matsalu National Park does not exist anymore and the tasks listed above (monitoring, enforcement and environmental activities) are divided between three institutions – Environmental Board, Environmental Agency and State Forestry Center. All three of them have necessary resources from state budget to comply with the tasks given to them.*
In addition, under the leadership of Environmental Board a National Park Council is being formulated by the end of this year. This is a co-operational network which is created to unite State institutions, local communities and authorities. The aim of the National Park Council is to improve co-operation between different parties and to ensure a coherent and environmental friendly development of the National Park. The Council will also monitor the funding of different necessary activities and actions to ensure the supporting and controlling role of the public;
4. Co-operation with the farmers must continue and increase, particularly in the form of support to traditional uses like grazing or mowing – *communication with the farmers is still strong, although the removal of the administration of Matsalu National Park due to several reforms has increased bureaucracy and therefore reduced the personal approach to the farmers, which has had somewhat impact to the co-operation. On the other hand the representatives of the farmers are expected to take part in the work of the National Park Council. The free consultations to the (new) farmers and also the opportunity to apply for the rent of state lands for meadow management off charge is still provided;*
5. The reserve's administration continues to play a social role to help the local people within the reserve's precinct in developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve such as those related to bird-watching, handicraft and restoration of historical heritage – *Environmental Board has a strong social role in developing activities compatible with the aims of the reserve, the cultural heritage specialist of Environmental Board is engaged in the everyday life of local community, also the National Park Council is being formed. The Environmental Board has also a very effective co-operation with non-profit association Terra Maritima, which is an institution that links local municipalities as partners. The NPO now works towards the aim of getting the Europarc Federation certificate of sustainable tourism for the Matsalu National Park next year;*
6. Potential external threats originating from industry, agriculture, tourism and development should be continually monitored and that a non-hunting buffer zone around the reserve is established – *the monitoring is mostly done by two institutions Environmental Board and The Environmental Inspectorate. Environmental Board monitors potential external threats through permissions. All developments and bigger operations concerning the National Park must be processed by the Environmental Board. Environmental Board authorizes only actions that are compatible with the aims of the National Park. Second institution that monitors the area is The Environmental Inspectorate, their job is to find and handle illegal developments and activities.*

The non-hunting buffer zone around the reserve was not established and probably will not be established in the future. Instead Matsalu National Park is now joined with surrounding hunting areas. It has been suggested that comprehensive ban for hunting is not beneficial to the aims of Matsalu National Park. For example some wild game may become a major threat to rare and/or protected species, like wild boars to orchids and foxes, minks, raccoons or other smaller predators to birds nesting on the ground etc., thus it is important to regulate the numbers of some wild game. The specific terms for hunting and list of species that are allowed to hunt are listed in the protection rules. The additional feeding of wild game is prohibited in the National Park to exclude commercial hunting.

7. Power of attorney is given the nature reserve's rangers – *the position for Nature Park's rangers was dismissed with the elimination of the administration of Matsalu National Park. The specialists of The Environmental Inspectorate, also Environmental and Building Specialists of municipalities have the power of attorney;*

8. The program of elimination of alien species such as the American Mink and Racoon Dog should continue – *the programs of elimination of alien species is still ongoing. The hunters' contributions to these programs is substantial. It is also very important to have under control the number of small domestic predators like foxes, martens etc. especially on small islands, where raccoons and foxes can foil entire year for breeding birds. This year we had a very significant agreement with the local hunters, because they voluntarily agreed from now on to visit small islands and free them of small predators.*

9. Scientific studies on the reed beds and their use in a sustainable way are initiated – *several scientific studies have been made with the resources of EU program INTERREG IIIA. Also for example the geologists from the University of Tartu have been studying the Matsalu reedbed for the last two years to describe the changes that have taken place in the reedbed in the last 10 years.*

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

In the ongoing year we finished some major resource consuming projects and activities – the Kloostri Bridge was renovated to ensure continuous management of alluvial meadows; little creeks in the alluvial meadows and reedbed were cleared to ensure natural water regime and access for fish to their spawning areas; The State Forestry Center marked the borders of Matsalu National Park with new signs; the e-Guide of Matsalu National Park was finished (<http://www.matsalu.ee/teejuht/>) and in the near future it will be in English also; The Puise Harbor was renovated etc. Also as every year the Environmental Investment Centre has provided resources for new meadows to be restored and fences built for grazing.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

52. Triglav National Park – Slovenia

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the

progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. A new law should provide the adequate legal basis for the conservation of the Triglav National Park as early as possible.

According to the condition, the new law was adopted by the Parliament in 2010. Most of obstacles of the old law were adequately changed, including provision that the government has to provide additional funds for development of local communities inside the park respecting sustainable development. Unfortunately, the economic crisis caused that the budget from 2013 on has been cut and consequently additional funds for development of local communities inside the park were cancelled.

2. The management plan must be finalised and formalised as soon as the new law on the Triglav National Park is passed

According to the new law the MP should be finished in two years after the acceptance of the law. As described in previous years report TNP administration started the preparation of MP and followed the process foreseen in the law. In 2012 there was an intensive participatory work on preparing and processing the draft of the MP:

- MP draft was prepared.
- First draft was reviewed by the members of the municipalities in the TNP, TNP Council and TNP Expert Council.
- TNP Expert Council approved the first draft.
- The suggestions of Municipalities members were added to the first draft.
- Second MP draft was publically presented on:
 - o 2nd forum,
 - o 6 workshops in municipalities Kranjska Gora, Kobarid, Gorje, Tolmin, Bovec in Bohinj,
 - o MP draft was available to the public for comments in all municipalities in the Triglav national park from 30th of October until 29th of December.
- Public was invited to send us suggestions and comments, which were collected until 29th of December.

In 2013 we incorporated more than 500 comments in to the draft MP or we answered on them. The final draft was submitted to the Ministry in June 2013 to be checked. As the circumstances, mostly financial ones, drastically changed during the process, Minister for Agriculture and Environment decided to nominate a working group to redraft the document according to the financial situation in form of a governmental decree. The working document of the proposal of MP was prepared by the end of 2014. It is planned that the updated document will be the basis for adoption process in 2015. The existing document is less ambitious than the first draft, however, it seems to be more realistic.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. Ensure that, when the new zoning is in place, any further change of zones is in favour of increased protection.

The 2010 law of TNP defines three zones, 1st and 2nd are central zone, 3rd is peripheral zone. The surface of central zone is now 63.900 ha which is 8.568 is larger than before and the total park area is bigger because of the enlargement in its south part. The new law encourages transformation of 2nd zone to 3rd or 1st zone with the condition that the central part does not decrease. The main opportunity is to transform the zonation towards 1st zone (wilderness) and keep 3rd zone for sustainable use.

2. Apply strictly the land-use planning regulations related to new constructions and renovation work

Spatial planning at local level are exclusively under the jurisdiction of municipalities and according to the new Spatial Planning Act all the municipalities have to adopt their spatial planning development plan by the end of the year 2010. It is a certain delay in this process in the state and in the park municipalities as well. Six of the eight municipalities have already adopted the land use plan, two (the largest Bohinj and Kranjska Gora) others are not far behind. In the process of drafting a municipal spatial development plan and a municipal spatial order, the Public Institute Triglav National Park takes an active part, in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act and the new law on TNP, in preparation of nature conservation guidelines.

3. Continue to work on adapted solutions to solve the problem of wastewater, especially for buildings and huts with intensive human occupation.

There is 36 mountain huts in Triglav National park and at the end of the year 2014 16 of them had wastewater treatment system solved (4 new waste water treatment plants in 2014). Alpine Association of Slovenia opened a consultancy office and together with the park staff regular consultancy and monitoring of the waste water is in place. Alpine clubs and managers accepted this activities in a very positive way and they are stimulated for improvements. According to the Decree on the emission of substances in the discharge of waste waters from small urban waste water treatment plants (Official Gazette RS, 98/07, 30/10) which is transposing the Council directive concerning urban waste water treatment (91/271/EEC) the problem in the area of TNP should be solved by end of 2015.

4. Continue to develop schemes to enable the co-existence of sheep farming and the presence of large carnivores such as the bear, wolf and lynx, with the aim of increasing the carnivore population in the park

No significant changes in comparison to 2013. In 2013, the TNP Scientific advisory board adopted a strategy for the managing large carnivores within the protected area where the general policy and measures are foreseen. In practice, defined criteria and measures are applied in conflict situations in which the TNP's assessment should be elaborated regarding the stakeholders requests for applying the radical measures with taking animals from the wild. In 2014, TNP also officially entered a five-year project LIFE + WolfAlps with a focus on wolf conservation on population level (alpine subpopulation) and the improvement of its coexistence with humans. Mainly preparatory activities took place in 2014 but their actual implementation will begin in 2015. Among project actions, also concrete protective measures to prevent or at least reduce damages to livestock are foreseen. Furthermore, with several educational and awareness raising activities we plan to increase the acceptance for large carnivores by the general public and different users of the Triglav National Park area.

5. Ensure the best integration possible of the various activities conducted in the Park, for example the integration of organic farming and nature protection.

Agricultural policy and agriculture in the national park have improved greatly in recent years thanks to the co-operation of TNP experts with local farming associations. Special emphasise needs to be given of the Slovenian Agro-Environmental Programme and the programme of organic farming. The programmes include a high number of farmers from the national park. Following Slovenia's accession to the EU, the traceability of subsidies in agriculture and channelling financial aid towards environment-friendly farming practices were also implemented in Slovenia. A lot of preparatory work was done to launch a brand for local products – 'Sign of Quality' – testifying that the product was produced in local environment of the Triglav National Park.

6. Pursue all measures aimed at converting artificial spruce forest to climax mixed forests and at increasing the area of protection forests

Forests in TNP are mostly at very good conservation status. In managed forests, artificial forest regeneration with spruce has been very popular in the last 200 years. As a result, the present share of spruce in the forests is much higher than expected with regard to natural growth sites. Regeneration in the forests of the Triglav National Park is natural, with the exception of small-sized plots in commercial

forests which are artificially regenerated (planting of saplings). Forests Management plans include the provision that artificial regeneration can only be carried out with pioneer vegetation species (in particular, broadleaves, partly larch) and other broadleaved tree species. The aim is to enhance the mixture of tree species and improve the stability and resistance of forests. In forestry planning TNP experts are taking part in the process.

7. Develop and implement a detailed management plan and practical measures to cope with problems related to traffic and transportation.

For Management plan an inventory of parking areas in TNP was prepared. Detailed management plan which highlights problems related to traffic and transportation is part of TNP MP. For those areas special measures are foreseen in the MP draft. On the other hand there are some general studies addressing these problems, whereas implementation depends on available financial resources. Most opportunities are seen in project financing.

8.Prevent the extension of existing installations for downhill and cross-country skiing as well as jumping. Renovation and upgrading should be accepted only if that nature and landscape protection's interest are duly taken into account. Continue to monitor the various sporting activities practised in the national Park and ensure that they remain compatible with the conservation objectives.

According to the new law on TNP it is forbidden constructing new installations for downhill and cross-country skiing and enlarging of the existing in the whole territory of the park. We paid a special attention in the year 2014 to monitor paragliding, mountain biking, canyoning and cross country skiing. The aim of this detail monitoring was to get data and prepare measures in the frame of the preparing protection regimes for the TNP management plan.

9. Encourage the best integration of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings in respecting the traditional local style

The TNP Authority is running expert groundwork and an inventory and evaluation of the existing building stock in order to define the typology and provide potential solutions in construction works. The project is interdisciplinary (in association with the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Faculty of Architecture and expert services of relevant municipalities) and subject to available funds. TNP is involved in the licencing process for all building cases.

10. Improve co-ordination and control research activities in the park consider the setting-up of a scientific advisory council

According to the new Law on The Triglav National Park every research institution or individual researcher need approval of TNP to conduct a researches in the TNP. This gives park a possibility to control research activities, get results and have a spatial overview on research activities.

As mentioned in previous reports, the Triglav National Park does not conduct basic research. Nevertheless we have a database of all scientific researches conducted in the territory of the park. In 2011 a system of spatial monitoring of scientific researches was established and is upgraded regularly. In 2014 we continued with systematic data collection on plant alien species in the Triglav National Park. We also continued with habitat type mapping. In 2014 we finished mapping of 1.874 ha of area which means that 53.446 ha of the park area is mapped. TNP also participated in the project Slowolf carried out by Biotechnical Faculty on monitoring of wolf populations in Slovenia.

11. Follow closely the transition of ownership in the park, encourage quick decisions on pending questions and ensure that the interests of the park are fully taken into account.

TNP monitors the status of denationalization processes and is in touch with the claimants requiring restitution of land rights. Some claimants, in particular the agrarian communities and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ljubljana, are involved in negotiations on the future management or co-management of these areas.

3. Site Management:

Due to difficult financial situation and governmental structural changes the year 2014 was quite demanding. Management was reduced to basic tasks and less action was done regarding financial inputs in park infrastructure investment as well as maintenance and international activities. However, due to EU and Swiss Foundation support two investments were finished and started to work (Information centre at the HQ in Bled and additional conference facilities in centre in Trenta) as well as building of new information centre in Bohinj, where the main part of the TNP population is living.

4. Boundaries:

No changes.

5. Other information:

Triglav National Park and its surrounding were in 2003 declared as a UNESCO MAB Biosphere reserve Julian Alps. The park authority was obliged to prepare and submit the 10 years periodical review. The International Coordinating Council of UNESCO MAB Programme endorsed the periodic review and renewed the status of Biosphere Reserve Julian Alps for the next ten years.

Triglav National Park and the neighbour Nature Park Prealpi Giulie in Italy were in 2009 awarded with Europarc Federation certificate for transboundary cooperation and declared as Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps. In 2014 according the standing orders of this certificate we went through re-evaluation process and we were reawarded by Europarc for excellent transboundary cooperation.

At 11th Alpine Conference in Torino in 2014 Alpine Convention and its “Platform for ecological connectivity” declared Triglav National Park and Nature Park Prealpi Giulie as “Pilot area for ecological connectivity” based on exemplary cooperation in the field of Alpine Convention protocols “Nature conservation” and “Landscape management”.

53. Naardermeer Nature Reserve – Netherlands

1&2. Conditions and/or recommendations for award or renewal

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

Recommendations:

1. Long term improvement of the hydrological conditions of the reserve needs reduced pumping of drinking water in the Gooi hills and the separation of sewage water and surface water to increase quality of infiltration.

Ad 1. No changes or progress.

2. In order to complete all adequate actions of restoration and nature development it is of high priority that Natuurmonumenten gets financial support to complete the buffer zone around the core area of the reserve.

Ad 2. Complete acquirement of the purchase-areas in the reserve has already been difficult in the past, because of the informal character of the policy on this issue. The present policy of the government will make further purchase of land even more difficult and might lead to end this at all in the long term. This may lead to a partly fragmented Naardermeer-area and investments from “Brussel” could be partly seen as ‘devaluated’. No changes or progress since last year.

3. - The function of the Naardermeer as a core area in the ecological network ('green main structure') needs that all possible measures are taken to avoid habitat fragmentation in the corridor landscapes towards the IJmeer, the IJsselmeer, the Vecht River, the Ankeveense Plassen and the Gooi hills.

- in the regional planning the creation of the 'natte as' ('wet axis' or corridor with Naardermeer as a core area) between Amsterdam and Hilversum is to be promoted.

Ad 3. The corridor to the North under the motorway A1 and the designing of the adjacent zone towards IJsselmeer is still in preparation. It is very uncertain which party will manage this ecological zone in the future. It could be that none-nature parties will be responsible. If that's the case it is very likely that this zone is much less effective for the species it is designed for. That would be a great loss. Not only for nature but also looking at the costs it took to realise this zone.

A new study on the ecological functionality of Naardermeer in relation to the railway has ended in a total of 21 eco-zones under the railway to be effective for different marsh species. Currently we are checking the funds necessary to realise these zones. It is likely there is not enough budget to realise them all.

4. - The establishment of larger ecological zones in the surrounding agricultural area enabling the further restoration of water levels is recommended, in order to avoid leakage from the reserve and further shrinking of peat layers.

- Restoration programmes transforming former polders into wetlands must be encouraged in order to link the Naardermeer with its surroundings; this needs agro-environmental agreements with the agricultural sector.

Ad 4. Currently talks are a going on to purchase more farmlands.

5. The possibilities to improve the connecting corridor between Naardermeer and Ankeveense plassen by reconstructing the actual road on pillars (removal of a barrier) are to be considered.

Ad 5. Realised in 2013

6. - In relation to the construction of a new motorway connection (A6-A9), the zero option, alternative routes and the possibility of underground passage NW of the reserve are to be duly investigated in a preliminary Environmental Impact study.

- The effects of widening of the A1 on the nearby reserve are to be minimised.

- Risks for pollution deriving from transport along moterways and railroad are to be minimised and carefully caught.

Ad 6. No changes

3. Site Management

10.1. Improvements made

10.1.1. *Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna.* LIFE programme New LIFE for Dutch fens is making progress. Naardermeer is currently busy setting up the licences necessary for the planned actions. A study on bats has taken place to determine the impact of the planned actions on this species group. The outcome is there will be no significant effect.

10.1.2. *Protection against the elements (fire, water regime).* None.

10.1.3. *Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)* A part of the walking path at the west side of Naardermeer will be re-routed soon. This to ensure more resting and feeding place for marsh-birds.

10.1.4. *Field equipment (hides and study facilities).* None.

10.1.5. *Waste management.* None.

10.1.6. *Use of renewable energy systems.* No changes.

10.2. *Management*

10.2.1. *Administrative department: changes made.* None.

10.2.2. *Wardens' department: changes made.* None.

10.2.3. *Internal policing measures.* 2014 was the fourth year in which outsourcing took place by means of management specifications. We are happy with the reduced costs and time saved by this construction.

10.2.4. *Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action.* None

4. Boundaries

No changes.

5. Other information

None.

54. Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli - Italy

1. **Conditions :** Lister ici toutes les conditions dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les conditions ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

| |
|---|
| Le renouvellement n'indiquait pas des conditions. |
|---|

2. **Recommandations :** Lister ici toutes les recommandations dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les recommandations ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

1. *Veiller à ce que les nouvelles activités ou nouveaux développements ne portent pas préjudice au patrimoine naturel et paysager;*

Pour chaque activité ou projet à l'intérieur du Parc, on continue à utiliser le *Nulla Osta*, soit l'autorisation sans laquelle rien n'est permis. Le *Nulla osta* est obligatoire aussi dans les cas de permis de construire octroyés par les Communes. Le personnel technique du Parc analyse le projet et toutes ses implications sur le patrimoine naturel; il est toujours interpellé dans les cas de gros projets prévus à l'extérieur des limites du Parc mais proche aux sites Natura 2000 qui sont dans le Parc (évaluation d'incidence).

Le Parc garde un rôle et une propre compétence en matière de paysage lors de l'octroi des autorisations.

2. *poursuivre les mesures de réduction des daims et des sangliers;*

Le contrôle des daims et des sangliers reste une des tâches principales du Parc, qui demande beaucoup de personnel et de temps ; la dernière année le travail s'est donc concentré sur les zones où les dommages à l'agriculture étaient plus importants, avec des très bons résultats (reconnus par les agriculteurs) et dans les zones avec une valeur naturelle importante (Domaine de San Rossore). Afin de garantir la même efficacité dans les autres zones, le Parc vient de décider de demander à une société externe de s'occuper soit des activités de contrôle direct (captures, abattements) soit de la distribution/vente de la viande. Reste l'accord avec les Autorités qui gèrent une Base militaire (900 ha) pour l'éradication du daim dans cette zone et, par conséquent, dans le moyen terme, avoir davantage de ressources pour travailler dans les autres zones.

3. *prendre en compte la conservation de la nature dans la gestion de l'eau, en particulier dans la mise en œuvre des mesures hydrologiques;*

L'étude approfondi du système complexe des eaux souterraines et de l'interaction avec les grands usages pour l'agriculture (projet financé par la Région Toscane) va se conclure l'année prochaine. Il donnera des indications très importantes pour la gestion de cette ressource.

4. *inclure plus activement les valeurs naturelles dans la gestion des zones situées hors des réserves naturelles, notamment dans les zones forestières et agricoles*

Sylviculture : dans le Domaine de San Rossore, confié par la Région directement au Parc, on applique depuis 2005 un Plan de gestion forestier. L'appel d'offre et le cahier des charges spécialement conçus pour 2014-2015-2016 prévoient des mesures de conservation de l'écosystème, tel que l'interdiction d'enlever la canopée des arbres et de couper les arbres morts et les feuillus. Ces mesures s'ajoutent à celle déjà en vigueur, comme la suspension des travaux pendant la période reproductive de la faune.

Agriculture : collaboration avec la Région Toscane dans l'élaboration des nouvelles mesure agro-environnementales dans le cadre du nouvel plan de développement rural (PAC 2014-2020). De plus, le Parc va constituer un Registre des entreprises agricoles dans le Parc, avec un cahier de conduite et des engagements précis que l'entreprise doit suivre. Ceci aura le but de promouvoir les produits agricoles du Parc et en même temps de garantir des pratiques agronomiques qui respectent l'environnement.

5. *Accélérer la mise en œuvre des mesures destinées à limiter les impacts négatifs sur le Lac de Massaciuccoli, en particulier la pollution d'origine agricole et poursuivre l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux du lac ;*

Approbation définitive de l'évaluation d'incidence du projet de dérivation du fleuve Serchio et Conférence des services entre les Administration concernées pour l'approbation du Projet définitif par la Province de Pisa. Ce projet, qui veut porter l'eau douce du Serchio dans le Lac, pourra compenser les déséquilibres hydrobiologiques et améliorer les relations trophiques complexes.

Achat par le Parc de 25 ha de terres agricoles (assainies dans les années '30 du XX siècle), afin de les inonder à nouveau.

6. *poursuivre et consolider les mesures destinées à mieux protéger les dunes côtières et en faire connaître la valeur ;*

Rencontres avec les Communes et les particuliers qui gèrent les plages et les établissement balnéaires (bientôt formalisée par une Convention), pour faire respecter les bonnes pratiques de gestion des dunes côtières, notamment de nettoyage. C'est avec la Commune de Vecchiano, propriétaire d'une vaste plage, que le Parc a obtenu enfin des bons résultats avec un véritable respect des dunes et de leur dynamique (passage des tracteurs, bois mort, etc).

7. *Poursuivre la lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes;*

La lutte contre les espèces exotiques se poursuit : dans les milieux des dunes et d'arrière dunes, *Yucca gloriosa* et *Amorpha fruticosa* sont contrôlées par le projet post-LIFE Dunetosca (les travaux sont confiées à une coopérative et toujours suivis par des botanistes) ; *Ailanthus altissima* par les bénévoles dirigés par les techniciens du Parc.

8. *saisir toutes les opportunités d'améliorer les possibilités de passage pour la faune sous les routes et voies ferrées;*

Aucune modification.

9. *limiter les émissions sonores dans les zones vouées à la détente*

La répression des émissions dans la zone plus critique de « Marina di Torre del Lago » s'est poursuivie, en constante coordination avec le Procureur de Lucca.

10. *Achever la relocalisation des activités artisanales aux abords du lac de Massaciuccoli.*

Aucune modification.

3. Gestion du site : Lister ici toute modification dans la gestion du site détenant le Diplôme européen, en ce qui concerne les environnements terrestre et aquatique (si applicable), et en ce qui concerne les agents et les ressources financières, depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Le Parc s'est enfin vu reconnaître ses zones humides par la Convention de Ramsar, au terme d'un long travail (le processus de candidature avait démarré dans les années '90). Ceci accroît le niveau de protection des zones humides du Parc et par conséquent nos engagements.

Cette année le Parc, dont le territoire est depuis 2004 Réserve de Biosphère « Selva Pisana » selon le programme MAB de l'UNESCO, travaille à la candidature d'un territoire plus vaste comme nouvelle Réserve de Biosphère. Le territoire comprend les communes des « Monti Pisani », système de moyenne montagne au nord de Pisa, d'une grande valeur naturelle, déjà en connexion avec le Parc par le Musée d'histoire naturelle de Calci (Université de Pisa) et ses activités de recherche scientifique et de didactique avec les écoles et les groupes ; au sud, le Parc a démarré un très bon rapport avec une commune proche de Livourne, afin de mettre le Parc en connexion des petites zones humides de plaine et un système de forêts et de vestiges historiques de colline. Ceci dans l'intention de donner au Parc un rôle guide dans une gestion du territoire qui intègre préservation de l'environnement, activités humaines (et développement) et recherche scientifique.

Enfin, comme demandé par l'État et de la Région Toscane suite à la baisse des soutiens financiers publics, le Parc travaille pour développer davantage les occasions d'auto financement, notamment par une forte promotion touristique du Parc.

4. Frontières : Détailler tout changement apporté aux frontières du site détenant le Diplôme européen depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. S'il y a des changements, veuillez joindre une carte appropriée à ce rapport. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Aucun changement.

5. Autres informations : Lister ici toute autre information, concernant le site détenant le Diplôme européen, que vous estimez nécessaire de fournir au Conseil de l'Europe.

55. Gran Paradiso National Park – Italy

1. Conditions : Lister ici toutes les conditions dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les conditions ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Le plan de gestion du parc sera formellement approuvé au plus tard d'ici à 2012.

La Région Vallée d'Aoste a formellement adopté le plan de gestion du Parc avec délibération du Gouvernement Régional n.639 du 9 mai 2014.

La Région Piémont a formellement adopté le plan de gestion du Parc avec délibération du Gouvernement Régional n.22-7558 du 7 mai 2014.

Le Parc a reçu les observations des établissements publics et des citoyens dans la date du 1 septembre et est en train de les traiter selon les règles de la loi 3.12.1991, n.394.

Le Plan pluriannuel économique et social a été définitivement approuvé par les Régions et il est opérationnel.

2. Recommandations : Lister ici toutes les recommandations dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les recommandations ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non

encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

1. veiller à ce que le financement soit essentiellement assuré par l'État, les régions et les provinces et intègre adéquatement d'autres sources de financement ;

Le montant final de la contribution ordinaire annuelle de l'État 2014 a été de 6.132.753,10 € et une dernière contribution de 123.692,95 € est attendue pour les activités de protection de l'environnement et de la biodiversité. Pour mémoire, l'évolution de cette contribution ordinaire annuelle est la suivante :

- 2011 : 5.983.803,53 €
- 2012 : 6.260.711,93 €
- 2013 : 6.419.729,44 €
- 2014 : 6.132.753,10 €

Cette contribution, dans une période de crise économique et de réduction généralisée de la dépense publique, reste néanmoins satisfaisante.

2. doter le parc national du personnel adéquat au niveau exécutif afin de permettre au directeur de se consacrer aux tâches essentielles, notamment sur le plan stratégique ;

Les lois 148/2011 et 138/2012 ont mis en place des réductions du personnel dans toute l'administration publique. Le Parc a eu la chance de pouvoir maintenir sa dotation sur le personnel actuellement existant (88 personnes). Par conséquent, il n'est pas possible à ce stade de prévoir une augmentation du personnel et, plus encore, au niveau du personnel exécutif. Le Parc a demandé de pouvoir procéder au remplacement du personnel qui a quitté le service et est actuellement dans l'attente de la réponse du Ministère de la Fonction publique.

3. défendre activement la prise en compte de mesures de protection des valeurs naturelles et paysagères dans les plans et les décisions d'urbanisation.

La défense active des valeurs naturelles et paysagères fait appel aux mesures de protection et à toute décision pertinente d'autorisation pour modifier la zone protégée. Les indicateurs d'amélioration de l'environnement, exprimés en termes de réduction des émissions de CO₂, de consommation des sols, de conservation du paysage, montrent l'excellent état de conservation et le bon travail fait par le PNGP.

4. intégrer les valeurs des forêts comme écosystèmes dans le cadre de l'élaboration des plans de gestion forestiers ;

Toute la surface du Parc est comprise dans le Site d'Intérêt Communautaire SIC/ZPS IT1201000. Les objectifs et les mesures de conservation du plan de gestion du SIC prennent en compte les besoins écologiques de la forêt, différenciés selon les différents degrés de protection (réserves, zones agricoles, zones de promotion économique et sociale). Le plan de gestion établit que la conservation du patrimoine forestier et l'amélioration de sa stabilité sont poursuivies dans le respect de l'écosystème forestier et des habitats d'intérêt communautaire, comprenant les activités de gestion dans les zones boisées, telles que définies par les lois régionales découlant du décret législatif 227/2001, finalisées :

- a) à l'évolution des bois vers structures paraclimatiques en équilibre biologique avec l'environnement,
- b) au renforcement de la résistance et de la résilience des peuplements forestiers aux aléas biotiques et abiotiques,
- c) à l'entretien et à l'amélioration de la fertilité et de la stabilité du sol.

5. poursuivre les recherches de compatibilité et de synergies entre exploitation agricole et préservation de la diversité biologique ;

Dans le cadre du Programme de développement rural 2007-2013 de la Région Piémont, le Parc a obtenu un financement pour un projet d'intervention visant à augmenter la biodiversité par une gestion durable des pâturages et l'application d'une conservation active, comprenant l'implication des acteurs locaux. Une partie fondamentale a consisté par des opérations de suivi de la faune et de la végétation nécessaires pour définir la situation précédant les interventions. Pour la faune, l'attention a été concentrée aux groupements taxonomiques (chauves-souris, papillons, libellules, sauterelles, macro-invertébrés actifs sur la surface du sol, coléoptères coprophages et Hydradephaga) sensibles aux différentes typologies environnementales

et utilisables comme bio-indicateurs. Pour la végétation, de nombreux relevés botaniques pastoraux ont été fait pour décrire les différents faciès du pâturage. Des lignes directrices pour l'aménagement des prairies ont été préparées pour identifier les zones les plus affectées par le surpâturage, leur potentiel naturel et pour déterminer avec précision la charge maximum de bovins adultes acceptable et le temps d'utilisation possible pour assurer la restauration et l'entretien de la naturalité de la zone étudiée. Ce dossier est un outil important pour la réalisation d'un modèle de plan pour l'aménagement des pâturages dans la zone protégée. Concernant la tourbière du Dres, le Parc a caractérisé la végétation de la région avec la rédaction d'une carte phytosociologique et acheté une grande surface de tourbière sur laquelle il a réalisé des travaux de restauration de l'état original avec une régulation du flux des eaux et la limitation du pâturage. Sur le site du Gran Piano ont aussi été réalisés des travaux de restauration des zones humides et, dans celui du Gran Prà, la gestion pastorale de la zone a été améliorée par la réalisation d'un système de phyto-épuration pour le traitement des eaux usées.

Avec le projet « Alpgrain », le Parc a commencé la sélection de prairies adaptées pour la production de semences fourragères locales. La collecte a été réalisée avec des machines spéciales. Les graines recueillies ont été utilisées pour la restauration de zones soumises à des travaux d'aménagement. Le projet vise à répondre aux besoins des agriculteurs de montagne pour diversifier leurs activités avec la production de semences indigènes. Il fournit des semences locales pour le réensemencement de prairies et pâturages dans le parc et réduit l'introduction d'espèces et cultivars allochtones, biogéographiquement inaptes et sources de pollution génétique potentielle.

6. éviter tous nouveaux projets de captage des ressources en eau à des fins de production électrique, à l'exception de microcentrales dûment autorisées par le parc national ;

En 2014, aucun projet de captage de ressources en eau à des fins de production électrique a été autorisé par le parc national.

7. mettre en place un conseil scientifique consultatif ou tout autre mécanisme susceptible d'apporter la contribution de la communauté scientifique à la gestion du parc.

Le conseil scientifique consultatif n'a pas encore été créé. Dans le cadre des actions communes avec PNV on a réalisé en juin à Valsavarenche une rencontre commune avec le Conseil scientifique du Parc National de la Vanoise pour la relance du partenariat entre les deux parcs sur les aspects scientifiques et le rapprochement des projets communs sur les thèmes de la biodiversité et des changements globaux.

3. Gestion du site : Lister ici toute modification dans la gestion du site détenant le Diplôme européen, en ce qui concerne les environnements terrestre et aquatique (si applicable), et en ce qui concerne les agents et les ressources financières, depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Le Parc a poursuivi les opérations d'éradication de l'Omble de fontaine (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) dans les lacs Leynir, Dres, Djouan et Noir. Le poisson a disparu des lacs de Djouan et de Nero, est très rarifié dans celui du Dres et sa présence est réduite dans celui du Leynir. Les effets sont déjà évidents : la grenouille rousse (*Rana temporaria*), dont les têtards ne pouvaient pas survivre en raison de la voracité du poisson, est parvenue à se reproduire avec succès. Sont également redevenues très abondantes les larves de trichoptères, mais aussi les coléoptères, les larves de libellule et certains crustacés, comme les *Daphnia*. Le Parc prépare le terrain pour les autres mesures de conservation en faveur de la truite marbrée (*Salmo marmoratus*) dans trois différents torrents avec l'enlèvement des individus de truite fario et la préparation d'une éclosierie de poissons pour la reproduction de l'espèce indigène à partir de spécimens prélevés dans la nature dans des zones géographiquement proches. Les travaux ont été achevés pour la réalisation de deux stations de pédo-phyto-épuration expérimentales des eaux usées d'un alpage et d'un refuge pour l'amélioration de la qualité des habitats aquatiques en haute altitude, avec l'application de techniques plus respectueuses de l'environnement que celles déjà prévues par la loi.

Concernant le loup, un suivi intensif est en place en val Soana, où sa présence est confirmée par wolf-owling, pièges photographiques et examen de l'ADN dans les crottes. Le Parc a rencontré les communautés locales lors de réunions publiques et paye directement les dommages causés

aux éleveurs et les moyens de prévention. Une action de communication par internet, plaquettes et brochures est menée.

La situation du personnel de surveillance commence à être problématique avec l'arrêt d'activité de 7 gardes du Parc, dont l'un est décédé en service, qui doivent être remplacés. Le Parc a présenté au Ministère compétent une demande d'intégration. On observe en général une incidence croissante des activités administratives au détriment de la gestion et de la conservation.

4. Frontières : Détailler tout changement apporté aux frontières du site détenant le Diplôme européen depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. S'il y a des changements, veuillez joindre une carte appropriée à ce rapport. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

Aucun changement aux frontières du site a été apporté depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Aucune difficulté a été rencontrée.

5. Autres informations : Lister ici toute autre information, concernant le site détenant le Diplôme européen, que vous estimez nécessaire de fournir au Conseil de l'Europe.

Un nouveau sentier de nature sur les thèmes des enjeux de la biodiversité des pâturages de montagne, les forêts d'épicéa, la pseudo-steppe, le torrent et l'étang, a été réalisé à Cogne.

Le Parc a encouragé les projets éducatifs pour les enfants, comprenant les visites aux centres du Parc et les interventions de gardes, et a accueilli 105 classes, pour un total d'environ 1500 élèves.

Le Parc a intensifié les actions de partenariat avec les organismes publics, les communautés locales et les parties prenantes pour des projets communs, la mise en valeur de circuits de connaissance de la nature, des sports, de la gastronomie et des produits du terroir, la promotion du territoire du parc. 60 opérateurs ont obtenu le label de qualité du Parc. On a créé le label d'« ambassadeur du parc », pour impliquer 49 opérateurs touristiques et commerciaux de la zone protégée dans les activités de sensibilisation et information du public sur la valeur de l'aire protégée et les possibilités de visite.

Le PNIGP a été le premier parc italien à être inscrit avec autres 23 parcs au niveau international dans la « Liste verte » des aires protégées de l'UICN qui reconnaît et encourage les aires protégées réalisant une conservation efficace de la nature, des écosystèmes associés et des valeurs culturelles.

56. Piatra Craiului National Park – Romania

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

The European Diploma was awarded conditioned by the following conditions:

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

The Management Plan was submitted by the Park Administration to the Government for approval in 2011. It was analysed by all the ministries and it was approved in December 2013 through the Governmental Decision No. 1057/2013.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There were also 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;

The park budget is secured by the National Forest Administration (732.000 paid in 2013, 784.000 secured for 2014). A new administration contract was signed for 10 years in 2014 (until 2024) between the NFA and the MoE, and between the NFA and the park administration.

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;

The Park Administration has started from the 1st of March 2012 a Sector Operational Program Pillar 4 project, « The improvement of the conservation status of Piatra Craiului National Park's biodiversity by public awareness, information, visiting and monitoring »

The aim of the project is to set up the visitors sector of Piatra Craiului National Park Administration Headquarters from Zarnesti; to build an information point for tourists in Curmatura area; to build 4 information points at the main entrances of the park; to set up four thematic tourist trails, with information panels; to realize a printed thematic guide for the tourist trails with an attached map, and a guide for protected species and habitats; to realize 12 types of leaflets regarding the main elements of the park. The project contains also provisions for the fauna, flora and habitats monitoring.

In 2013 started the building works at Visitors Center in Zarnesti and Information Center at Curmatura. In 2014 the work continued, and the promotional materials were printed and distributed. The trails were equipped with the information pannels.

The buildings are to be completed in 2015.

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;

In 2013, the architect from the Scientific Council, with the support of the Park Administration, elaborated a guide of how to build in order to preserve the local architecture and landscape, inspired also by the European Landscape Convention, and which will be published soon. The building rules were included in the Park Management Plan and encourage the use of local materials (timber and stone) for the new buildings and the preservation of the mountain village style with scattered houses. The park administration continued to distribute the guide to the local authorities and the local communities, and the regulations established in the management plan are applied for each new buiding inside the park, through the approval issued by the Scientific Council and the park administration.

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;

In 2014 there were monitored several species and habitats from Piatra Craiului National Park. 12 monitoring protocols are included in the SOP Project, including *Ligularia sibirica*, bats species from caves and bats species of European interest, capercaillie, chamois, birds of prey of European interest, forest habitats, bushes with *Pinus mugo* and *Rhododendron myrtifolium*, alluvial forest with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*. During the winter there were monitored the bats hibernating colonies from the caves to asses the conservation status. Most of the caves are closed and the bat population kept its number from the previous years. The large carnivores from the park were also monitored, using the snow-tracking method. During the spring there was monitored the capercaillie at the lecking sites. The search for more leking sites is necessary, in order to estimate the population and the conservation status. At the end of spring and during the summer there were monitored several habitats of European importance (mountain hay meadows, bushes with *Pinus mugo* and *Rhododendron myrtifolium*, calcareous and calchist screes of the mountain to alpine level, alluvial forest with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*) and also the birds of prey to asses the threats and the conservation status. During the autumn there were monitored the birds of prey' species of European importance during the annual migration and

also the red deer at the mating season. In October it was organized a monitoring action to evaluate the chamois population. At the end of autumn and beginning of winter there were monitored also the forest habitats to assess the conservation status and the trend of the clear-cutting areas and to prevent the illegal cutting of the Christmas trees.

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;

The Park Administration with the central forest authorities organized over 200 control actions to enforce the forest law in the field.

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.

In 2014 the Park Administration was involved in the "Let's do it, Romania", an awareness campaign for waste collection from all over the country. The areas included in the programme were Valea Raului-Prapastiile Zarnestilor and Plaiul Foi-Valea Tamasului. Another waste collecting action was organized in Magura village. There were collected over 150 garbage bags.

There were as well other 5 garbage collection campaigns with volunteers organised by the Park Administration.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

In 2014 a new management contract was signed between the Ministry of Environment and the National Forest Administration for the management of 16 national and nature parks, including the Piatra Craiului National Park. The administration contract was renewed for 10 years, until 2024.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No change

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

57. Retezat National Park Romania

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There haven't been conditions attached to the renewal of the Diploma.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. the Romanian authorities should secure a sufficient budget for the national park and allocate the funds early enough in the year to ensure favourable working conditions for the staff, the completion and maintenance of the park's infrastructure, more information for visitors and the improvement of tourist facilities;

This is an issue that is beyond our possibility of influence. The responsible central public authority- Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, is financing very-very little the national and nature parks network. The financial support for our park is ensured by the National Forest Administration. However, our financial situation has improved much since 2009, so we can perform our basic activities without constraints.

2. the competent Romanian authorities should work together to harmonise the different national and international designations in order to achieve efficient joint management and to implement joint scientific research and monitoring programmes;

That's another situation we can't influence it. We can only inform the competent authorities about Council's recommendation and urge them to act consequently.

3. the management plan should be approved as soon as possible, and at least an executive summary should be translated into either English or French;

The second edition of management plan will be ready in days, and we will submit it immediately to the competent authorities for analyze and approval. We hope to have it released in 2015.

4. the park, in close collaboration with the mountain rescue services Salvamont, should maintain or renew, when necessary, the tourist infrastructure (trail marking, information signs, etc.); a particular effort should be made to solve the problems of the toilets in the camping areas and near the huts;

By law, the field work for tourist trails' maintenance is a duty of the mountain rescue service, and they do that in collaboration and under the supervision of park staff. Park administration has put several new information panels on the park's territory. As well, we have started the sanitization of camping areas by building last year a dry toilet at Zanoaga Lake camping place.

5. the park should maintain pressure on local communities to prevent construction of inappropriate buildings either in the park or in its immediate vicinity;

The current legislation is very tight about possibility to build new constructions in the park, so that issue isn't a problem for us. Accordingly to the law, our competence is strictly limited to the park territory, so it's enough delicate to make interventions regarding the building style in the park's vicinity.

6. the park rangers should monitor the pastures in order to identify early possible changes due to over grazing and/or under grazing; before the next evaluation, the park should carry out a new study on the pastures; the changes in terms of species composition, erosion, etc., should be analysed in relation to the type and amount of grazing.

Monitoring process of the alpine pastures in the park is one the important activity we do. Park staff is doing that during the entire spring-summer season in order to identify in due time the changes that can affect those habitats. We have foreseen in the management plan an action called "Study on the alpine pastures in Retezat National Park- second edition"; the challenge for us will be to find adequate funding to carry it out.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

In November 2014, the central public authority for environment renewed the contract with the National Forest Administration, subsequently with Retezat National Park Administration, for the next 10 years. For the first time, in that document is mentioned that Gemenele Scientific Reserve's administration is done by the same structure that administrates the entire park. However, collaboration with Romanian Academy has to be maintained for scientific issues related to the territory of that reserve.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There are no changes to the boundaries of the Park since the last annual report. The boundaries are the same since the re-establishment of the Park, in 2000. The first establishment of Retezat National Park was in March 1935, on a smaller surface than nowadays.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

At the moment, we haven't any other special information to communicate to the Council.

58. Central Balkan National Park – Bulgaria

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. The authorities responsible must express their commitment not to alter the management plan and the conservation regime of the different zones of the Park and to renew the plan respecting similar conservation conditions:

Both parts of the updated Management plan of Central Balkan NP – prescriptive and descriptive were assigned to two different contractors after public tenders. No serious claims about zoning, regimes and norms in the Park raised on the public hearing of the Plan. Central Balkan NP Directorate submitted the updated plan and all necessary documentation by law to the Ministry of Environment and Water (16th of April 2014) for review. The separate zones in the updated management plan essentially retain regimes and norms stipulated in the first Management Plan, 2001 – 2010. National Nature Protection Service (MOEW) support updated Management plan.

Four hundred ha treeless territory was transferred from Multifunctional zone to Human Impact Limitation zone in the new Management plan. This will help to expand the territories for protecting natural processes, in addition to existing strict nature reserves.

We expect at the beginning of 2015 draft plan to be submitted for consideration to the Supreme Expert Environmental Council in the Ministry of Environment and Water. The last step of the procedure is the adoption of updated management plan from the Council of Ministers.

2. The authorities concerned must provide a sufficient budget to ensure regular operation of the Park as well as maintenance of its infrastructure:

Since 2010 the Central Balkan NP Directorate implements different projects financed mainly from Operational program Environment, 2007 – 2013 (Priority 3 – Preservation of biodiversity and nature protection). CBNPD has already finished projects for renovation of the tourist infrastructure and preparation of the design for anti-erosion measures in the park. There are two ongoing projects now. The first is for actualization of the management plan of the park and the second is for big varieties of activities

divided in four main groups 1)Protection of species and habitats, 2)Tourist and administrative infrastructure, 3)Interpretation and educational programs and 4)Planning and optimization of the management. The total budget of the projects is over 50 000 000 BGN (~25 000 000 EUR) and the deadline is the end of 2015. OP Environment 2007 – 2013 became a main financial source for different activities in the park that allows us to implement a lot of projects planned in last 10 years which didn't happen because the lack of enough financial resources. As a result from another project financed form OP Environment 2007 – 2013 all the protected areas administrations in the Ministry of Environment and Water have received new vehicles and equipment. All this allows us to spend the annual budget received from the government mainly for regular operation of the park administration.

3. A public advisory council should be established in order to ensure public participation in the management of the Park:

Since September 2010 a Public Advisory Council functions as an advisory body to the Park Management. It was established as a result from the project “Model for Management with the Stakeholders Participation of Central Balkan – part of the National Ecological Network”. The Council consists of 20 representatives of different stakeholders – representatives of municipal authorities and village mayors, chalet keepers, local tourism entrepreneurs, tour operators, artists, representatives of scientific and non-government conservation sector, users of park bio-resources, mass media, Ministry of Environment and Water, and state forest agency.

In February 2014 was held on line working meeting of the Public Advisory Council to discuss the draft version of updated Management Plan for the Central Balkan NP. Access to the draft plan and its annexes was provided in two websites: www.bbf.biodiversity.bg and www.centralbalkan.bg. Vice-President of the Council presented at the public discussion (11th of March) the position of the advisory body.

On the 14th and 15th of November the Public Advisory Board together with the Scientific Advisory Board held a joint meeting. The members of two advisory bodies reviewed progress on the projects “Update of Management Plan for Central Balkan National Park” and “Central Balkan – park for all” implemented under Priority 3 Preservation of biodiversity and nature protection of OP Environment. Important topic in the agenda was also the theme about grazing in the National Park and in particular annual grazing plan for 2015.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. A buffer zone around the Park should be established (conformity with the zone, limited impact on forest and agricultural land, protection of water, etc.); the obligation to implement the Natura 2000 network, as prescribed by the Habitats Directive (92/43 EEC) in the National park and its buffer zone should be acknowledged:

Territory bordering the National Park was declared as follows:

- **Special Protected Area (SPA) Central Balkan Buffer, BG 0002128** – Decision №335/26.05.2011 of the Council of Ministers. The area has been declared by Order №RD-321/04.04.2013 of the Minister of Environment and Water.
- **Sites of Community Importance (SCI) Central Balkan Buffer, BG 0001493** - Decision №802/04.12.2007 of the Council of Ministers. There will be a public discussion of the draft order for SCI in 2015. Colleagues from the National nature protection service (MOEW) are committed Central Balkan NP Directorate to take leading role in the discussion of future norms and regimes of the **SCI**.

2. No mass tourism activities in contradiction with the sustainable development principles should be authorized in the Park:

CBNP annually is visited by 60 – 70 thousand tourists, mainly hikers from Bulgaria. Traditionally in the Park hiking is stimulated and the infrastructure is adopted mainly for this type of tourism. Into account the size of the Park and the total length of tourist routes – about 540 kilometers, the number of tourists is not high and has not changed significantly in recent years. In 2014 tourist floats in summer months were lower than usual because of humid weather. In the highest period – August, monitoring of tourists showed reduction in number of visitors with less than 10%. Some of the routes were closed for several days because of flood damage requiring reconstruction. The most popular route in the park is Byala reka Eco path (1.8 km) that is situated on the park border near town of Kalofer, Municipality of Karlovo. On this place there is camp and children Eco center. In months July – October 2014 the average attendance of this place is 437 visitors per week. For rest of the routes attendance is between several dozens and 100 visitors per week in summer months. Event tourism in the Park does not develop. There are a few sports (alpinism) and cultural (honoring the memory of fallen revolutionaries) events that attract several dozens of visitors in one day on one place.

3. Well-managed summer grazing should be encouraged; a monitoring programme to determine the ideal number of animals permitted in order to respect biodiversity should be established; the possibility of controlling juniper and other shrub growth by means other than fire should be studied:

Summer grazing in CBNP has 7 centuries of history. The traditional way of use of treeless area of the Park has set its current appearance. Since 1990 significant reduction of livestock on pastures of the National Park has led to the beginning of successional processes leading to overgrowing of pastures mainly by shrubs and precisely mainly by Siberian juniper (*Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis* Pall.). Since 2007 when Bulgaria became member of EU the implementation of Rural Development Programme (RDP) increases the interest to High Mountain pasturing in national parks sharply. That was the reason CBNPD to take measures to develop more precise Annual plan for livestock grazing and hay usage in the Park. In 2014 the map of pastures was almost the same as this one for 2013. Small parts of them that according to the new management plan will be in Human limited impact zone have been excluded. Some parts where after expert evaluation were observed new erosion spots have been excluded too. Park Directorate enables users from excluded pastures to move to such that in the last few years have not been used. The total area of pastures in the CBNP in 2014 was almost 17,000 ha what was it in the last five years.

Due to increased interest in the use of pastures last years, Park Directorate applies a step system of assessing applications and allocating eligible pasture areas. During 2014, two-tier system was used again. On the first step, the Directorate provides pastures to those who wish to use the same areas as in 2013. This group includes farmers approved under RDP's sub-measure "Traditional practices for seasonal grazing animals". On the second step, vacant pastures were distributed among remaining farmers.

In 2014 extreme weather conditions – very high precipitation and relatively low temperatures, have contributed many of users not use their pastures in the Park. There was enough food for livestock in pastures in the valleys around the Park where in bad weather pasturing is much safer than in high mountain. That was one of the reasons pastures in CBNP to be underloaded. Another reason for less livestock in the Park was the epizootic of catarrhal fever in Bulgaria, which necessitated the taking of special measures, including restriction of movements of sheep and cattle. Another reason for lower interest in pasturing in CBNP was the zero year of the RDP, because of the end of programming period 2007 – 2013 and delay in preparation for work in the new programming period 2014 – 2020. In this year there weren't possibilities for taking new engagement for maintenance of natural grassy habitats in Natura 2000 sites. Only engagements taken in previous five years were valid.

In the beginning of 2014 CBNPD made a proposal for changes in the said sub-measure of the RDP for the next programming period (2014 – 2020) in order to eliminate some of the problems with the management of high mountain pastures. Most of the proposals are now in the draft of the RDP 2014 – 2020. The

changes will allow easier management of pastures – e.g. change of pasture after observation of some problems like erosion, disturbance to wildlife, etc., without sanctions for beneficiaries under the measures.

In 2014 in the frame of development of Strategic plan for high mountain pasturing in CBNP were held 5 expert meetings with the participation of representatives of associations of users of pastures in the Park. On these meetings the basis of the Strategic plan were made using adaptive management methodology. The final version will be present from the coordinators of project – Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, in the beginning of 2015. Draft version of the Plan was taken into consideration in developing the draft of Annual plan for grazing and the hay usage for 2015. The Plan will be presented to the users of pastures in the Park at the very beginning of 2015 . After a discussion with stakeholders the Annual plan for grazing and hay usage 2015 will be adopted (expected in February 2015).

4. The situation of the buildings within the Park should be clarified and the necessary means to maintain or improve them should be ensured, as appropriate:

CBNP Directorate has done a geodesic surveying of over 230 buildings and facilities in the park territory which will be included in the national cadaster. This will help to clarify the owners and especially of the abandoned buildings and facilities which will allow the park administration to prescribe the necessary activities to improve or remove them. CBNPD signed a contract with a private company for removing more than 30 abandoned buildings which are dangerous and in very bad condition. After removing the terrain will be restored.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes in the Site Management!

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes!

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

59. The Burren region – Ireland

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. the Irish authorities should ensure the budget for the maintenance and development of the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme; *DAHG have continued funding of the BFCP team in 2013 and 2014 and the funding of the circa 160 farmers has also continued. NPWS (DAHG) and the BFCP team continue to engage with all stakeholders with the aim of ensuring the BFCP is expanded under the new RDP and in clarifying the detail of such an inclusion. DAHG have made numerous submissions to DAFM (the RDP management authority) in relation to the Irish RDP (and the continuance of BFCP from 2015). The BFCP team also made a submission on the draft Irish RDP, as invited, in June 2014. Further*

detailed discussions are planned for the coming months on this topic. The identification by DAFM of the BFCP as a flagship Targeted Agri-Environment Project to be funded under the RDP from 2015 is a significant development.

2. the national and local authorities should prevent possible negative environmental damage from the surrounding areas of the Burren Region; in addition to the management of farming within the site by Burren Farming for Conservation Programme staff, there is also management of compliance with the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts by regionally based NPWS staff, under the direction of Dr Enda Mooney. Conservation rangers for the site also engage with the BFCP team in terms of ensuring that all proposed works are considered appropriately in the context of the overall conservation interests of the site. The implementation and regulation of cross compliance, EIA (Agriculture) Regulations 2011 and the local planning acts ensures that negative environmental damage is avoided.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. to encourage the participation of more farmers in the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme; the number of BFCP clients for 2014 is 160. Projected spend is broadly on-target but it is too early to predict the final budget allocation for 2014. BFCP work is currently focusing primarily on the completion of technical and administrative checks on all 2014 plans. All contracted works are on schedule.

2. to plan subsequent steps in the second phase of European Union funding of the BurrenLIFE project through the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme; see Condition 1 above.

3. to stimulate the further development of the Burren Community Charter; the Burren Farming for Conservation Project, the Burren Connect Project, the Burren IFA, the Burrenbeo Trust, the Heritage Council, Clare County Council and Galway County Council all continue to work together in developing and implementing the Burren Community Charter.

4. to stimulate further development of sustainable ecotourism and practice in the Burren Region; the Burrenbeo Trust continues to place emphasis on sustainable ecotourism and promotes the Burren as a "learning landscape". The Learning Landscape Symposium took place in July this year and brought together leading national and international specialists on how best to use the Burren as a learning resource through different principles and practice in place-based learning. This included keynote speakers, workshops and fieldtrips to investigate ways to use local resources to make learning a richer, more exciting and rewarding educational experience. This all took place in the Burren, the ultimate 'outdoor classroom'.

5. to discourage mass tourism in the Burren Region which does not accord with the principles of sustainable development; The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark (which covers much of the EDPA area) has an executive board comprising a manager, geologist, tourism co-ordinator and communications co-ordinator. This in turn is led by a steering committee representing Clare County Council, Geological Survey of Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Office of Public Works, National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, Heritage Council, NUIG, UCD, Burren Ecotourism Network, Burren IFA and Burrenbeo Trust. The Geopark works with local communities and groups to develop work programmes, such as educational programmes and trails. The Geopark has also forged a special relationship with the Burren Ecotourism Network. Both are working closely together to develop the Geopark as a world class, accredited sustainable tourism destination. The Geopark's work programme in the development of the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination, in balancing conservation and tourism, in training and educational programmes and in developing policy is being funded to 2017 by EU LIFE.

6. to encourage volunteers to participate in the sustainable management of the Burren Region; *the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers is a voluntary community that has been active in 2013 and 2014 and works towards the sustainable management of the Burren by addressing key conservation issues and needs in the region. The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers was born out of a need for hands-on conservation workers. In a region of decreasing rural population key conservation issues such as scrub encroachment and the rebuilding of stone walls are becoming harder to tackle and the conservation volunteers provide a very important resource to address this.*

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Currently the BFCP staff complement is as follows:

Sharon Parr (F/T), Brendan Dunford (F/T), Bryony Williams (4 dpw), Caitriona Maher (4 dpw), Paula McHale (4 dpw) and Anne Mullen (2 dpw).

Michael Lynch continues to offer FMA support to the BFCP on a part-time (2.5dpw) basis.

In addition to the management of farming within the site by Burren Farming for Conservation Programme staff, there is also management of compliance with the Habitats Directive and Wildlife Acts by regionally based NPWS staff, under the direction of Dr Enda Mooney. Conservation rangers for the site also engage with the BFCP team in terms of ensuring that all proposed works are considered appropriately in terms of the overall conservation interests of the site.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There have been no changes to the boundary of the European Diploma area since the adopted of the resolution.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Education and Communication:

BFCP staff have hosted a large number of groups over the past 4 months including:

Study groups including Astrale Team of EU LIFE Monitors, National Parks Staff from Britain and Ireland and LIFE projects from Wales and Czech Republic.

University Groups (UCD, NUI Galway, Notre Dame), Schoolteachers (Annual Teacher Training Course) and schoolchildren (4 Burren schools as part of the Eco Beo project).

Journalists from Irish Times (Paddy Woodworth), Farming Independent (Joe Barry) etc

In addition BFCP staff have:

Presented at a number of conferences (Natural Capital Conf., EU LIFE funding info day).

Featured in a range of local, national and international publications including a 1-page feature in a national newspaper (July 2014).

Offered one to one, site-based training to all (11) farm advisors

Supported the work of the AranLIFE and the Burren Tourism LIFE projects.

BFCP staff have a number of speaking engagements in September-October in Ireland (Europarc conference), Brussels (workshop on pay for performance AES) and Wales (agri-environment event).

Three images of Burren landscapes are attached separately.