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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

**Adopted Resolutions concerning the
European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2014**

*Document prepared
by the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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**Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)1
on the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas
to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2014
at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution Res(65)6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

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

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

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

Places the aforesaid area under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 1 July 2019;

Attaches the following two conditions to the award:

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

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the award:

1. take all necessary precautions to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve;
2. improve the existing monitoring system for the fauna and flora populations of the Desertas;
3. analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna on Bugio, following the total eradication of alien species;
4. increase the efforts to combat soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio;

5. eradicate the goat population from Deserta Grande or at least to keep the population very low and subject to a strict monitoring scheme;
6. promote the training of nature guides to accompany tourists in this area;
7. investigate if the increasing colony of yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis atlantis*) on Ilhéu Chão is having a negative impact on the breeding seabird populations on Deserta Grande and Bugio.



**Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2
modifying Appendix 5 to Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European
Diploma for Protected Areas –
Model plan for annual reports to be submitted by the responsible authorities of the areas having
received the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2014
at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Having regard to Resolution Res(65)6 of 6 March 1965, instituting the European Diploma for certain landscapes, reserves and protected natural features;

Having regard to Resolution Res(73)4 of 19 January 1973 on the Regulations for the European Diploma;

Having regard to Resolutions Res(88)39 of 5 December 1988 and Res(89)12 of 19 June 1989 amending Resolution Res(73)4 on the Regulations for the European Diploma;

Having regard to Resolution Res(91)16 of 17 June 1991 on the Regulations for the European Diploma;

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 of 20 February 2008 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

Taking account of the experience gained since the regulations were revised in 2008,

Adopts the revised model plan for annual reports to be submitted by the responsible authorities of the areas having received the European Diploma for Protected Areas (Appendix 5 to Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1).

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State:

Name of the area:

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

Central authority concerned:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

e-mail:

www:

Authority responsible for its management:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

e-mail:

www:

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.

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.

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.

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 following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

- 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

8. Education and scientific interest

- 8.1. Visitors – Information policy
 - 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 8.2. Scientific research
 - 8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

- 10.1. Improvements made
 - 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
 - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
 - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

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

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