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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**GROUP OF SPECIALISTS -EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS
14-15 MARCH 2011 STRASBOURG
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Annual reports II

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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Table of contents

1.	Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine	3
2.	Parc national du Mercantour, France	12
3.	Podyjí National Park, Czech Republic	20
4.	Oostvaardersplassen Nature Reserve, the Netherlands	26
5.	Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria	39
6.	Weltenburger Enge” Nature Reserve, Germany	44
7.	Szénás Hills Protected Area, Hungary	51
8.	Karlštejn National Nature Reserve, Czech Republic	56
9.	Retezat National Park- Biosphere Reserve, Romania	62
10.	Parc national des Ecrins, France	68
11.	Piatra Craiului National Park, Romania	78
12.	“De Weerribben”, Nature Reserve, the Netherlands	86
13.	Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, Belarus	100
14.	Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve, United Kingdom	104
15.	Réserve naturelle des Hautes-Fagnes, Belgique	112
16.	Montecristo Island, Italy	120
17.	Integral Nature Reserve of Sassofratino, Italy	125

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

State: Ukraine

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) - Conservation situation.

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

Illegal cuts and grazing rarely occur on the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR) within the buffer zone and the zone of anthropogenic landscapes, and their impact upon the protected territory is minor. The Administration of CBR takes measures aimed for elimination of such negative phenomena through awareness rising, ecological education, ranger work, and of course monitors factors that cause them.

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover: presumed causes

Observations and flora inventory prove that the gradual restoration of disturbed ecosystems occurs on the territory of the Reserve. The number of populations of most rare species is stable. Though there are particular problems with the conservation of some rare species populations that are of commercial interest. These are such herbs as *Gentiana lutea*, *Rhodiola rosea*, *Lentopodium alpinum*.

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places

Field observations show that number of majority species, including large mammals (ungulates and large carnivores) and large birds of prey, is more or less stable.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage

2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

In 2010 the visitor center in the Geographic Center of Europe was opened. Lots of local stakeholders and local and regional authorities were invited to the grand opening.

Except that, CBR regularly supports organization of the annual ethnic festivals and other events, such as the Hutsul Bryndza Festival (September, Rakhiv) and Berlybash Banosh (May, Kostylyvka).

2.2. Socio-economic context

2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve takes an active hand in solving socio-economic problems that exist in the region. An extraordinary important social role of the CBR is proved by the fact, that it is actually the biggest employer in the area of its location. Now its role is enhanced due to the official boundaries extension by 7 000 ha. Thus, two more field divisions will be established and more people will get jobs. More over, these lands are now secured from land use changes and people will continue their traditional way of nature use. If it did not happen, the lands would be privatized and converted in some different destinations. As for CBR, we support traditional ways of animal husbandry along with other traditional agricultural activities in every possible way. Except that, we also provide the locals with the necessary amount of firewood and timber.

Development of ecological tourism on the base of the Reserve gives a splendid opportunity for the locals to be involved in this infrastructure and to get employed. It also gives a wonderful start for support and development of traditional local crafts and trades as well as for establishing a high-class tourism infrastructure in the region.

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1. Visitors - Information policy

3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

Construction of the visitor center in the Centre of Europe is opened. There's a wide range of information available there.

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve managed despite the crisis to build a tourists shelter in the Peremychka area, close to Hoverla Mt., which is a real visitor Mecca of the Ukrainian Carpathians, because it is the highest summit of this part of the Carpathians. The upland tourist shelter is planned to be opened in May 2011.

4 issues of the regional ecological newspaper "Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" were published in 2010, as well as one issue of the journal "Green Carpathians".

With the aim to promote the natural and cultural monuments of CBR there have been prepared and published a number of advertising materials: a leaflets, posters, pocket calendars etc.

In three divisions of the reserve information boards were changed to new ones; two of the ecological trails were supplied with interpretive content.

3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

About 60.000 of visitors came to CBR in 2010. Most of them came here in summer, July-August the most. The greatest number of tourists is registered in the Narcissi Valley – 21.300; in highland areas of the Chornohora and Svydovets massifs – about 23.000. The Museum was visited by some 6.500 persons.

3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc)

In 2010 the Reserve was visited by:

- A group of German teachers and students from the forestry University of Eberswelde. Their aim was to have their practical tuitions on the basis of the CBR primeval forests.
- There was a series of exchange visits by the Director of the Maramures Nature Park (Romania) Costel Bucur.
- Czech scientists had their annual studies on Zlatnik's plots.
- Polish specialists visited the Reserve this year with the map consultation purposes.
- Scientists of the Vermont University visited CBR with the aim to discuss possibilities to implements climate change projects.
- Representattives of the Michael Succow Foundation attended the final workshop within the project "Strategic management planning for CBR"

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention. . .)

In 2010 data on the number and population dynamics of some large carnivores (lynx, bear, wolf) was being collected. Species composition of bats dwelling in underground shelters was being studied during the given year. Investigations of rare birds were also held; those were such birds as *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Tetrao uroagllus* and other. Such Red Data Book species of Lepidoptera were under study during the given year, as: *Parnassius mnemosyne*; *Iphiclides podalirius*; *Papilio machaon*; *Agria tau*; *Eudia pavonia*.

Botanists of the Reserve conducted investigation (distribution, populations structure, biomorphologic peculiarities, geobotanic characteristic) of the rare plant species that have been mentioned in the Brn convntion – *Narcissus angustifolius*, and are red-listed in Ukraine: *Gentiana lutea*, *Rhodiola rosea*, *Rhododendron myrtifolium*, *Salix herbacea*, *Dryas octopetale*.

3.2.2. Scientific publications.

1. Антосяк Т.М., Волощук М.І., Козурак А.В. Склад флори та рідкісні види рослин на території Карпатського біосферного заповідника // Природно-заповідні території: функціонування, моніторинг, охорона: Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, присв. 30-річчю з дня створення КНПП (25 листопада 2010 р., м. Яремче) – Яремче, 2010. – С. 3-5.
2. Антосяк Т.М., Волощук М.І., Сухарюк Д.Д. Щодо охорони та збереження рідкісної флори і рослинності північного мегасхилу гори Говерла // Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, присвяченої 20-річчю природного заповідника „Медобори” (26-28 травня 2010 р., смт. Гримайлів). – С. 215-219.
3. Антосяк Т.М., Волощук М.І., Козурак А.В., Сухарюк Д.Д. Культивована флора дендропарку Карпатського біосферного заповідника // Інтродукція рослин, збереження та збагачення біорізноманіття в ботанічних садах і дендропарках: Матеріали міжнародної наук. конф., присвяч., 75-річчю заснування Національного ботанічного саду ім. М.М. Гришка НАН України (м. Київ, 15-17 вересня, 2010). – Київ, 2010. – С. 135-139.
4. Антосяк Т.М., Козурак А.В. Гербарій Карпатського біосферного заповідника // Два сторіччя дослідження рослинного покриву Карпат: Матер. міжнар. науков. конф., присв. 130-річчю від дня народження Антонія Маргітая (16-18 вересня 2010 р., мм. Мукачево-Берегово) – Ужгород: Карпати, 2010. – С. 22-24.
5. Бедей М.І., Крись О.П., Волощук М.І., Маханець І.А. Тирлич жовтий (*Gentiana lutea* L.) в Українських Карпатах. Монографія. – Ужгород, 2010. – 130 с.
6. Беркела Ю.Ю., Волощук М.І. Геоінформаційна база даних Карпатського біосферного заповідника // Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, присвяченої 20-річчю природного заповідника „Медобори” (26-28 травня 2010 р., смт. Гримайлів). – С. 235-236.
7. Волощук М.І., Папарига П.С. Збереження рослинного покриву на території Долини нарцисів шляхом регулювання рівня ґрунтових вод // Матеріали міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, присвяченої 20-річчю природного заповідника „Медобори” (26-28 травня 2010 р., смт. Гримайлів). – С. 267-270.

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9. *Гамор Ф.Д., Довганич Я.О., Покин'ячереда В.Ф.* Екологічна ситуація у басейні верхньої Тиси на ділянці Українсько-Румунського кордону та шляхи її стабілізації. – Ужгород, 2010. – 72 с.
10. *Гамор Ф.Д., Покин'ячереда В.Ф.* Червона рута – прикмета любові // Це моя Україна. -. Київ: Світло й тінь, том 2, 2009. – С 188-199.
11. *Годованець Б.Й.* Сучасний стан популяції й охорона волохатого сича (*Aegolius funereus*) в Українських Карпатах // Проблеми вивчення й охорони тваринного світу у природних і антропогенних екосистемах. Матеріали Міжнародної наукової конференції, присвяченої 50-річчю з часу опублікування регіонального зведення «Животный мир Советской Буковины» (м. Чернівці, 13 листопада 2009 р.). – Чернівці: ДрукАрт, 2010. – С. 148-150.
12. *Довганич Я.О.* Проблема синантропізації бурого ведмеда (*ursus arctos*) в Карпатах та шляхи її вирішення // Проблеми вивчення й охорони тваринного світу у природних і антропогенних екосистемах. Матеріали Міжнародної наукової конференції, присвяченої 50-річчю з часу опублікування регіонального зведення «Животный мир Советской Буковины» (м. Чернівці, 13 листопада 2009 р.). – Чернівці: ДрукАрт, 2010. – С. 170-172.
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 35. *Шнарик Ю.С., Коммармот Б., Беркела Ю.Ю.* Структура букового пралісу Українських Карпат. – Снятин: Прут Принт, 2010. – 143 с.
 36. *Zaimenko N., Rachmetov D., Gaponenko M., Melnik V., Gnatyuk A., Voloshchuk M., and other.* Rare and Useful Plants of Ukrainian Carpathians. – Published in 2010 by Korea national arboretum. – 380 с.

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes.

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentings, etc.)

No changes.

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example conversion into total reserve)

The process of CBR's territory extension ended. CBR was enlarged by some 7000 ha more. Final document arrangements are conducted.

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

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes: controls of fauna.

During last year traditional nature use actions (Haymaking and willows cutting) have been carried out in “Narcissi Valley” massif for supporting of meadows plants communities and conservation of *Narcissus angustifolius* population. Activities aimed for the hydrological balance restoration have been started in this protected massif. The situation had been disturbed here before the area became protected. 5 hydrological constructions (flood-gates) were built on drainage channels. A complex inventory of hunting fauna was held in 2010. It proved that the number of ungulates is stable.

5.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

Protection of the territory is fulfilled by 95 foresters and 27 forestry officers, who are responsible for keeping to the nature-protection regime. Inspection of 23.0 km of fire-resisting lines and 31 km of fire-resisting roads were repaired. Mobilization plan for fire extinguishment for each of the department has been elaborated. No fires were registered during the year. 4 bridges and 1 river-cross were repaired.

5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc)

12.0 km of mountain paths and roads were repaired within the year.

5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

Hides and study facilities were repaired.

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No changes.

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No changes.

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

No changes.

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage: legal action

During 2010 rangers prepared 20 protocols on illegal logging, wild fruit gathering in the core zone, picking up rare herbs etc. Rangers also issued 45 notes about the conservation law delinquencies.

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

Award of the European Diploma had a positive influence on the CBR. The prestige and image of the reserve as a scientific-research nature-protected institution has considerably enhanced. This, in its turn improved the security of the reserve and effectiveness of its activity.

III. 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.

**RAPPORT ANNUEL POUR 2010
A L'ATTENTION DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
POUR LE SUIVI DES CONDITIONS D'OCTROI
DU DIPLOME EUROPEEN DES ESPACES PROTEGES**

♦ **ETAT : France**

♦ **NOM DE LA ZONE DIPLOMEE** : Parc national du Mercantour

Diplôme attribué par résolution (93) 21 du 3 mai 1993, renouvelée par résolution n°(98)22 du 18 septembre 1998, puis par résolution ResDip(2003)11 et renouvelée en 2008 par la résolution CM/ResDip(2008)17 adoptée par le Comité des Ministres le 2 juillet 2008, lors de la 1031^{ème} réunion des Délégués des Ministres.

♦ **AUTORITE CENTRALE CONCERNEE** :

Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable, des transports et du logement
Direction générale de l'aménagement, du logement et de la nature
Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité - Sous-Direction des espaces naturels
Arche de la Défense Paroi Sud - 7^{ème} étage - F-92055 La Défense Cedex - FRANCE
Tél : +33 1.40.81.21.22 - Fax : +33 1.40.81.82.55
E-mail : deb@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

♦ **AUTORITE RESPONSABLE DE LA GESTION DE LA ZONE DIPLOMEE** :

Etablissement public du Parc National du Mercantour
23, rue d'Italie - BP 1316 – F- 06006 NICE Cedex 1 - FRANCE
Tél : +33 4.93.16.78.88 Fax : +33 4.93.88.79.05
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Monsieur Alain BRANDEIS, directeur - alain.brandeis@mercantour-parcnational.fr
Monsieur Pierre COMMENVILLE, directeur-adjoint - pierre.commenville@mercantour-parcnational.fr

I – DONNEES GENERALES

1. Patrimoine naturel (description abiotique générale : géomorphologie, géologie et hydrogéologie, habitats, flore, faune, paysage) - Etat de conservation

1.1. Milieu: modifications ou altérations des milieux d'origine naturelle ou anthropique, accidentelles ou durables, effectives ou prévisibles

Aucune détérioration sur l'espace protégé du cœur du parc national n'est intervenue en 2010. Des travaux légers ont été autorisés dans le domaine de l'aménagement des hameaux habités (3 rénovation de maisons existantes avec un accent particulier mis sur l'éco-responsabilité des modes de construction admis (économie énergétique, utilisation du bois). Des travaux sur des bâtiments à usage agricole (pastoralisme) ont été réalisés en adéquation avec les usages autorisés et après réalisation de diagnostics préalables sur les pratiques.

Nous ne déplorons pas de menace particulière d'origine anthropique, mise à part l'apparition d'un projet de microcentrale hydroélectrique (puissance de 4,5MW maximum) dans le vallon de Mollières, un espace remarquable et particulièrement bien préservé, qui pourrait être autorisé par l'autorité administrative locale du fait de la modification du statut de protection des cours d'eau issu de la loi sur l'eau et les milieux aquatiques de 2006. Le projet est soumis à un accord préalable du conseil d'administration du parc, où les personnalités locales (élus et personnes qualifiées) sont majoritaires.

1.2. Flore et végétation: évolution des populations florales et du tapis végétal; causes présumées

Nous ne constatons aucun changement important dans la végétation. Les efforts d'amélioration de la gestion pastorale sont poursuivis avec des contrats de gestion de plus en plus nombreux avec les éleveurs (30 contrats à ce jour couvrant le tiers de la surface pâturée de l'espace protégé). Cette amélioration contractuelle des pratiques de gestion fait l'objet d'un suivi concerté avec les représentants de la profession agricole, qui garantissent leur durabilité.

1.3. Faune: modification des populations sédentaires ou migratrices; lieux de concentration, de ponte ou de reproduction

Deux mentions à faire :

Un nouveau lâcher de Gypaète barbu (*Gypaetus barbatus*) dans le parc Alpi Marittime

L'évaluation générale du programme de réintroduction dans les Alpes a été conduite par la Vultures Conservation Foundation et un plan national de restauration a été établi avec le concours du parc pour la France (www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/gypaetebarbu.pdf). La suite du programme de restauration de l'espèce dans les Alpes est suspendue à une expertise scientifique. Il est probable que les lâchers dans le Mercantour et dans le parc naturel Alpi Marittime ne pourront intervenir à nouveau qu'à partir de 2012.

La population de Loup (*Canis lupus*) n'a pas subi d'altération marquée sur la période. Elle fait l'objet d'un suivi coordonné nationalement dans le cadre du plan d'actions français 2008-2012. Le parc est toujours très actif dans le programme de recherche sur l'impact de la prédation sur les populations d'ongulés sauvages (programme PPP). La capture d'une deuxième femelle de loup, après la première capture de l'été 2009 a permis de poursuivre la collecte d'échantillons de prédation très précieux. Néanmoins, la femelle est morte naturellement après 7 mois d'émission. Les données commencent à être assez nombreuses pour être analysées et les premiers résultats devraient être publiés en 2011. A noter que cette capture a été réalisée par hélicoptère dans le but recherché de réduire le dérangement de la faune et l'engagement de moyens financiers et humains. Cette première en France a bénéficié d'une très forte couverture médiatique.

2. Patrimoine culturel et contexte socio-économique

2.1. Patrimoine culturel

2.1.1 Changements concernant le patrimoine culturel.

La politique d'action culturelle se met en place grâce au projet intégré transfrontalier (INTERREG Alcotra) mené avec le parc naturel Alpi Marittime. UN ethnologue a été recruté pour mener des recherches sur la forêt, les bâtiments militaires et les savoirs-faires culinaires.

Pas de changement sur le monument historique de la Vallée des Merveilles. Le dispositif de surveillance des gravures fonctionne normalement et les recherches continuent. La situation s'est normalisée pour l'accès en véhicule motorisé sur le site puisque le parc a constitué un service public avec des tarifs uniques et une flotte de véhicules, de chauffeurs et d'accompagnateurs qualifiés. Des critères environnementaux ont été introduits pour l'exploitation de ce service.

Le projet de rénovation d'un refuge réservé aux équipes de chercheurs (baptisé « refuge des savants ») est relancé.

2.2. Contexte socio-économique

2.2.1 Changements concernant le contexte socio-économique.

Le travail se poursuit dans le cadre de la charte européenne du tourisme durable à laquelle le parc a adhéré conjointement avec le parc Alpi Marittime. Cette adhésion sera réévaluée en 2011.

Nous avons amplifié le travail avec les stations de ski de l'aire d'adhésion du parc à travers un projet régional de diversification de leurs activités et de prise en compte de l'environnement que nous avons coordonné au bénéfice des stations de la vallée de la Tinée (Auron, Isola 2000, ...)

Le travail sur la charte du parc s'est poursuivi et a été l'occasion d'élaborer un projet de développement économique mettant en valeur le patrimoine et améliorant son empreinte environnementale.

3. Intérêt pédagogique et scientifique

3.1. Visiteurs - Politique d'information

3.1.1 Infrastructures d'accueil et information du public (bâtiments, brochures, cartes, etc.)

Nous avons poursuivi notre politique générale d'accueil du public dans les maisons de parc. Cette politique est désormais coordonnée par une chargée de mission au siège du parc.

Le projet intégré transfrontalier avec Alpi Marittime a permis de lancer des opérations de rénovation des maisons de parc, de nouvelles expositions (Tende sur le pastoralisme et en particulier la laine et St Martin Vésubie sur les villages) et de pérenniser une équipe d'hôtesse spécialisées dans l'éducation à l'environnement des scolaires (Valberg). Le développement de nouveaux outils pédagogiques restent à faire. Un partenariat a commencé avec les médiathèques des villages du parc pour constituer des lieux d'information sur l'environnement à destination des habitants du parc.

Les publications ont été reconduites (magazine Le Mercantour, guides numériques e-coguide, site internet et liens). Dans le cadre des événements des 30 ans des deux parcs, nous avons été mis à l'honneur sur les salons Destination Nature de Paris et de Lyon (80.000 visiteurs sur les stands).

3.1.2 Fréquentation et comportement des visiteurs (nombre, répartition dans l'espace et le temps)

Pas de modification de la répartition des visiteurs ?. Nos chiffres de référence datent toujours de 2007. Une nouvelle enquête sur la fréquentation est prévue en 2011.

3.1.3 Visites de marque (personnalités, groupes, etc.)

La célébration des 30 ans des parcs Mercantour et Alpi Marittime, qui survenait lors de l'année internationale de la Biodiversité, a été marquée par de nombreuses manifestations qui ont permis d'attirer l'attention des médias sur le parc et ses enjeux de protection de la nature :

Lancement d'une exposition sur les Parcs nationaux français en présence de M. ESTROSI, ministre français de l'industrie.

Inauguration d'une exposition de photographies sur la biodiversité du Mercantour et des Alpi Marittime, à Paris en présence de SAS le Prince Albert II de Monaco puis à Turin.

3.2. Recherche scientifique

3.2.1 Recherches en cours ou terminées (observation, expérimentation ; recensement ou inventaire des espèces figurant aux annexes de la Convention de Berne...)

Le suivi des espèces emblématiques se poursuit normalement : gypaète barbu (*Gypaetus barbatus*), loup (*Canis lupus*), aigle royal (*Aquila chrysaetos*), chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), bouquetin des Alpes (*Capra ibex*), Reine des Alpes (*Eryngium alpinum*), Gentiane de Ligurie (*Gentiana ligustica*) et Saxifrage à fleurs nombreuses (*Saxifraga florulenta*).

Le programme d'évaluation des conséquences de la prédation exercée par le loup sur les ongulés sauvages, initié en 2005, s'est poursuivi en 2010 (programme PPP).

Le programme de recherche All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory + Monitoring (ATBI+M), initié en 2006 s'est poursuivi en 2010 avec l'accueil de dizaines de chercheurs sur le terrain. A ce jour, les données analysées permettent d'attester la présence de 8262 espèces sur le territoire des deux parcs (informations sur www.atbi.eu/mercantour-maritime/).

Nous avons également poursuivi le programme de recherche ECONNECT (www.econnectproject.eu) sur les continuités écologiques et le programme GLORIA (<http://www.gloria.ac.at/>) sur les changements climatiques. Un nouveau programme sur le suivi des pollutions à l'ozone a été lancé.

3.2.2 Publications scientifiques

De nombreuses publications scientifiques se rapportent au programme de recherche ATBI+M.

A noter une publication de synthèse sur le patrimoine du parc et son mode de gestion :

Morand, A. & Commenville, P. 2010. Mercantour National Park – across the borders of sea and mountains, a beacon for the protection of our natural and cultural heritage. Eco.mont - Vol2, N°2, dec2010, pp 45-54.

4. Description de la zone (vulnérabilité, statut juridique de protection, régime foncier, documentation)

4.1. Modifications d'ordre législatif ou réglementaire

Pas de modification en 2010 sur ce plan le travail s'est concentré sur la rédaction de la charte du parc.

4.2. Modifications du régime foncier (domanialisation, locations, etc.)

Aucune modification foncière. L'établissement du parc a réalisé un schéma stratégique de son patrimoine immobilier qui prévoit qu'il soit gestionnaire de toutes les emprises du ministère de la Défense nationale dans le cœur (forts, pistes, casernes). Dans de nombreux cas, ce foncier constitue un patrimoine culturel à préserver.

4.3. Extension ou aliénation, nouvelles affectations (par exemple, en réserves intégrales)

Aucune modification du territoire de l'espace réglementé en cœur de parc. La commune de Barcelonnette (Ubaye) a fait connaître officiellement au conseil d'administration du parc son souhait d'intégrer l'aire d'adhésion. Il a été décidé que cette commune se rapprocherait progressivement du parc, une fois que la charte aura été examinée par les 28 communes actuelles.

5. Gestion de la zone (plan de gestion, budget et personnel)

5.1. Aménagements effectués

5.1.1 Interventions écologiques sur la flore et les biotopes; contrôle de la faune

Aucune intervention de contrôle de la faune n'est intervenue en 2010.

5.1.2 Protection contre les éléments naturels (feux, régime des eaux)

Les équipements de protection déjà existants (plantations, seuils,...) ont été régulièrement entretenus par le service de l'état qui en est chargé. Pas d'évènement climatique particulier à déplorer.

5.1.3 Voies d'accès et de circulation (pistes, chemins, parkings, signalisation, clôtures, etc.)

Le programme habituel de restauration des sentiers de randonnée a été mené (environ 175k€). Il faut noter le début de la restauration d'un sentier sensible bordant la roche gravée de la voie sacrée dans le monument historique de la Vallée des Merveilles pour lequel des études préalables

importantes ont été conduites sous la surveillance d'archéologues de manière à ne pas altérer les gravures.

Nous avons également aménagé un sentier pour le rendre accessible aux handicapés dans le vallon du Lauzanier. Doté d'une signalétique adaptée pour les non-voyants et d'un platelage bois permettant l'accès des fauteuils roulants, ce sentier d'un peu plus d'un kilomètre permet d'accéder à un point de vue remarquable sur le cirque glaciaire de ce vallon renommé. L'opération a bénéficié d'un mécénat de la société GMF (assureur dans le secteur public) fléché sur les parcs nationaux français.

5.1.4 Equipement de séjour (refuges d'observation ou d'étude)

Pas de nouveauté sur cette rubrique en 2010.

5.1.5. Gestion des déchets

Le sujet est abordé dans le programme d'éducation à l'environnement effectué par l'équipe d'hôtesse spécialisées à la maison du parc de Valberg. Aucun problème de gestion des déchets dans l'espace réglementé n'est à déplorer.

5.1.6. Utilisation de systèmes d'énergies renouvelables

Le recours aux énergies renouvelables est généralisé dans les refuges de l'espace réglementé (très petite hydroélectricité et solaire thermique et électrique).

La thématique est abordée dans le projet de charte du parc pour encourager les pouvoirs publics à développer la production d'énergie renouvelable dans le respect de la biodiversité et des paysages et en positionnant l'établissement chargé de la gestion du parc en assistant technique dans ce domaine.

5.2. Statut de surveillance

5.2.1 Service administratif: modifications intervenues

L'établissement chargé de la gestion du parc a affecté un personnel important à la surveillance et à la connaissance de l'espace protégé : 41 agents ayant des pouvoirs de police (stable par rapport à 2009).

La dotation de l'état à l'établissement a encore légèrement augmenté entre 2009 et 2010, permettant de faire travailler 92 équivalents temps plein. L'établissement dispose désormais de tous les moyens humains pour la mise en œuvre des missions qui lui sont confiées, la gestion et l'aménagement de l'espace réglementé ainsi que l'appui technique au développement durable de l'aire d'adhésion.

Il faut également noter que la mutualisation des services administratifs avec l'établissement public fédératif, dénommé « Parcs nationaux de France », s'est poursuivie avec la mise en place d'un service commun pour la gestion de l'informatique et des réseaux.

5.2.2 Service de gardiennage: modifications intervenues

Aucune modification intervenue en 2010.

5.2.3 Mesures de police intérieure

Aucune modification intervenue Pas de changement en 2009.

5.2.4 Infractions et dégradations; poursuites judiciaires

102 infractions ont fait l'objet de poursuites judiciaires dont 66 par voie de timbre-amende. Ces infractions n'ont pas affecté de façon irréversible le patrimoine protégé. Il faut noter la recrudescence des infractions à la circulation des véhicules à moteur, montrant la nécessité de maintenir une forte pression de surveillance dans ce domaine. Nous avons également relevé une infraction importante à la réglementation de protection des plantes : deux personnes ont été

interpellées après avoir cueilli 6400 tiges de g  n  pi (*Artemisia* sp.) une plante revendue pour fabriquer des liqueurs.

II. INCIDENCE DE L'OCTROI DU DIPLOME EUROPEEN DES ESPACES PROTEGES

L'attribution du dipl  me europ  en a   t   un argument principal pour l'attribution du label de charte europ  enne du tourisme durable par Europarcs pour son programme d'actions sur le tourisme.

L'attribution du dipl  me europ  en est un argument dans la candidature commune des deux parcs    pr  senter un bien inscrit sur la liste du patrimoine mondial de l'humanit   de l'UNESCO.

L'attribution du dipl  me europ  en est un atout dans la reconnaissance locale de la bonne gouvernance du parc.

Enfin, l'organe de gestion renforce ses capacit  s d'intervention en sollicitant des m  c  nats pour lesquels le dipl  me europ  en est un gage de s  rieux et de rigueur dans l'accomplissement des missions de l'espace prot  g  .

Le dipl  me europ  en est pr  sent   dans les pr  sentations officielles du parc, notamment en dehors de France.

III. SUIVI DES CONDITIONS ET/OU RECOMMANDATIONS D'OCTROI OU DE RENOUVELLEMENT

Etat d'avancement des mesures prises pour se conformer aux conditions et/ou recommandations d  finies lors de l'octroi ou du renouvellement du Dipl  me europ  en des espaces prot  g  s.

Les recommandations de la r  solution ResDip(2008)17 concernant le renouvellement du Dipl  me europ  en au Parc national du Mercantour ont fait l'objet des efforts suivants :

1. Dans le cadre de ses missions, confi  es par la loi no 2006-436 du 14 avril relative aux parcs nationaux, aux parcs naturels marins et aux parcs naturels r  gionaux, notamment celle de contribuer    la politique de protection du patrimoine naturel, culturel et paysager et de d  velopper des initiatives qui ont pour objet la connaissance et le suivi de ce patrimoine, poursuivre le programme de recherche fondamental visant      valuer l'impact de la pr  dation par les loups des ongul  s sauvages, en collaboration avec les diff  rents partenaires concern  s ;

Le programme de recherche sur les interactions entre pr  sence du loup et faune sauvage se poursuit de fa  on tr  s satisfaisante. La capture d'un nouveau loup a permis de recueillir de tr  s nombreuses donn  es et de favoriser la compr  hension locale du ph  nom  ne de pr  dation, en particulier de la part des chasseurs.

Un travail particulier a   t   men   avec le parc    th  me sur le loup localis   dans l'espace prot  g      St Martin V  subie (centre Alpha Loup) pour renforcer son r  le p  dagogique et son lien avec le parc    th  me 'Uomini e Lupi' d'Entracque, g  r   par le parc Alpi Marittime. Un forum sur les grands pr  dateurs, destin      un public   clair   est en projet.

2. Elaborer la charte pr  vue par la loi du 14 avril 2006 sur les parcs nationaux, qui pr  cisera les objectifs de protection dans le c  ur du parc et les orientations de d  veloppement de la « zone p  riph  rique », qui devient « l'aire d'adh  sion » du parc ;

La r  daction de la charte a bien avanc   en 2010, conform  ment au calendrier pr  visionnel fix   par l'  tat (celui-ci a   t   amend   en juillet, par voie l  gislativ  , pour ajouter 6 mois de d  lai). Les concertations pr  liminaires se sont achev  es en f  vrier 2010. Le conseil d'administration, qui

pilote ce chantier a travaillé sur un avant-projet en mai 2010. Cet avant-projet a reçu de très nombreuses contributions de la part des acteurs locaux et de la part des instances nationales (conseil national de protection de la nature et comité interministériel ont été consultés en septembre 2010). Un projet a été rédigé en fin d'année et sera discuté en conseil d'administration en janvier 2011. Le texte pourrait être adopté par le conseil d'administration avant l'été 2011, étape qui sera suivie d'environ 1 an de procédure avant l'arrêt définitif du projet.

3. Maintenir l'investissement financier et humain dans le domaine de la connaissance scientifique et du soutien à la recherche, notamment en valorisant les données issues des différents programmes de recherche en les mettant en réseau et en rationalisant les bases de données existantes et leur utilisation ;

Le programme ATBI+M a consolidé l'intervention du parc dans le domaine de la science. Le parc conduit la révision de sa politique scientifique sous le contrôle de son conseil scientifique.

4. Favoriser la réalisation de projets en partenariat avec les communes et les acteurs du territoire ;

L'établissement du parc a poursuivi son travail d'assistance technique et financière aux communes en 2010. 14 projets ont été ainsi soutenus dans les domaines de l'accueil du public, de la pédagogie à l'environnement ou du soutien aux activités pastorales responsables.

Les trois agents de développement local ont poursuivi leur travail au quotidien avec les décideurs publics et ont amplifié leur mission de conseil et d'ingénierie dans le domaine du développement durable.

5. Poursuivre la coopération avec le parc naturel des Alpes maritimes (Italie), afin d'établir une zone protégée transfrontalière.

Les deux parcs ont encore une fois renforcé leur coopération.

Le projet intégré transfrontalier (INTERREG Alcotra), accepté fin 2009, a démarré dans sa phase opérationnelle entre mars et juillet 2010. Les premières actions sont déjà en cours : restauration de sentiers transfrontaliers, mise en place d'une politique culturelle, interventions paysagères sur des cols routiers transfrontaliers, rapprochement des politiques pédagogiques, mise en œuvre du projet ATBI+M,...

La création d'un Groupement Européen de Coopération Territoriale, organisme public de gestion habilité à intervenir sur le territoire de la France et de l'Italie, en application de la directive 2004/18/CE du Parlement et du Conseil, est en bonne voie : les conseils d'administration des deux parcs ont approuvé les statuts et la convention de constitution. La création attend le feu vert des instances nationales françaises et italiennes. Le siège de ce groupement sera en France.

Rapport fait et clos le 29 décembre 2010 à Nice (France) – Pierre Commenville.

Pièces jointes

Photo 1 : exemple de gestion de la végétation dans le cadre des mesures agro-environnementales contractuelles avec les éleveurs de l'espace protégé : gestion dirigée du pâturage et débroussaillage sélectif pour la restauration de l'habitat des pelouses sèches sur calcaire.

Photo 2 : capture d'une louve dans le cadre du programme de recherche prédateur-proies sauvages. Effectuée par le moyen d'hélicoptère avec un tireur embarqué, cette opération a permis d'équiper d'un collier émetteur un animal qui a permis de suivre ses déplacements durant 7 mois (avril-octobre)

Photo 3 : animation sur le thème du gypaète avec des écoliers.

Photo 4 : une exposition de photographies dans une maison du parc, à St Martin de Vésubie

Photo 5 : inauguration d'une exposition de photographies sur les parcs nationaux en présence de M. ESTROSI, ministre français de l'industrie.

Photo 6 : un sentier restauré dans le cadre du programme annuel de travaux du parc, le sentier de Barels. Noter le travail de la pierre sèche reproduisant les méthodes traditionnelles de construction des chemins muletiers.

Photo 7 : une garde-moniteur du Mercantour en surveillance d'un site de reproduction du gypaète barbu.

Les photos sur les 30 ans des deux parcs ont été transmises par le parc Alpi Marittime !

RESOLUTION ResDip (2008) 1

ON THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

APPENDIX 5

MODEL PLAN FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

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. They should not, without justification, exceed six pages. The report of the year preceding the one in which the validity of the European Diploma of Protected Areas is to be renewed should be more detailed. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: Czech Republic

Name of the area: Podyjí National Park

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Address: Vrsovicke 1442/65, 100 10 Praha 10

Tel: +420 267 121 111

Fax: +420 267 310 308

e-mail: info@mzp.cz

www: www.mzp.cz

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Podyji National Park Administration

Address: Na Vyhliedce 5, 669 01 Znojmo

Tel: +420 515 282 241

Fax: +420 515 282 241

e-mail: info@nppodyji.cz

www: www.nppodyji.cz

I. General information

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

- 1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
The undesirable eutrophication of the natural environment has continued, which is especially apparent in certain biotopes (grass verges and ditches alongside tracks, meadows, shrubby areas). Intensive agricultural cultivation in the NP buffer zone and the reduction in the usage of small non-forested plots (hedgerows, ditches, stream banks) have contributed to the worsening of the natural conditions.
- 1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
A number of new species for the territory have been recorded. New fungi include *Boletus satanus* and *Pseudoplectania nigrella*, *Funaria pulchella* from the mosses, and vascular plants including *Verbascum blattaria*, *Thesium bavarum*, *Lythrum hyssopifolia*.
The worsening of the condition of some of the meadow areas has been recorded, with an increase in the proportion of aggressive nitrophilous species.
- 1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds
Many new animal species have been recorded in Podyjí NP, especially among the invertebrates, including *Coenagrion ornatum*, *Saga pedo*, *Egaenus convexus* and *Mythima anderreggii*. Among the birds, the Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) and the Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*) have been recorded in Podyjí NP for the first time.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 2.1. Cultural heritage
- 2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
Without changes
- 2.2. Socio-economic context
- 2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context
The Association of Municipalities in Podyjí has been founded by seven of the municipalities in the NP buffer zone. This association is now functioning and has established a working dialogue with the Podyjí NP Administration. In co-operation with the municipalities, an expert and advisory group of architects and landscape ecologists has been established. This group will advise, suggest possible solutions and adjudicate on matters concerning land-use planning, landscape character and planning permission for building works.

3. Education and scientific interest

- 3.1. Visitors — Information policy
- 3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
We have published three issues of our informative magazine "Podyjské listí".

An exhibition entitled "Wandering through Nature with Paintbrush and Chisel" was held at the State Chateau in Vranov nad Dyjí between May and September 2010. A seasonal info-centre was also operated at the chateau (around 19,000 visitors). The visitor centre in Čížov was open from April to October 2010 (around 9,000 visitors).

- 3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)
Visitor numbers in Podyjí NP were unusually low in the first half of the year (April-July), due to prolonged periods of bad weather. Visitor numbers were extremely high between August and October (tourists from the Czech Republic probably preferred to spend their holidays at home and not abroad this year). The total yearly visitor numbers are estimated to be normal, in comparison to previous years.
- 3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
April 2010 (on Earth Day) – Visit by the Minister of the Environment Ruth Bízková and Czech Senator Marta Bayerová to one of the events for the general public which was organised by Podyjí NP.
August 2010 – Podyjí was visited by Mr. Carlos Romao, an expert from the European Environment Agency.
November 2010 – Visit by Deputy Ministers of the Environment Tomáš Tesař and Tomáš Vrbík.
- 3.2. Scientific research
 - 3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
Basic research (fauna, flora): Fungi, mosses, old fruit tree varieties, butterflies, weevils, jewel beetles.
Podyjí NP Administration performed a controlling capture of the Northern Bark Beetle (*Ips duplicatus*).
Research activities also include a census of the populations of hoofed animals in Podyjí NP.
Project "Occurrence of *Taxus baccata* in the Czech Republic".
Applied research: The development of communities on disturbed soils, The influences of historical cultivation methods (grazing, collection of animal bedding in the forests etc.) on the development of forest communities, The morphology, physiology and ecology of old stump forests, Monitoring of Habitats of European Significance: Oakwoods with Greenweeds (*Genista*), Acidophilous beechwoods, Talus and ravine forests.
Podyjí NP Administration, in co-operation with Thayatal NP Administration, is participating in the project "Nature without Borders". This project has many modules, including the European Wildcat, bats, birds, reptiles, butterflies, ground beetles and spiders, dead wood.
 - 3.2.2. Scientific publications
East-CURCULIO Team (2010): Digital-Weevil-Determination for Curculionoidea of West Palaearctic. Transalpina: Brachypera / Donus (*Hyperinae: Hyperini*) - SNUDEBILLER 11, Studies on the taxonomy, biology and ecology of Curculionoidea, Mönchengladbach: CURCULIO-Institute – this paper by several authors (J. Skuhrovec, R. Gosik and R. Stejskal), includes complete information on a beetle species *Donus viennensis*, which lives only in Podyjí NP within the Czech Republic.

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

- 4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

A total of 0.59 ha of land in the IIIrd zone of the national park and in the parish of Znojmo-Konice was bought and is now under state ownership. Funds to purchase more privately-owned land were not available. In connection with the declaration of the Podyjí SPA (Bird Area) and the designation of Sites of European Importance, our request for the transfer of land from the Land Fund of the Czech Republic (state institution) was extended by an area of 37.6ha. We are currently applying for the transfer of a total of 329ha of land from the Land Fund.
- 4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)
Without changes
5. **Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)**
 - 5.1. Improvements made
 - 5.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

We have continued to carry out management activities. The grass was mown or cut on more than 210 ha of grasslands, especially meadows, of which 74 ha were cut by Podyjí NP Administration staff and the rest was cut by landowners and leaseholders. Undesirable woody plants were removed from a total of 15ha of land, where the target herb growths were renewed. Cut outs of undesirable timber were carried out on a total of 30 ha of non-forest areas – especially in the area of the Mašovice Shooting Range. Podyjí NP Administration carried out tillage as a project of renewal of fallow land on a total of 4 ha.
Sheep-grazing was used as an innovation in the management on 3ha of forest areas. Neglected old fruit orchards were renewed at 5 localities.
 - 5.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

The removal of non-native invasive plants (*Impatiens glandulosa*, *Reynoutria bohemica*) was carried out in co-operation with the Thaya NP Administration.
The liquidation of Goldenrods (*Solidago*) was continued on the Czech side.
According to the mapping of erosion risks, negotiations were commenced with farmers and the first three plots were prepared to be grassed over in 2011.
A working group, including representatives of both countries, was formed within the Czech-Austrian Commission for Border Waters. The task for this working group should be to establish an ecologically sustainable flow regime in the Dyje river downstream of the Vranov Hydroelectric Plant. Three working meetings were held.
 - 5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
None
 - 5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

Twenty-six new Czech-German-English information panels were created and installed in the terrain in Podyjí NP.
 - 5.1.5. Waste management
Without changes

5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

The reconstruction of the millstream on the Dyje in Vranov nad Dyjí was continued. The owner is planning to install a small hydroelectric generating plant on the millstream.

We have noticed an increased interest in installing photovoltaic electricity generating panels on buildings in the municipalities in the buffer zone, most often on private houses.

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

Podyjí NP Administration had 48 employees. One employee left the organisation during this year, but will be replaced. The Director of the organisation worked as Deputy Minister of the Environment from 15-3 until 14-7. During this period the Deputy Director for Forestry was named as Acting Director.

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

Without changes

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

None

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

None

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

III. 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.

Attaches the following eight recommendations to the renewal:

1. To 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;

A technical precaution: the reconstructed millstream in Vranov nad Dyjí (viz chapter. 5.1.6) ensures a minimum flow level on the river Dyje of 2.4 m³/s from November to August and 1.8 m³/s from September to October. The reconstruction work is finished, the flow levels will be monitored.

2. To secure the adoption and implementation of the management plan for the period 2010-2019;

The draft of the management plan has been presented to members of the Podyjí NP Council for the first stage of the consultation process. We expect the management plan to be authorised during 2011.

3. To control the development of leisure activities, and in particular to avoid the use of the River Dyje for water sports;

Visitor activities are controlled by the valid visitor regulations. Despite the pressure from interest groups, we are not considering permitting the use of the Dyje river for recreational canoeing and rafting.

4. To 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;

In a study on the protection of the fish populations in the Dyje river from 2010, it was recommended that the sections of the river where sport angling is permitted be reduced. Negotiations on this matter are continuing.

5. To 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;

Co-operation with the municipalities is continuing, and will be emphasized in the new management plan.

6. To pursue and improve the management of agricultural areas, particularly in the buffer zones;

See Chapter 5.1.2. These activities are continuing, and will be emphasized in the new management plan.

7. To grant funding to public authorities for water supply and purification within the park's perimeter;

The State Environmental Fund and the Ministry of the Environment established a subsidy programme to support municipalities within national parks in 2010, which includes support for waste water treatment. We are also investigating the possibility of getting subsidies to build reedbed waste water treatment plants.

8. To 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.

In a study on the protection of the fish populations in the Dyje river from 2010, it was recommended that the river should be improved to allow fish to migrate more easily. It is necessary to consider the possible positive and negative effects on the river ecosystem, as well as the technical possibilities and the financial costs of remedial measures, then to make decisions based on such a cost-benefit analysis.

Oostvaardersplassen

Nature Reserve NL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 Januari 2010 - 30 September 2010

**In accordance with the relevant directive
of the Council of Europe, this report describes only the changes
which took place in the period under review.**

**Text:
H. Breeveld
De Oostvaardersplassen
November 2010**

Authority responsible for its management:

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CONTENTS		
Page		
I	GENERAL INFORMATION	
1	Conservation situation	
	3	
1.1	Abiotic or anthropogenic changes	
	3	
1.2	Flora and vegetation	
	3	
1.3	Fauna	
	3	
2	CULTURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS	
2.1	Cultural aspects	
	3	
2.2	Socio-economic aspects	3
3	EDUCATION AND SCIENCE	
3.1	Visitors information policy	
4		
3.1.1	Arrangements for receiving and informing the public	
	4	
3.1.2	Frequentation by visitors and behaviour	
	4	
3.1.3	Special visits	
	5	
3.2	Scientific research	
	5	
3.2.1	Current or completed research	
	5	
3.2.2	Publications	
	5	
4	LEGAL STATUS	
4.1	Changes in legislation and regulations	
	6	
4.2	Changes in ownership, renting, etc.	
	6	
4.3	Extension or transfer	
	6	
5	SITE MANAGEMENT	
5.1	Improvements made	
	6	
5.1.1	Ecological management measures	
	6	

5.1.2	Protection from the elements	7
5.1.3	Public access	7
5.1.4	Field equipment	7
5.1.5	Waste management	8
5.1.6	Use of sustainable energy systems	8
5.2	Management	8
5.2.1	Administration and supervision	8
5.2.2	Guarding and surveillance	8
5.2.3	Internal policy measures	8
5.2.4	Infringements of access rules	9

SUPPLEMENT

I. General information

1 Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) - Conservation situation

No changes

1.1 Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated.

Non changes

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover: presumed

No changes

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places

Due to the fact that the warden for monitoring was not available in the beginning of this year, it has been decided to outsource the monitoring of the avifauna within the diked part to an environmental consulting firm.

The results are to be expected in the beginning of January 2011 and are therefore not included in this report.

Apart from the monitoring of the diked part of the reserve also counting by aeroplane of breeding birds take place on a regular basis. The results from these countings are:

Great White Egret:	154 pair
Little Egret:	2 pair
Grey Lag Goose:	1.023 pair
Cormorant:	2.892 pair
Spoonbill:	115 pair

Other important observations of species are:

White tailed Eagle (juv./♀)

Cranes

Red Kite

Snow goose

2 breeding pairs Raven (6 juv. and 4 juv.)

3 breeding pairs Hobby

Flamingo's

Black-winged Stilt

Red-backed Shrike

Great Grey Shrike

Surveillance:

This year 15 charges were made against visitors that had trespassed the Oostvaardersplassen. It has been observed that many so-called “Fun-balloons” have gone over the area, making birds as well as the large herbivores crazy. After the Sail-event in Amsterdam we collected this year over 1000 balloons.

2. Cultural heritage and social-economic context**2.1. Cultural heritage**

No changes

2.1.1. Changes with respect to cultural heritage

None

2.2. Social-economic context**2.2.1. Changes with respect to social-economic context**

None

3. Education and scientific interest**3.1. Visitors- information policy**

This year a contest was held among architects for the design of a new visitor centre “Oostvaardersland”.

The final design is chosen as well as the location for the building. The procedure for permit and financing is on the way. The new visitor centre is to be opened in 2012.

The winner for this contest is the design of Olaf Gipser and his design team (March 2010). Since we have been preparing the contracting.

In the meantime work has been done for the zoning scheme and EIA. Drafts are ready and been sent to the council of the municipality of Lelystad.

An agreement for co-operation has been signed with Wetlands International to work together on exhibitions about migratory birds, flyways and connections with other visitor centres at Ramsar-sites in Western Europe. A workshop has been organised with scientists to prepare a research programme for Oostvaardersland.(incl. Oostvaardersplassen). The new visitor centre will also be home to these scientists.

3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.).

A number of leaflets have been reprinted. For financial reasons the release of the brochure for the annual programme has been canceled. This information will be dispersed by the website and via the media.

In cooperation with Falkplan a new map for recreation will be developed for the total area of Oostvaardersland.

The local warden has – in cooperation with HQ –Staatsbosbeheer in Driebergen- set up a weblog. There will be a new posting twice a week. Actual visits for this weblog are around 100 persons a day.

3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)

One year after the opening of the Nature experience centre “de Oostvaarders” near Almere an evaluation will start about the functioning. It is already obvious that this centre is extremely busy during the weekends and that the restaurant plays a significant role. During the summer season two volunteers Staatsbosbeheer have informed the visitors about the Oostvaardersplassen.

Nature experience centre “de Oostvaarders”, Almere. 1 July 2009-30 June 2010

Numbers of visitors

1 July 2009-30 June 2010

category	number
Participants in meetings, 199 bookings	4.156
10.000 cash-records horeca, average 3 visitors per record	30.000
Visitors without consumption (estim.)	6.500
In total	40.656

1 juli 2010-30 sept 2010

Soort	Aantal
Participants in meetings, 51 bookings	1.146
3000 cash-records horeca, average 3 visitors per record	9.000
Visitors without consumption (estim.)	1.800
In total	11.946

In total 1 July 2009-30 Sept 2010

52.602

Activities:

- Several receptions: Flevolands Businesswomen, Old-civil servants Almere, foreign ambassadors in NL, council of members Natuurmonumenten
- Reception seniors Almere Buiten, residents society Almere Buiten, summer activity ANBO
- Mailing leaflet to different political parties and VBA Almere
- Recording Omroep Flevoland Architectuur Dichterbij
- Meetings: Almere tot Zorggroep Almere, Rijkswaterstaat, provincie Flevoland, Wereld Natuurfonds, Natuurmonumenten, Rotary, etc.
- Placing 6 binoculars and large binocular on “crow’s nest”, incl. publicity
- Guests from all corners; Guestbook reactions from people from Danmark, France, Canada, USA and Friesland.
- Help from assistant wardens in weekends, showing introduction movie, explanation and answering questions
- Birdwatching afternoons with the Vogelwacht, 7x in 2010
- Location for route with Chamber Music with 2 classic concerts
- Official allocated as wedding location for Almere

- The negotiations for the new city council took place here. The new agreement for the council is named “Oostvaarders-agreement” and the building is printed on the cover of the agreement.
 - Several excursions: IVN, SBB (belling deer and bike excursion)
 - Stamp post Almeerdaagse
 - 2x an educational activity for the Summerschool (5 primary schools Almere Buiten).
- Information market Province Flevoland for the Oostvaarderswold-project

Activities OVP 2010 total (excl. NBC de Oostvaarders”)						
	groupsex	individual	Other + verg	schoolclasses	visitors info	totaal
number	194	65	59	107	n.v.t	425
participants	4314	1207	onbekend	2142	35375	43038

Other activities		
Ice-scating	10	til 14 Februar
Volunteers meeting		
Death does live		
Unravel owl casts		
“naar buiten” marked		
Early bird walk		
Tracking walk		
Bike excursions		
info		marked
Oostvaarderswold		
Magazine “Margriet” fam. Safari		
Poo-day		
Building nesting boxes		
Candle walk		
Beetle		meeting
bijeenkomst		
Timbersale day Hollandse Hout		
nimals under roof		
Weddingparty		
Listen to the deer Almere		
Presentation in almere		
Nature day “appelsientje”		
Stamp post bike ride		
Itchy animals		

3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

No details

3.2. Scientific research

Several researches were conducted this year. For instance a research to establish why especially male deer (stags) are gathering in the Fluitbos area in winter time.

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention...)

- The significance for deer of the Fluitbos
- Exclosure studie in de Oostvaardersplassen

A summary of these studies is recorded in supplement.

3.2.2. Scientific publications

No information

4. Legal status Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations.

None

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, lease, etc.).

None

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (conversion into a reserve, for example).

In the past year - together with the province of Flevoland - large steps forward were made in the realization of the Oostvaardersland. For Oostvaarderswold is expected that at the end of 2010 60% of the area will be purchased. This amounts to approximately 160 million Euros. The total costs of the project are estimated at 400 million euros, 240 million of which was budgeted for item "robust connectionzone". It is a project of over 1800 hectares. The work for the first execution modules (Kotterbos and Horsterwold) will start in the first quarter of 2011. The enthusiasm in the region is great. But the new coalition agreement states that the government intends to halt the construction of the Robust Connection areas. This can have major impact on further developments. The province of Flevoland will soon discuss the future situation with the State secretary.

Furthermore, steps were undertaken to include the forest "Hollandse Hout" in the grazing area of Oostvaardersplassen. The municipality of Lelystad is working on an integrated vision, which is expected to be issued early 2011. The relationship with the Oostvaardersplassen it is important (e.g. grazing).

Further steps were made for the realisation of the new Nature Activity Centre (NAC) (see below).

In March 2010, Parliament decided that the current management policy (based on ICMO) accelerated to be evaluated. Meanwhile a committee has been installed, again led by Mr. Gabor (former State secretary). It is expected that the report will be published in November 2010. Given the great political and social attention for this issue it is to be expected that decisions will take place late 2010. The previously mentioned "Hollandse Hout" and "Oostvaarderswold" have a strong relationship in this matter.

Following an earlier opinion of the committee ICMO, the consequences and possibilities are mapped for attaching adjacent parts (Kotterbos / Triangle) in the event of a severe winter.

The desired connection with the nearby “Hollandse Hout” has not yet taken place. In cooperation with the municipality Lelystad a vision for the area has been developed by an external bureau emphasising the opportunities for the connection between “Hollandse Hout” and “Oostvaardersplassen”.

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

5.1. Improvements accomplished

5.1.1. Ecological action affecting flora and biotopes; control of fauna.

Development large herbivores in Oostvaardersplassen and their effects on the vegetation.

The area

Due to the severe winter and large amounts of geese (brent geese), the openness of the area was maximal.

The effects on the habitat were induced by 3 components.

The number of grazers> Large numbers result in a very open area.

The winter> During the last, rather severe winter of 2010, animals sought cover. This meant extra burden on the last pieces of reed and rough area.

The geese> Especially brent geese came always back to the same spots for grazing. This meant less grass for the large herbivores. This meant also an extra burden on the last pieces of reed and rough area.

Health status

Red deer

The Red deer are in fine condition, there are no signals for extra concern. Animals with Ataxy – low utilisation of % of copper- occurred also this year regularly. Due to the fact that animals with Ataxy do not recover, all animals with appearances of Ataxy are being culled.

Konik horses

No problems with the konik horses. They have a strong constitution and are never ill. The horses have not been brought to the health service this year; we plan to do so again in the coming years.

We also took samples of manure this year again. The same amount of worm-eggs were counted per gram as 20 years ago. Also hoof problems hardly ever occur; to the astonishment of horse experts.

Heckrunderen.

This year 20 head of Heck cattle were brought to the healthservice and screened according to protocol.

Illnesses have never been established from this researches. There is an increase of the number of animals infected by fluke. This is measured in the blood samples. .

Research of manure from the Heck cattle also showed a stable number of worm-eggs per gram manure. Ook bij de Heckrunderen is mestonderzoek gedaan, ook hier blijven aantallen wormeieren per gram mest stabiel.

Requests have been received for research on parts of the animals – both Heck cattle and Konik horses- in order to sample good reference values. eker voor de Heckrunderen maar ook voor de konikpaarden komen er verzoeken binnen m.b.t onderzoek aan delen van deze dieren. In other words: what is the nil-value. We have lost these values in modern cattle and horse breeding.

Development of the population.

Heck cattle.

The number of animals is 250 adult and approx. 110 calves = 360 animals. The number has decreased by 40 animals. The sex ratio is 1 male to 4 female.

Konikpaarden.

There is a herd of 1100 animals in the Oostvaardersplassen. The growth curve shows a levelling off. The sex ratio is approx. 1 : 1.

Red deer.

Although a hard job, the red deer have been counted. We found a difference of about 250 animals on the Total population. We assume that there are around 2500 red deer in the Oostvaardersplassen.

In 2010 approx. 650 calves were born and 700 red deer have been culled in the framework of the reactive management of the population. The population red deer is stable and tends to decrease.

A large number of active rut deer has fallen out; this is due to the loss of bodyfat reserves during the mating period. With a rapid winter the deer don't have the chance to recover. The sex ratio is 1 male to 3 female.

General.

The sex ratio in young animals is for all grazers 1 : 1 .

5.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime).

None

5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc).

Schemes and permits have been requested in order to renovate the roads, because there is an urgent need for maintenance.

5.1.4. Field equipment

No changes

5.1.5. Waste management

No changes

5.1.6. Use of sustainable energy systems

A 23 persons electric driven vehicle has been purchased for excursions (to be added to the already available excursion wagon and the minibus). This vehicle cannot be used outside the pavement and is provided with 30 lithium – ion batteries. The vehicle is silent and environmental friendly. It is the first specimen of this vehicle and produced in China. The first experiences are positive.

5.2. Management

No changes

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No changes

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

As of May this year the tasks of the warden responsible for 'monitoring' have been transferred to one of the other wardens for Information/recreation. One of our younger colleagues has started a course for hunting in order to improve the surveillance and by that the welfare of the grazers.

5.2.3. Internal policy measures

After the mortality during last winter two times questions have been raised in the parliament. The result of this: Staatsbosbeheer has been instructed to feed the grazers in the Oostvaardersplassen and this has been done one time. Use of this hay offered has been monitored.

Results of additional feeding.

Conclusions.

Observations lead to the following overall picture:

1. Almost only Heckcattle showed interest for the hay-fodder, but interest was low. It concerned only some cattle. Konikhorses and Red Deer hardly used the hay offered.
2. The natural behaviour of the Heckcattle has been significantly influenced.
3. Data about winter-mortality show that winter-mortality preceeding the additional feeding was almost over and this additional feeding did not have significant influence on further mortality in the Oostvaardersplassen.

There has been a constant contact and deliberation with (external) vets during the feeding period. On the basis of strong (negative) influence of the natural behaviour [less searching for the protein-rich fresh grass and limited effectiveness – food is not available for weaker animals and the welfare of the animals was not positively influenced] further feeding was assessed as negative by the vets.

An explanation for the fact that only some, mostly the same Heckcattle were present at the hay, can be that the cattle is dominant over the other two species because of their size. Less interest from the Konikhorses and Red deer for the hay-fodder could be explained as follows. Horses are, because they have incisors in their upper-and under set of teeth, capable to use the new-growth of grasses directly, because they can bite the grasses to the soil. In this way the slightest growth with

relatively high nutritional value can be utilized. In spring, when the growth of grass is emerging, green grass is a much more attractive feeding source than hay. Added to the fact that horses can utilize the sugars and protein of the green grass directly for the convalescence of their condition. Red deer could be kept away from the feeding places because of the dominant position of the cattle.

It is known from other areas that cattle do this. Red deer is also less capable of digesting cellulose that is more abundant in hay than in young growing grass. The preference of red deer could therefore also be the growing grass, poor in cellulose and rich in protein and sugars.

The Parliament has also urged the Minister to advance the planned evaluation of the management of the large herbivores by the International on the Management of the large herbivores in the Oostvaardersplassen (ICMO), from 2011 to 2010. The Minister has agreed to this. The report is to be expected mid-November 2010. An important part of this advice will define whether the present management can be continued, or should be adapted.

5.2.4. Violation of regulations and damage; juridical follow-up

II. Influence of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

III. Conditions and/or recommendations

Progress achieved by measures taken to fulfil the conditions and/or recommendations described under the grant or extension of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

The resolution for the designation NATURA 2000 has been adopted by the Minister for LNV. At present the period for appeal is running at the State Council. In the resolution a balance has been reached between protection of species and development. The latter is essential due to the fact that this is a young area where many changes in ecological sense take place.

At the moment work on the management plan NATURA 2000 is in progress and is expected to be delivered in 2011.

Supplement:

The significance for deer of the Fluitbos

Summary

In the winter months a part of the deer is using the Fluitbos. To date Staatsbosbeheer closed during that period the forest in part to the public to avoid disruption of the deer. Staatsbosbeheer assumes that the deer visit the forest to minimize energy losses. Disruption would just lead to additional energy losses with possible death may result. Because the choice of this policy is now based on assumptions, Staatsbosbeheer has launched an investigation into the importance of Fluitbos for the welfare and survival of the deer. In 2010 a pilot study has been carried out to find out how many deer use the forest and what factors play a role. This exploratory study has shown that not all deer were using the Fluitbos. Hinds made little use of the forest. The weather played an important role in the use of the forest. In the forest was a milder climate than the open grasslands of the Oostvaardersplassen (higher temperatures and lower wind speeds). The number of deer in the forest was significantly negatively correlated with the average daily temperature. Snow cover also had a significant effect on the number of deer in the forest. In the woods the deer

had preference for areas with bushes where they were observed grazing. This indicated that they not only used the wood to limit losses of their power by behaving themselves inactive, but they were also active by foraging. The observations also showed that there was no difference in time spent on active behavior, during the study period, between the deer in the Fluitbos and the Oostvaardersplassen. This indicates that the use of Fluitbos probably is determined by more factors and reducing the loss of energy is not the only reason. Since this was only an exploratory study the central question of Staatsbosbeheer was not yet answered, further research is needed for this.

Exclosure study in the Oostvaardersplassen

Jasper L. Ruifrok & Chris Smit

There is a strong decline in the presence of the number of mature trees in de Oostvaardersplassen (a.o. *Salix alba* and *Sambucus nigra*) and there is no regrowth of young trees. The few seedlings of Hawthorn and Oak disappear within a year. (1) Is this the result of the large herbivores? (2) And if so, is this due to the cattle and horses, or deer? (3) Would a (temporary) absence of herbivores increase the chances for regrowth? Beside this we put the question: (4) does disruption of the soil by boar have a positive effect on the regrowth of woody vegetation?

To answer these questions 10 exclosures have been built in April 2010, five in grassland and five in thistle-reed-vegetations, the two most common vegetation communities. Each exclosure consist of a part that is not accessible for grazers and a part which allows grazers and deer to enter. In en buiten de exclosures zijn jonge boompjes en zaad geplant om een goed beeld te krijgen van het effect van herbivoren en concurrentie van andere planten op de rekrutering van jonge boompjes in de OVP. Onze eerste resultaten laten zien dat overleving buiten de exclosures praktisch onmogelijk is. Binnen de exclosures wordt de overleving verminderd door concurrentie met grassen en kruiden. De hoogste overleving vinden we bij de boompjes die binnen de exclosure staan en waar de bodem verstoord is, dus met verminderde concurrentie met omringende vegetatie. De exclosures zullen ook gebruikt gaan worden om het effect van herbivoren op de mineralisatie te onderzoeken. Onze hypothese is dat herbivoren een positief effect hebben op de mineralisatie, wat de hoge draagkracht van het systeem zou kunnen verklaren.

RESOLUTION ResDip (2008) 1

ON THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

APPENDIX 5

MODEL PLAN FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

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. They should not, without justification, exceed six pages. The report of the year preceding the one in which the validity of the European Diploma of Protected Areas is to be renewed should be more detailed. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: Bulgaria
Name of the area: Central Balkan National Park

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment and Water
Address: 1000, Sofia, 22 Maria Louiza Blvd.
Tel: +3592 9406106
Fax: +3592 986 25 33
e-mail: tzvety@moew.government.bg
www: http://www.moew.government.bg/index_e.html

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Central Balkan National Park Directorate
Address: 5 300, Gabrovo, 3, Bodra smyana str.
Tel: +359 66 801 277
Fax: +359 66 801 277
e-mail: office@centralbalkan.bg
www: <http://www.centralbalkan.bg>

I. General information

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

- 1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
No changes
- 1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
Park Directorate conducted in 2010 the monitoring of target species included in the program for environmental monitoring of the park. Since 2007, it is part of the National Biodiversity Monitoring System in Bulgaria. No deviations were observed in the populations of the plant species in the last years.
- 1.3.1. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds
Populations of fauna species are stable - no significant deviations observed in the condition of populations in the last years.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 2.1. Cultural heritage
 - 2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
No changes
- 2.2. Socio-economic context
 - 2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context
No changes

3. Education and scientific interest

- 3.1. Visitors — Information policy
 - 3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
Park Directorate has produced Long-term vision of Central Balkan National Park, 2010-2050 (booklet); brochure and poster on the occasion of International Year of Biodiversity.
In common with Gabrovo Chamber of Commerce and Europe Direct Information Relays was developed and produced booklet representing the park.
In the frame of a Tourism infrastructures improvement and information project, 2009 - 2012 (Operational Programme Environment 2007 – 2013), several improvements will be arranged. A new visitor information system will be set up in 26 mountains chalets, including 26 exhibits, 20 000 copies of new maps (20 types) will be displayed at the mountain huts and in visitor information points, for 5 trails, audio guides (headsets) in 4 languages (BG, UK, DE, FR). This will certainly improve the visitor awareness but will be of benefit only to a small group of hikers. Existing visitor infrastructure (30 km of trails, 16 bridges, gates, 56 info points) will be upgraded. On internet, an interactive map will be available also in English.

- 3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)
Visitor monitoring is execute on a regular scale (interviews in terms of environmental impact and social aspects (tourist flows) at 13 NP gates during four weeks during summer season (4 months). There are also twice in a year monitoring of tourist impact in the 12 park's gates); results are used for visitor management. According to monitoring data, park visitors are over 50

000 annually. Protected area is the most visited during the summer tourist season, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

No

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

The international team (*Ragyov, D., Kmetova, E., Dixon, A., Franz, K., Koshev, Y. and Nedialkov, N.*) accomplished last year feasibility study of reintroduction of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in Bulgaria. The purposes of this document are: i) to make an assessment of whether or not reintroduction is a suitable and feasible conservation management option for restoring the Saker Falcon as a breeding bird in Bulgaria; ii) to outline the strategies of a potential reintroduction, following the best practices in similar conservation projects and the IUCN criteria for reintroductions; iii) to serve as a tool in preparation and implementation of any Saker reintroduction projects and other conservation activities. According to this study Central Balkan NP is the most suitable place for reintroduction of Saker Falcon in Bulgaria.

3.2.2. Scientific publications

No publications

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

No changes

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

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

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

Park Directorate started project „Conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and habitats of species in Central Balkan NP” in 2009, funded from Operational programme Environment 2007-2013. The main aim of the project is conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and habitats of species in the alpine mountain treeless zone of Central Balkan NP. Also we started in April 2010 project „Updating the management plan of Central Balkan NP”, to prepare management plan for new planning period.

Park Directorate participates as an associated beneficiary in project LIFE07 NAT/BG/000068 “Conservation of Imperial Eagle and Saker Falcon in key Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria”. We are responsible for Action 7 *Create a model for sustainable management of upland pastures to support souslik colonies as main prey of imperial eagle and saker falcons*. The project envisages creating a model pasture managed in sustainable way, using traditional pastoral techniques that have been in the basis of the favourable status of the souslik. Upland sheep pen and shepherd’s shelter were constructed in 2010. The 50 hectares of pasture overgrown by juniper, was partially mechanically cleared.

A project for reintroduction for Griffon vulture in the park started in 2007. Park Directorate have build feeding site for vultures. A release cage near to the park boundary was constructing in 2009. The project LIFE08 NAT/BG/000278 „Recovery of the Populations of Large European Vultures in Bulgaria” started in 2010. The project aims at recovering the populations of the three large European vulture species through conservation measures and

improving the institutional capacity for their conservation. Some activity will be implementing in national park.

5.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

Water extraction. On the northern and southern side of the national park (at the Northern Dzemdzem and Dzemdzema Reserves) there are 2 points (Vidima-Praskalska valley and Tazha) where water from several creeks is deviated from within the NP boundary towards a hydropower plant and for drinking water supply located outside the NP (mainly during supply and in a way that the extracted quantity cannot be controlled by the Park Directorate). The catchments in both cases affects – notably in the underground – the ecological integrity of the NP (at the surface, the extraction zone is outside the park boundary). New plans to increase the extraction (for new hotels) could be expected which would require an assessment according the WFD article 4.7. So far, the CBNPA is formally not involved in controlling procedure by the Basin Directorates and the impact on Natura 2000 buffer zone around the NP is unclear.

5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

5.1.5. Waste management

5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

Park Directorate execute project "Pilot demonstration model for application of hybrid systems for lighting and solar systems for hot water for buildings in Central Balkan NP". The main goal of the project is to contribute to promoting the use of renewable energy sources to produce electricity and hot water systems through demonstration sites located in Central Balkan NP and to demonstrate the effectiveness of their work in that altitude and weather conditions. Achieved results:

- Demonstrational dairy in Gorni Polenitsi area - installation of solar hot water system and hybrid system to produce electricity from sun and wind;
- Demonstrational dairy in Bazov dyal area - installation of solar hot water system;
- Control information point "Smesite" - installation of solar hot water system and hybrid system to produce electricity from sun and wind;
- Control information point "Sladkata voda" - installation of solar hot water system and hybrid system to produce electricity from sun and wind.

In progress is an investment proposal for a wind turbine (1000 W) for Sokolna hut.

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

III. 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.

Regarding to the conditions to the award:

Public Advisory Council for Central Balkan NP was established as a result from the project "Model for Management with the Stakeholders Participation of Central Balkan - part of the National Ecological Network". Into discussion for National Park and its future were engaged more than 750 people. The Council consists of 20 representatives of different stakeholders – representatives of municipal authorities and village mayors, chalet keepers, local tourism

entrepreneurs, tour operators, artists, of scientific and non-government conservation sector, users of park bio resources, mass media, MOEW, and of state forest agency.

Regarding to the recommendations to the award:

After the accession of Bulgaria to EU has increased interest in the use of mountain pastures in the park. In 2010 compared with 2006, for example, the number of sheep grazing in the park has grown 12 times. Among the main reasons is the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and opportunities for farmers to get subsidies from the various schemes of the CAP. Due to increased interest in the use of pastures in this year the Park Directorate applies a step system of assessing applications and allocating eligible pasture areas. The first priority groups are farmers approved under sub-measure 5, measure 214 „Traditional practices for seasonal grazing animals” (Pastoralizam) - Rural Development Programme, 2007-2013. Pilot sub-measure is applied in Central Balkan and Pirin National Park. Approved the measure are required to use the same areas for a period of 5 years. The next stage is deciding on requests of farmers, traditional grazing in the park (Traditional breeders) Based on permits issued for grazing in the period 2001 - 2009, the Park Directorate have prepared a list of farmers in this priority group. The third priority group is local farmers/ shepherd. These farmers live in settlement near to the park. At the last stage of the allocation of the remaining vacant pasture land.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

Country:

Federal Republic of Germany, Free State of Bavaria

Name of protected area awarded a European Diploma:

“Weltenburger Enge” Nature Reserve

Authority responsible:

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Gesundheit

[Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health]

Address:

Postfach 81 01 40

81901 München

Tel.: 0 89/92 14-0

Fax 0 89/92 14-34 97

E-mail: poststelle@stmug.bayern.de

Contact:

Manfred Gerber

Tel. 0 89/92 14-33 21

E-mail: manfred.gerber@stmug.bayern.de

Authority responsible for managing the protected area awarded a European Diploma:

Landratsamt Kelheim

[Kelheim County Chief Executive Office]

Address:

Postfach 14 62

93303 Kelheim

Tel: 0 94 41/207-0

Fax 0 94 41/207-213

Contact:

Michael Littel

Tel.: 0 94 41/207-129

Fax 0 94 41/207-245

E-mail: michael.littel@landkreis-kelheim.de

Manager of the nature reserve:

Franziska Jäger

Tel.: 0 94 41/207-332

Fax 0 94 41/207-339

E-mail: franziska.jaeger@voef.de

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. General Description

1.1 Environment:

There were five high-water events in the period under review (from Notification Level 1). In August 2010, the Danube reached Notification Level 4 (from 6 m). The highest level (6.02 m) was recorded at Kelheim. Shipping movements were partially halted during the high-water period.

1.2 Flora and Vegetation:

The exposing of rocks was continued on the basis of the rock-exposure concept of 2006. The bush-removal measures cannot be expected to have any effect on the flora within the short period of time since the beginning of these measures. The rocks are already beginning to show the first positive effects, e.g. at the *Wieser Kreuz* or *Peter & Paul*.

In 2010, long-term vegetation-monitoring points were installed at six locations of outcropping rocks. Results are not yet available.

Mannia triandra and *Primula auricula* are still being kept under observation.

The populations of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), a neophyte with a strong tendency to spread, are increasing in the area.

1.3 Fauna:

After displaying active mating behaviour in spring 2010, two brooding pairs of eagle owls started to breed successfully, one pair producing 2 young birds, the other 3 young birds. The breeding places are located below the *Befreiungshalle* at the *Michelsberg* as well as in the rock formation between the *Wieser Kreuz* and the *Räuberfelsen*.

The breeding of peregrine falcons in 2010 was not successful.

Common ravens (*Corvus corax*) have been sighted several times in the region of the rock face referred to as *Der einsame Mohikaner*; their breeding seems to have been successful this year.

The breeding of goosanders in the area was once more successful.

In the winter months, a colony of cormorants consisting of 40 to 45 birds can be found in the Danube Gorge.

On a guided tour in April 2010, an inspection on foot using a bat detector revealed a large number of Daubenton's bats in the area.

In 2010, nest holes of the black woodpecker were surveyed and secured as part of the LIFE-Nature project "DANUBIA – LIFE" (LIFE 07 NAT /D/000225).

63 trees (mainly common beeches) were found containing nest holes made by the black woodpecker. The trees were marked and are meant to be left permanently unused. 4 trees with nest holes contained broods of the black woodpecker. There were also signs of the nest holes being used by stock doves, Tengmalm's owls, and other bird species, as well as pine martens.

It is planned to check the populations again in 2012.

2. Cultural Heritage and Socio-Economic Setting

2.1 Cultural Heritage:

2.1.1 Changes

The Befreiungshalle is in need of extensive renovation. The first preliminary talks have been held, in particular about the necessary facilities for the building site. The project requires exemption from the prohibitions of the regulations governing the use of the nature reserve.

The *Befreiungshalle* will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2013. The first meetings have been held to coordinate the planned festivities.

The flood control measures at the Weltenburg Monastery have passed their first trials.

2.2 Socio-Economic Setting

2.1.1 Changes

No essential changes have occurred during the past year.

3. **Channelling Visitors, Providing Information, Scientific Interest**

3.1 Information for Visitors

3.1.1 Measures for Channelling Visitors and Providing Information

The concept for channelling visitors is currently being implemented in the nature reserve. The locations for the information and orientation boards were determined on the basis of the new visitor-information and visitor-channelling concept and the boards were set up. Signposts were set up for the three main hiking trails and eight circular routes.

Two multiple signposts were set up and there are also nine locations with boards displaying information about the hiking trails and the nature reserve. The new signposting of the hiking-trail and cycle-track network was almost completed.

The tasks of the full-time area management, which was installed in 2002, include, among other things, the channelling of visitors and environmental education.

The leaflet listing the events has meanwhile grown into a 36-page brochure and has become quite well-known.

Information Platform at the Danube Shipping Pier

The information platform regularly displays announcements and news about events. The metal and wood construction has 12 information boards on the subjects of nature conservation and the channelling of visitors, river ecology and flooding, cultural and recreational facilities, the history of the town as well as information about the most important hiking trails in the *Altmühltal* nature park. The observation deck with a view of the *Weltenburger Enge* and the *Befreiungshalle* is a pleasant way for visitors to the Danube Gorge to while away the time as they wait for a ship. The measure was almost completely financed by the Upper Nature Conservation Authority of Lower Bavaria with funding from the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and the EU.

The climbing concept for the *Untere Altmühltal* and the Danube Gorge has been renewed; there are no changes affecting the area.

3.1.2 Number and Conduct of Visitors

The number of visitors has increased in the period under review. The programme for the nature reserve enjoys great popularity.

There are now visitor channelling measures in the *Wipfelsfurt*, which are having a positive effect on the way it is being used.

3.1.3 Distinguished Visitors

There were no distinguished visitors this year.

3.2 Scientific Research

3.2.1 Ongoing and Completed Research

In the period under review, there were no research projects concluded or new ones started.

The auditory eagle-owl scan in February 2010 confirmed the presence of the eagle owl in the Weltenburger Enge; this was followed by the audio scan of birds at the pre-fledgling stage in June 2010, making it possible to count and localise the young birds. Current populations of peregrine falcons, jackdaws, common ravens, kingfishers, goosanders and cormorants were also mapped.

The study of the effects of the rock exposure on the flora and vegetation (long-term vegetation-monitoring areas, 2010) was continued and the study of the land-snail fauna (2009) was completed.

Stock-taking for the management plan for the Natura 2000 area was for the most part completed.

3.2.2 Scientific Publications

There are no new publications about the area.

4. **Description of the Area**

4.1 Changes in Legislation or Implementation Regulations

No changes in the area are expected as a result of the new Federal Nature Conservation Act, which came into force in 2010. The tight personnel situation made it impossible to start on revising or updating the regulations governing the use of the nature reserve.

4.2 Changes in Ownership

No changes have been made.

4.3 Extension of the Area or Transition to New Forms of Usage

No changes have been made.

5. **Management of the Nature Reserve**

5.1 Improvements Made

5.1.1 Biotope Enhancement Measures, Animal Watching

Rock exposure – measures for implementing the concept have been continued every year since 2006 and there are already first signs of success.

The implementation of the rock-exposure concept was continued in autumn 2009; bushes were removed for the first time at the rock *Der einsame Mohikaner*, in some areas of the *Jungfraufelsen* and at the lizard rock face. There were also maintenance measures on the already exposed areas of rock in the *Weltenburger Enge*.

Whereas a specialist company had to be commissioned to carry out the measures at the rocks themselves, “simpler” work was carried out by the Bavarian State Forest Administration using its own personnel. The cutaway was taken away by a special boat

provided by the Waterways and Shipping Office. It is planned to continue the measures in autumn 2010.

The existing amphibian spawning grounds (including a population of fire salamanders) were improved when logging trails were laid on the plateau to the west of the *Befreiungshalle*.

Jackdaws have nested once again this year opposite the Weltenburg Monastery.

The nest holes of the black woodpecker and their occupants were recorded as part of the DANUBIA – LIFE project (see 1.3).

5.1.2 Protection from Fire, Water and Other Natural Hazards

There was a serious danger of falling stones and rocks at the rock outcrop known as *Napoleon's Reisekoffer* [Napoleon's suitcase] between Kelheim and the *Klösterl*, so safety measures had to be carried out. A loose ledge was brought down under controlled conditions during the bush-removal measures.

5.1.3 Accessibility, Infrastructure within the Nature Reserve

On the plateau west of the *Befreiungshalle* logging trails have been laid for purposes of forest cultivation. These are also being used to change the existing non-natural spruce stands in near-natural deciduous wood stands. These measures were continued in winter 2009/2010.

The forestry enterprise repaired or renewed trails, steep tracks and steps at several locations.

In summer 2010, the City of Kelheim had one of a total of five dog toilets set up at the dam in Kelheim. So far there has been no positive or negative response to this measure.

5.1.4 Facilities in the Grounds

No changes

5.1.5 Waste Management

No changes

5.1.6 Use of Renewable Energy Systems

No changes

5.2 Management

5.2.1 Administration, Changes Made

No changes

5.2.2 Supervision, Changes Made

Ms. Franziska Jäger is area manager responsible for the nature reserve. She is employed by the Landschaftspflegeverband Kelheim VöF e.V. [Kelheim Landscape Preservation Society, Association for Securing Ecologically Valuable Areas]

5.2.3 Police Measures

The theft of a yew by a carpenter was reported to the police.

5.2.4 Breach of Regulations, Damage Caused – Legal Consequences

Commercial boat and raft trips have once again been reported.

In addition, military and private helicopters have once again been seen flying above the Danube Gorge at low altitudes.

Open fires on the gravel banks were reported on several occasions in the summer.

There are many mountain bikers in the area using trails where mountain biking is prohibited or biking cross country.

Signs (signposts) were once again demolished and removed and an information board destroyed. The board will soon be replaced.

During the maintenance work on exposed rocks two weapons (shotgun, rifle) and a box of ammunition were found by the specialist company and handed over to the local police station.

II WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA AWARD?

The European Diploma is an important argument for justifying the strict handling of protective regulations. Stricter criteria can be applied when issuing special permits under nature conservation law and the protective provisions in force can be supervised more strictly.

III CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AWARD OR ITS RENEWAL

The following comments refer to the recommendations made in the Council of Europe's Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)11 on the renewal of the European Diploma:

Re 1. Elaborate and implement maintenance measures for curbing the increasing growth of bushes on outcropping rocks, resulting in a reduction of the extent of xerotherm rock locations and the adapted species inhabiting them;

The implementation of the rock-exposure concept was started in autumn 2007. The measures are being continued.

Re 2. Maintain strict control over ship and boat traffic, especially on the right bank of the Danube where, during the summer months, when the water levels are low, numerous private boating tourists land on the exposed gravel banks;

The area is regularly inspected on foot by rangers and the area manager. Visitors are cautioned in cases of misconduct, and administrative offence proceedings are initiated if necessary.

Re 3. Monitor the effects of ship and boat traffic on the water fauna;
There are no new findings relating to these problems.

Re 4. Promote the extensive use of the fields and meadows, especially by farmers and private owners;
It is planned to continue to provide advice as in recent years.

Re 5. Undertake regular audits of area-management effectiveness for biodiversity conservation and control of tourist uses within the nature reserve.
A monitoring concept for the area is being developed as part of the continuation of the maintenance and development plan in the coming years.

State:	Hungary
Name of the area:	Szénás Hills Protected Area
Central authority concerned:	
Name:	Duna-Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate)
Address:	H-1525 Budapest Pf. 86.; H-1121 Budapest, Költő u. 21.
Tel:	0036-1-391-4624
Fax:	0036-1-200-1168
e-mail:	kezdyp@dinpi.hu
www:	www.dinpi.hu
Authority responsible for its management:	
Name:	Szénások Európa Diplomás Terület (Szénás Hills Protected Area)
Address:	H-1525 Pilisszentiván, Bányász u. 17.
Tel:	0036-26-366-129; +36-30-663 46 55
Fax:	0036-26-366-129
e-mail:	szenasok@dinpig.hu
www:	www.szenas.hu

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage — Conservation situation

- 1.1. Environment
No changes detected
- 1.2. Flora and vegetation
For Austrian Pine conversions carried out, see 5.1.1.
- 1.3. Fauna
Wild boars were successfully trapped using mobile traps

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 2.1. Cultural heritage
 - 2.1.1 Changes concerning cultural heritage
No changes
- 2.2 Socio-economic context
 - 2.2.1 Changes concerning the socio-economic context
No changes

3. Education and scientific interest

- 3.1. Visitors — Information policy
 - 3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public
 - One of the 2 nature trails was renewed in the area with the help of volunteers.
 - The Nature Educator runs a weekly nature conservation course for local school children.
 - The Nature Educator regularly guides groups to the area and introduces them to its natural treasures. The most frequently requested tours are to the “Jági” and “Nagy-Szénás” nature trails, in May to the Dolomitic Flax, as well as water ecology studies for children and study tours for students.
 - Large-scale events were held on World Water Day (20 Mar 2010), Earth Day (17 Apr 2010), Hungarian National Parks Days (19 Jun 2010), International Bird Watching Day (2 Oct 2010). The following programmes were held at these events: water ecology tests for children, tree

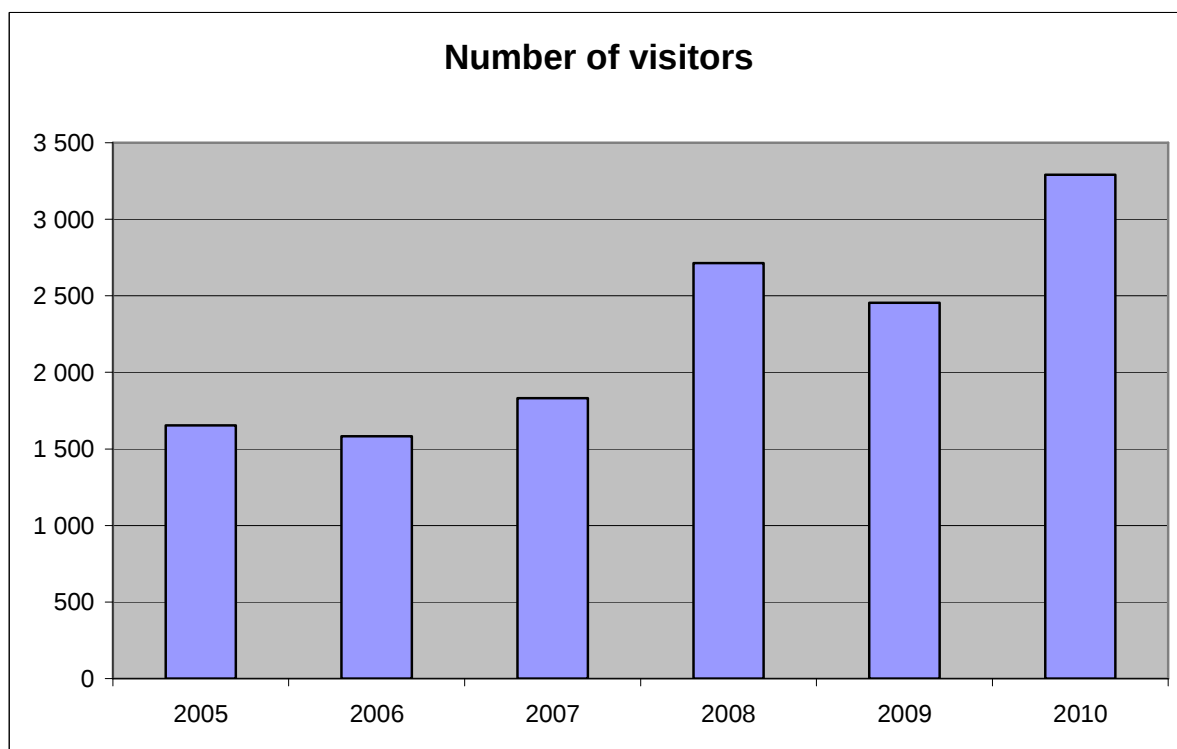
planting, pond cleaning, free guided tours of the nature trail, open-air market of nature publications.

- We have our own column in three local newspapers, in which we have published articles about the conservation problems and the heritage of the project site. Publishing articles in the local newspapers seems to be a very effective way of informing people of our goals.
- We have the possibility of informing people about our programmes through local television broadcasts.

3.1.2 Attendance by visitors and behaviour

- Number of participants on professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2010:

Number of adults	Number of children	Total
914	2 384	3 298



3.1.3 Special visits

-

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1 Current or completed research

In 2010 we researched the effect of visitors on the protected area.

Four annual research projects have been contracted out by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate to study the site under the LIFE project. The projects are the following:

- The monitoring of *Linum dolomiticum*.
- Estimation of big game density and elaboration of long-term big game monitoring.

- Estimation and long-term monitoring of big game damage (in 12 fenced sample areas and control areas (10x10m).
- Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation in place of logged or opened-up pine stands.

3.2.2 Scientific publications:

No changes

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentings, etc.)

No changes

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

No changes

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

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

- Opening of Austrian pine stands were carried out in the frame of the Agreement with the Pilis Forest Company.
- Conservation work was organized for volunteers from several local primary schools, universities and civil organizations.
- 5.1.2 Protection against the elements
- When Austrian Pine stands were opened, the logs were dragged from the area using horses and some of the logs were turned into erosion blocks.

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares

No changes

5.1.4 Field equipment

No changes

5.1.5. Waste management

We organized selective waste management at the visitor centre.

5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No changes

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No changes

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No changes

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

No changes

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No changes

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

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III. 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:

1. The entire management of the area should be assigned to a single authority in order to give clear priority to the nature conservation objectives. This authority should be the national nature conservation authority through its regional directorate, the Danube-Ipoly National Park directorate:

- We renewed the agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company in order to carry out conservation management together within the area.

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 of the fallow deer, 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 is part of the 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 cooperation.

3. Demolish the old game fences within the site and build a fence around the whole European Diploma site in order to prevent illegal off-road driving and to effectively control game populations:

- Accomplished.

4. The area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site's national and European importance, even after the end of the LIFE Project:

- Agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company in order to share duties and expenses of management.

5. Efforts should be stepped up to eliminate non-native tree species (*Robinia pseudo acacia* and *Pinus nigra*), giving priority to the ecologically richest zones. A single block of core natural area should be demarcated where only such forestry management should be executed. This core area should extend to at least half of the whole area and should include the whole population of *Linum dolomiticum*, the grasslands, steep hillsides, and the forest reserve:

- See 5.1.1 and the management plan.

6. Visitor reception capacity should be improved by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, in order to make the public more alert to the importance of preserving the habitats in the area. Measures should be taken to control the increase in motocross riding:

- See 3.1.

7. 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. No buildings should be permitted:

- The enforcement of this recommendation lies with the new authority (the Közép-Dunavölgyi Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management Authority).

8. The pressure of urbanisation in the surroundings of the site should be strictly controlled. Particular vigilance should be maintained with regard to any new development plans in the villages of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba;

- The enforcement of this recommendation lies with the new authority (the Közép-Dunavölgyi Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management Authority).

9. Fruitful co-operation with volunteers (schools, civil organisations, scouts), local and civil guards, should be continued:

- See 3.1.

10. The new management plan should be finalised and the possibility of splitting the Szénás Hills from the Buda landscape protection area should be analysed.

- See annex in the Annual Report 2008.

RESOLUTION ResDip (2008) 1**ON THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA
OF PROTECTED AREAS**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

APPENDIX 5**MODEL PLAN FOR ANNUAL REPORTS****ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010**

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. They should not, without justification, exceed six pages. The report of the year preceding the one in which the validity of the European Diploma of Protected Areas is to be renewed should be more detailed. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: Czech Republic

Name of the area: Karlštejn National Nature Reserve

Central authority concerned: Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic

Name: Mr. Dušan Utinek

Address: Ministry of Environment, Department of Protected Landscape Areas, Vršovická 65, 100
10 Praha 10, Czech Republic

Tel: +420 267122871

Fax: +420 267126871

e-mail: Dusan.Utinek@mzp.cz

www: <http://www.mzp.cz/en/>

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic,
Administration of Bohemian Karst Protected Landscape Area

Address: CZ-267 18 Karlštejn 85

Tel: +420 311681713 or +420 311681023

Fax: not available

e-mail: tomas.tichy@nature.cz, jaroslav.obermajer@nature.cz and ceskras@nature.cz (please

use all)

www: www.ceskykras.nature.cz

I. General information

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

- 1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

No changes of great extent took place in 2010 on the territory of Karlštejn National Nature Reserve (hereafter “Karlštejn” or “Karlštejn NNR”)

- 1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes

According to regular long-term monitoring (see 3.2.1.) population of *Dracocephalum austriacum* seems to be stable. The biggest population of *Adenophora lilifolia* increased in 2010 and tens of individuals flowered for the first time in the last ten years.

- 1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

Wintering bats show stable numbers, however, white nose syndrome has been proven on two localities.

3. Education and scientific interest

- 3.1. Visitors — Information policy

- 3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

A new board about revitalisation of abandoned quarry has been added to educative path in open-air mining museum in Karlštejn NNR. The text contains also English summary and English legend to photographs.

From June to August 2010 a photographic exhibition about Bohemian Karst Protected Landscape Area took place at Karlštejn Castle. 90 000 visitors attended the exhibition.

- 3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

In 2010 we provided field excursions and presentations for again nearly 1500 visitors during geological, botanical, ornithological, entomological and forestry excursions, lectures, and special occasions like Dawn Chorus Day, European Day of Parks (660 visitors), European Moth Night, European Bat Night and Central European Conference of Landscape Ecology. The participants ranged from general public to students of elementary to secondary schools to university students (Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, Faculty of Forestry Engineering), environmental education centres.

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

Regular inventories of Austrian Dragonhead (*Dracocephalum austriacum*) and Lilyleaf Ladybells (*Adenophora lilifolia*) have continued.

Regular inventories of wintering bats were carried out. Wintering bats show stable numbers; however, white nose syndrome has been proven on two localities.

The monitoring of grassland grazing and its effect on endangered plant and butterfly species and plant species diversity has continued in 2010. After six years of monitoring the effects of grazing finally became positively significant in enhancing the population of selected endangered plant species and decreasing biomass of dominant grass species. Fifty day butterflies species occurs on grazed sites, one third of the species are endangered.

In 2010 monitoring of selected groups of invertebrates has been intensified. This covered e.g. stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) which seems to be prospering well, owlfly *Libelloides macaronius* which occurs on a large area, although not in high numbers. Detailed inventories of Diptera and monitoring of succession trends in Tephritidae have started. A survey of important butterflies revealed stable population of White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*) and *Zygaena osterodensis*, several colonies of Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*), and probably larger occurrence of *Paidia rica* than it was supposed so far.

Biotope mapping in selected area have included also a part of Karlštejn Reserve.

Monitoring of experimentally coppiced oak-hornbeam plots has continued.

3.2.2. Scientific publications

Veselý J., Janda P. (2009): Nesting occurrence of Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) in Bohemian Karst Protected Landscape. *Fragmenta Ioannea Collecta* 11 – in Czech

Mayerová H., Tichý T. (2009): Conservation management through sheep and goat grazing and its monitoring – part 1: vegetation and selected plant species. *Fragmenta Ioannea Collecta* 11 – in Czech

Heřman P. & Vrabec V. (2010): Day butterflies at grazed sites in Bohemian Karst Protected Landscape Area. pp. 18–19. In: Konvička M. & Beneš J. (eds): 5th Lepidopterological Colloquium. ENTÚ BC AV ČR, České Budějovice – in Czech

Vrabec V. & Heřman P. (2010): Caterpillar mixing as strategy to maintain genetic diversity in *Euphydryas maturna* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae), p. 14. In: Konvička M. & Beneš J. (eds): 5th Lepidopterological Colloquium. ENTÚ BC AV ČR, České Budějovice – in Czech

Švihla V., Mottl J. (2010): Environmental benefit of coppiced forest and coppiced forest with standards in Bohemian Karst. Proceeding of seminar „Coppiced Forests“, Czech Forestry Society – in Czech

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

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

In 2010 following management actions have been accomplished in total budgeted of about €20,000:

- Removal of non-native tree species (Norway spruce and black pine) and their exchange for broad-leaved species (beech, oak, and lime)
- Removal of non-native and invasive woody species, especially in localities of former pastures and dry grasslands of area called Šanův kout
- Removal of invasive plant species (Goldenrods – *Solidago canadensis* and *S. gigantea*, Jerusalem artichoke – *Helianthus tuberosus*) in the buffer zone of Karlštejn NNR
- Removal of woody species in geological localities
- Removal of rest of one illegal landfill located in the middle of the Reserve, in contact with thermophilous forests and dry grasslands
- Long-term grazing with sheep and goats in order to restore dry grasslands and preserve them from shrub and dominant species expansion on former pastures has continued on more than 15 hectares, being accompanied by monitoring (see 3.2.1).
- Restoration of non-forested habitats of steppic forests and xerophilous calcareous grasslands by specific management techniques (clearing, mowing open spots) has continued on ca 5 hectares at mostly hardly accessible sites.

5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

Regular maintenance of handrails and stairways along Bubovické Waterfall took place. A new board about revitalisation of abandoned quarry has been added to educative path in open-air mining museum in Karlštejn NNR. The text contains also English summary and English legend to photographs.

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

In 2010 second zoologist (ornithologist) was exchanged for entomologist; one ornithologist has been already stable employee for more than 10 years. The new entomologist is also responsible for monitoring in the frame of Natura 2000 implementation project.

Above that, some operations are provided by co-operation with external workers or institutions (especially monitoring and research, field management).

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

The following infringements have been dealt with:

- tree cutting, 3 penalties issued
- non-authorized entry with a vehicle, 1 penalty issued

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

The award strengthens the position of Karlštejn NNR during negotiations with the local mayors and forest stake holders.

III. 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.

1. Long-term grazing with sheep and goats in order to restore dry grasslands and preserve them from shrub and dominant species expansion on former pastures has continued on more than 15 hectares, being accompanied by monitoring. Restoration of non-forested habitats of steppic forests and xerophilous calcareous grasslands by specific management techniques (clearing, mowing open spots) has continued on ca 5 hectares at mostly hardly accessible sites.

2. Removal of non-native tree species (Norway spruce and black pine) and their exchange for broad-leaved species (beech, oak, and lime) has continued.

3. In 2010 the Administration issued opinions on land-use plans proposals of following communes whose land comprises Karlštejn NNR: Beroun, Hlásná Třebaň, Srbsko, Svatý Jan pod Skalou. However, none of these land-use plans proposed changes directly influencing the area of Karlštejn NNR. Proposals of land-use change outside Karlštejn NNR have been assessed in respect to eliminate negative effects on the Karlštejn NNR protected phenomena. In the frame of Natura 2000 implementation project a database system has been developed; the most experienced officer of the Administration became a caretaker of Karlštejn NNR. In 2010 co-operation with communes, NGOs and scientific institutions have continued. The Administration joined a project called "Turinka" in which communes around Karlštejn created a proposal of iducational nature trails with information boards. Two of these boards will be installed directly on the Karlštejn NNR border. In February 2010 meeting of all speleological groups working in Bohemian Karst took place; the discussion lead to setting up conditions for speleological activity also in Karlštejn NNR. The cooperation with scientific institutions have continued: Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Botany monitors effects of grazing on plants and vegetation; Institute of Botany of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic monitors experimental plots of coppiced forest; Czech University of Life Sciences, Environmental Faculty, Department of Ecology set up experimental plots for litter raking in forest; Research Institute for Forestry and Game monitors experimental plots of coppiced forest; data exchange for the cave database update took place with the Institute of Geology of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic.

4. A new board about revitalisation of abandoned quarry contains also English summary and English legend to photographs. The European Diploma logo has been used for educational nature trail board (Turinka Project); the project will be finished probably next year, after the release of finances. Logo will be used also on the information board on bicycle trail between Beroun and Srbsko, along the Karlštejn NNR; the information boards will be provided by the Town of Beroun.

5. During the first half of 2010 detailed preparation work for the House of Nature has been under way. The working group had met more times to prepare a study a visitor centre. Due to saving measures a decision to support this project from the Ministry of Environment has not been made and the work has been suspended in the autumn 2010. The Administration has been distributing information leaflets during the actions for the public provided by the Administration (1500 visitors), during the photographic exhibition about Bohemian Karst Protected Landscape Area at Karlštejn Castle (90 000 visitors), at information tourist centre in Karlštejn and to the campsite

and selected restaurants in Karlštejn. The Karlštejn NNR was presented in the frame of Bohemian Karst during Wild Wonders of Europe traveling exhibition in Prague.

6. The budget of the Administration was provided in a regular extent in accordance to needs and capacity of the office. The budget for active management of target species and habitats was around €20,000.

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State: Romania

Name of the area: Retezat National Park- Biosphere Reserve

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment and Forests

Address: Bulev. Libertatii, nr.12, sector 5, Bucuresti, Romania

Tel: 0040213160215

Fax:

e-mail: office@mmediu.ro

www: www.mmediu.ro

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Retezat National Park Administration

Address: 337423 Nucsoara, nr.284, com. Salasu de Sus, jud. Hunedoara

Tel: 0040254779969, 0040372742024

Fax: 0040254779969

e-mail: office@retezat.ro

www: www.retezat.ro

I. General information

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

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

During the year 2010 there were no important changes in the environment, considering that the Retezat National Park is situated at some distance from human settlements, and the area does not provide the opportunity for industry or other perturbing activities to develop. Changes in global climate could affect the environment in RNP by changing its characteristic fauna and flora populations and the distribution of these populations, but those changes are anticipated threat.

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover; presumed causes

For the RNP's flora the two most important threats are grazing and tourism. Grazing activities decreased a bit in the period 2009-2010, but considering the current socio-economic state of the area due to the European subsidies, this activity might become a problem again (as overgrazing). One of the obvious changes in the vegetation cover is the natural growth of dwarf pine (*Pinus mugo*) which could lead to changes in the quality and the surface occupied by the pastures. This growth of dwarf pine is also favoured by the lack of grazing (undergrazing). Other change that could arise due to overgrazing is the appearance of invasive species and the alien species. To prevent this situation the management plan has specific regulations for the grazing activity. Tourism activities are increasing by the year and with them increases the pressure over the alpine pastures of RNP. Tourism affects the integrity of the pastures through the trails in various ways: erosion processes along the intensively used trails, pastures' fragmentation by the trails, and pick-up of wild flowers along the paths.

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

During 2010 no important changes have been observed in the number of wild animal populations or their dynamic. The major threats for the fauna of RNP are tourism and grazing; the first one through the presence of people who represents a perturbing factor for the animals that avoid the places highly frequented by the tourists; the second one through the competition for food between wild herbivores and domestic animals, and through the possibility of spreading some pests from domestic animals to the wild. Other possible threats are the possible/clear alien species introduced in the Park – the impact must be studied, and traditional activities - some species of frogs are collected for food.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage

As on the Park territory there are no settlements, the cultural heritage can be considered only the traditional activities that are developed in the Park on a seasonal basis, especially the grazing, but also the tourism (taking into account that Retezat National Park was legally created in 1935).

2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

2.2. Socio-economic context

Similar to the cultural heritage, considering the Park territory is not very relevant to talk about socio-economic context.

2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1. Visitors — Information policy

3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

Retezat National Park Administration (RNPA) provides information about the park to the public using information panels at park entrances, touristic maps and brochures, and a web site (www.retezat.ro). The administration is also developing the interpretive facilities at both Nucsoara and Ostrovel Visitor Centers. In Pietrele area, the main entrance point in the Park, RNPA has built an “Information Centre of Alpine Habitats”. In the peak tourist season (June-September) there is permanent surveillance of Park territory, performed by park rangers and Mountain Rescue Team (Salvamont) members. The forest districts’ employees are involved in that activity, in their field of interest- the forest, as well.

There are also private mountain guides available to assist organized groups, by request.

There are several organizations that contribute directly or indirectly to generating interest in the area.

Some of the more significant promotion sources (and the promotional methods they use) include:

- Rural tourism associations and individual pension owners (web sites and brochures)
- Local eco-tourism organizations
- The National Tourism Authority (web site, FAM trips, trade shows, etc)
- Local communities and authorities (pamphlets and brochures)
- Local and international tour operators (tour package brochures and web sites)
- Hunedoara County Council (brochures)
- Local forest districts: Retezat, Pui and Lupeni
- Retezat National Park Administration (web site, brochures, maps, informational panels)
- Other professional associations, such as Salvamont teams
- Local private entrepreneurs (brochures, displays)

3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)

Since April 2010 RNPA reintroduced the entrance fee for Retezat National Park. After the number of tickets sold at each park entrance in the period May-September we have noticed the following situation: Gura Apei entrance- 4814 tickets, Nucsoara-Carnic-Pietrele entrance- 2173 tickets, Buta entrance- 225 tickets.

Starting 2011 RNPA wants to put in place a system for monitoring the visitors by installing two eco-counters for persons and by asking tourists to give their feed-back about the Park and the Park administration by filling in questionnaires in five permanent locations.

3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

During 2010 Retezat NP was visited by a number of distinguished guests who includes: the U.S. General Consul in Romania, a high level delegation Serbia (including the deputy minister of Environment), well-known at national level performers of folk music from the Festival in Carnic.

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc)

In 2010 we had a number of 5 requests from scientists working with different institutions (universities, institutes, public administrations) asking for approval of different scientific research actions regarding topics like study of aquatic fauna in the alpine lakes, rivers and streams in RNP, geological studies, climate studies, inventory of fish populations of the alpine lakes, etc.

In addition to these studies Retezat National Park Administration continues its own inventory and monitoring actions.

3.2.2. Scientific publications

The exceptional natural values of Retezat National Park attract every year scientists from all over the country and from abroad for studying species and populations in the park, as well as habitats and natural processes that exist here. In 2010 we have received the following scientific publications:

Diversity and distribution patterns of benthic invertebrates along alpine gradients. A study of remote European freshwater lakes- Arne Fjellheim, Gunnar G. Raddum, Vigdis Vandvik, Dan Cogălniceanu, Angela Boggero, Anton Brancelj, Joanna Galas, Ferdinand Sporka, Yanka Vidinova, Peter Bitusik, Elżbieta Dumnicka, Nicolae Gâldean, Andrzej Kownacki, Ilja Krno, Elena Preda, Geta Rîșnoveanu and Evzen Stughlik

Atmospheric contamination and ecological changes inferred from the sediment record of Lacul Negru in the Retezat National Park, Romania – Neil L. Rose, Dan Cogălniceanu, Peter G. Appleby, Anton Brancelj, Lluís Camarero, Pilar Fernandez, Joan O Grimalt, Martin Kernan, Andrea Lami, Simona Musazzi, Roberto Quiroz, Gaute Velle.

Evaluating the diversity of chironomid (Insecta: Diptera) communities in alpine lakes, Retezat National Park, Romania- Dan Cogălniceanu, Monica Tudorancea, Elena Preda, Nicolae Gâldean

Ecological thresholds in European alpine lakes- Jordi Catalan, M. Grazia Barbieri, Frederic Bartumeus, Peter Bitusik, Ivan Botev, Anton Brancelj, Dan Cogălniceanu, Marina Manca, Aldo Marchetto, Nadja Ognianova-Rumenova, Sergi Pla, Maria Rieradevall, Sanna Soriari, Elena Stefkova, Evzen Stuchlik and Marc Ventura

Effect of latitude and altitude on body size in the common frog (*Rana Temporaria*) populations - Raluca Ioana Bancilă, Rodica Plăiașu, Dan Cogălniceanu

Establishing an amphibian monitoring program in two protected areas of Romania- Dan Cogălniceanu, Tibor Harte, Rodica Plăiașu

The Distribution of stone crayfish *Austropotamobius Torrentium* (Schrank, 1803) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Astacidae) in the south-west Romanian mountain and sub-mountain area- Lucian Pârvulescu, Iorgu Petrescu

Effects of introduced salmonids on amphibian distribution and abundance in Retezat National Park- Dragos Cocos

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

During 2010 there were no changes in the legislation regarding the protected areas. The most important change in the Park regulation was the prohibition of starting open fires on the Park territory.

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc)

During 2010 no significant changes of that type were made.

At the moment the land ownership in Retezat NP is as follows:

Forests- 18688 ha (49% of total Park's surface) of which:

- state – 22.2% of Park's surface, 45.2% of forests' surface

- local authorities – 2.1%, 4.3%

- Romanian Academy – 7.1%, 14.6%
- common (group) ownership – 3.5%, 7.2%
- private persons – 14.1%, 28,7%

Alpine pastures- 19450 ha (51% of total Park's surface), totally having local authorities/ common/ private ownership; state doesn't own land in the alpine area.

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)
No changes have been made in the internal zoning of Retezat National Park during 2010.

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

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

There were no large scale action affecting flora and biotopes. We haven't noticed any sign of decreasing the viability of fauna populations.

5.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

All year round, but especially in the peak season, park rangers together with Mountain Gendarmerie personnel patrol to prevent/stop people lighting fire inside the Park (that's a new park regulation introduced in 2010).

During 2010 there were no problems with forest fires, floods or other catastrophic phenomena.

5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

A new educational trail was created (Wolf's Path), comprising 6 informative panels, in order to better inform tourists about the biology, ecology and behaviour of that very important species for the trophic chain.

5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

5.1.5. Waste management

Since last autumn RNPA has introduced a selective waste collection system at its operating buildings.

RNPA continued to encourage tourist to self-evacuate their leftovers outside the Park, and to dispose them in designated places.

5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

RNPA continued to use solar energy for domestic hot water production at the Nucsoara Visitor Centre and for producing electricity at Information Centre Pietrele.

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

During 2010 there were two changes in the RNPA team: in March a new biologist was hired for replacing the previous one who left in September 2009, and in May a new colleague joined the team for replacing a team-mate who retired in February.

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

In September 2010 a new park ranger was hired for replacing one of our colleagues who went to work in the field on protected areas in Norway.

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

The award of European Diploma of Protected Areas for Retezat NP means a good publicity for the Park on both international and national level, and had a positive influence on the perception of other various structures (governmental, local authorities, administration of PAs, NGOs, etc) about us.

One very helpful consequence of the award of EDPA was the stop of the hydro-energetic development plan in the northern valleys of the Park.

III. 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.

Condition: Since the award of the diploma the condition put by the Council is respected (no further hydro-power projects have been developed on the Park territory).

About recommendations:

1. By our observations the mentioned road has a low impact on the natural values of the Park; about 4-5 months (wintertime) is very difficult to use it.
2. We have finalized Pietrele Information Centre and we have put in place several more information panels all over the Park.
3. By current Romanian legislation we have no competences outside the Park boundaries.
4. The projects we have implemented in the last period of time did not have a Small Grant component, but we are supporting local communities by involving ourselves in the cultural-educational activities in the Park's surroundings.
5. Every year we are surveying the pastoral activities by doing patrols together with the Mountain Gendarmerie. In addition to that we will apply for funds in order to review the Pastures' Study we have made 6 years ago.
6. Unfortunately, we have not been asked to express our opinion when the restitutions were made, but we are in close contact with every forest owner in order to ensure the compliance of their activities with the Park regulations.

DIPLÔME EUROPEEN DES ESPACES PROTEGES

RAPPORT ANNUEL RELATIF AU DIPLOME DU PARC NATIONAL DES ECRINS (16/09/2010-17/07/2020)**Résolution CM/ResDip(2010)14, concernant le renouvellement du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés octroyé au parc national des Ecrins, (adoptée par le Comité des Ministres le 16 septembre 2010, lors de la 1091e réunion des Délégués des Ministres**Etat : **France**Nom de la zone : **Parc national des Ecrins (PNE)*****Autorité centrale concernée***

Nom :	Ministère de l'écologie, de l'énergie, du développement durable et de la mer, en charge des technologies vertes et des négociations sur le climat DGALN / Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité / Bureau des parcs nationaux et des réserves naturelles
Adresse :	Arche de la Défense / Paroi Sud / 7ème étage 92 055 La Défense cedex
Tel:	01 40 81 29 91
Fax:	01 40 81 82 55
E-mail:	anne-sophie.schorter@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
www :	http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Autorité responsable de la gestion de la zone diplômée

Nom :	Établissement public à caractère administratif du Parc national des Ecrins (EPPNE)
Adresse :	Domaine de Charance - 05000 GAP
Tel:	33 (0)4 92 40 20 10
Fax:	33 (0)4 92 52 38 34
E-mail:	ecrins.accueil@ecrins-parcnational.fr
www :	http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr

I. Données générales

Préambule : 2010, année de finalisation de l'avant-projet de charte.

On retiendra, en 2010, une forte mobilisation des instances pour débattre du contenu de la future charte:

- 3 séances de travail du Conseil d'administration (9 avril, 9 juillet et 19 novembre 2010);
- 3 réunions des commissions (C°) thématiques du parc national (« C° développement économique », « C° accueil, culture pédagogie » et « C° patrimoines »), qui ont mobilisé 54 partenaires (octobre 2010);
- 1 réunion du Conseil économique, social et culturel plénier, le 19 octobre 2010, à Gap ;
- 2 réunions du comité de pilotage (10 mars 2010 à Saint-Léger-les-Mélèzes et 5 novembre 2010 à Saint-Bonet-en-Champsaur);
- 3 réunions du Conseil scientifique (29 janvier 2010 à Gap ; 28 mai 2010 au Bourg-d'Oisans et 22 octobre 2010 à Gap),

2010 est également une année de forte mobilisation de la mission de coordination du partenariat avec les agents du siège et des secteurs, en vue de présenter les versions successives de l'avant-projet de charte aux partenaires du territoire, étape indispensable à la construction d'un projet partagé.

Cette montée en puissance se traduit en quelques chiffres

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 66 réunions de présentation des versions des avant-projets de charte, devant les représentants des communes et des communautés de communes; ➤ 9 réunions avec les inter-communalités portant sur des projets d'urbanisme et/ou d'aménagement s'inscrivant dans la trajectoire de la charte ➤ 42 participations à des réunions de travail pilotées par les pays et le CDRA Sud-Isère, ➤ 3 réunions de travail, en vue de l'accompagnement technique du projet de SCOT du Gapençais, ➤ 91 réunions thématiques portant principalement sur les thèmes suivants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 27 réunions portant sur la poursuite du programme de signalétique patrimoniale (Haut-Champsaur, Savinois, Oisans, Valbonnais), qui illustrent le partenariat envisagé dans le cadre de la charte, ○ 7 réunions portant sur divers projets culturels, ○ 13 réunions dédiées à des projets agricoles en accord avec le projet de charte, ○ 19 réunions avec les représentants des activités de pleine nature (principalement, vol libre, vol à voile, escalade, VTT et sports d'eau vive), ○ 20 réunions portant sur des projets de développement touristique (donc diversification d'activités agricoles), ○ 5 réunions avec des structures intervenant dans la gestion de milieux naturels. ➤ 18 participations à des événements valléens (réunions valléennes, foire aux tardons, rencontres paysannes, ...); ➤ 2 réunions avec les services de l'Etat, en vue d'échanges sur les avants-projets sommaire et détaillé de la charte (Grenoble/Gap, 29 mars 2010 et Aspres-les-Corps, 25 mai 2010). |
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Bien entendu, parallèlement, la participation assidue aux réunions du groupe de travail « chartes » de Parcs nationaux de France a permis des échanges d'expérience fructueux avec les autres parcs nationaux et les participations aux réseaux régionaux d'espaces protégés de Rhône-Alpes et PACA (regroupant parcs nationaux et naturels régionaux) sont également des opportunités d'échange essentielles, sur la conduite de projets de territoire.

1. Patrimoine naturel (description abiotique générale: géomorphologie, géologie et hydrogéologie, habitats, flore, faune, paysage) – Etat de conservation

1.1. Milieu : modifications ou altérations des milieux d'origine naturelle ou anthropique, accidentelles ou durables, effectives ou prévisibles

Les principales évolutions en 2010 se situent dans les domaines suivants :

- malgré un hiver 2010 bien enneigé, le recul glaciaire se poursuit avec quelques évènements spectaculaires. exemple : nette ouverture de la rimaye pour accéder au dôme des Ecrins,
- suivi du déneigement du parc au moyen du satellite Modis,
- installation de sondes dans le sol d'un alpage pour suivre les évolutions de la température et humidité du sol (analyse des modifications micro et méso-climatiques),

2010 est une année charnière pour le travail sur les lacs d'altitude avec la volonté exprimée du PNE avec d'autres espaces protégés, de créer un réseau de « lacs sentinelles ». Un séminaire sur « les lacs et torrents de montagne » à Besse-en-Oisans, les 03 et 04 novembre 2010, permet d'acter cette démarche collective.

1.2. Flore et végétation: évolution des populations florales et du tapis végétal; causes présumées

Les faits marquants sont :

- le déploiement du dispositif de saisie directe des données sur le terrain à l'aide d'ordinateurs de poche,
- dans le cadre des missions de suivi des milieux naturels, le passage en revue de la totalité des zones de référence (124) de l'échantillon du programme « SOPHIE ». 2011 sera l'année de l'analyse des données.

Le suivi des milieux d'altitude comme les alpages se poursuit, en partenariat avec les organismes pastoraux, les chambres d'agriculture et les chercheurs (réalisation d'un document de communication et d'une journée de restitution).

1.3. Faune: modification des populations sédentaires ou migratrices; lieux de concentration, de ponte ou de reproduction

2010 est une année riche en évènements pour la faune sauvage du PNE :

- l'hiver rigoureux de 2009/2010 (sol gelé et enneigement abondant et persistant) occasionne des pertes importantes dans les populations d'ongulés (Bouquetin des Alpes en particulier),
- les problèmes liés aux dégâts de sangliers resurgissent dans de nombreux secteurs du parc national,
- c'est encore une année de faible taux de reproduction pour lagopède, ce qui rend la pérennité de cette espèce de plus en plus problématique,
- par comparaison, c'est une année « moyenne » pour le tétras-lyre ;
- 2010, c'est par ailleurs l'année de l'aigle royal, avec un comptage exhaustif des populations (en augmentation) et la mise au point d'un outil de saisie de données en web pour un meilleur suivi des populations ;
- enfin, l'installation estivale du vautour fauve se confirme, surtout dans la partie ouest du parc et l'apparition épisodique du gypaète barbu est notée.

2. Patrimoine culturel et contexte socio-économique

2.1. Patrimoine culturel

Le parc national poursuit le programme de signalétique patrimoniale dans l'aire d'adhésion avec l'appui et la contribution des communautés de communes, pour le Savinois Serre-Ponçon, le Haut-Champsaur et le Valbonnais.

2.1.1. Changements concernant le patrimoine culturel

Les principales évolutions concernant le patrimoine culturel portent sur le patrimoine architectural et les témoignages en lien avec le caractère du parc national et les métiers et gens de la montagne.

Deux éléments structurants :

- la finalisation d'une base de données « gestion du patrimoine bâti » en zone cœur de parc. Le secteur du Champsaur est le premier à être couvert entièrement. L'ensemble du territoire doit l'être dans les deux années à venir ;
- la poursuite des enquêtes orales sur les métiers, les territoires et leurs représentations : après « guides de haute montagne » et « gardiens de refuges », le travail est engagé sur les gardes-moniteurs. D'autres enquêtes ont porté sur les villages des confins. Une création multimédia revisite la matière sonore de trente enquêtes portant sur le « caractère » du territoire du parc national des Ecrins et un programme de conférences utilise les films de l'oralité comme support de débat autour du projet de territoire. Parallèlement, signalons la structuration d'une base de données « témoignages », avec le centre de l'oralité alpine et la conception de supports de diffusion, autour du principe du portrait (édition, création audiovisuelle, expositions et modules diffusables).

2.2. Contexte socio-économique

Dans le cadre de la réalisation de la charte du parc national et comme suite aux demandes des instances, l'EPPNE actualise dans le printemps 2010, le diagnostic socio-économique, notamment pour les volets agricole et touristique.

Cette actualisation donne lieu à la mise à jour du chapitre de la charte qui lui est dédié et permet d'engager une réflexion sur la nécessité de construire avec les partenaires, des indicateurs socio-économiques partagés (notamment avec CCI, CDT, CRT et INSEE), portant sur des paramètres économiquement sensibles (pluri-activité, hébergement en stations...).

2.2.1. Changements concernant le contexte socio-économique

L'actualisation du diagnostic socio-économique révèle, des tendances reprises pour partie dans l'analyse des enjeux. Ces enjeux fondent une partie des orientations et objectifs de la charte. Par ailleurs, 2010 marque l'engagement du PNE dans la charte européenne du tourisme durable.

3. Intérêt pédagogique et scientifique

3.1. Visiteurs — Politique d'information

En 2010, la politique d'information fait appel à différents supports dans le cadre de collections éditoriales. L'information générale s'appuie en priorité sur une documentation gratuite à base de dépliants généraux déclinés en plusieurs langues, de dépliants particuliers présentant les 7 secteurs du parc, de programmes d'accueil et d'information (deux par an, un hiver, un pour le reste de l'année). Tous ces documents sont par ailleurs désormais proposés sur le site Internet du parc et téléchargeables, l'évaluation des téléchargements constituant un indicateur intéressant concernant le public et ses attentes (exemple : document général de présentation du parc national des Ecrins : 8364 téléchargements dans les différentes versions : en Allemand : 4,4% - en Anglais : 12,8% – en Français : 72,8% – en Italien : 10%). Les structures partenaires accueillant le public diffusent cette documentation tout comme le propre dispositif de l'EPPNE, constitué de 8 lieux permanents et de 7 centres temporaires. Les programmes sont édités à 20 000 ex. pour le programme d'hiver et 45 000 exemplaires pour la version estivale. Ils sont diffusés par le réseau des OT/SI et des maisons du

parc pour les visiteurs. En outre, le programme estival est diffusé avec l'écho des Ecrins (pour la population locale). Le programme est mis en ligne sur le site web. Le programme estival dématérialisé est consulté plus de 5200 fois, soit 25% de plus qu'en 2009. Les pages des propositions des accompagnateurs partenaires, tous secteurs confondus, sont consultées près de 6 000 fois sur le site.

Une démarche associant édition du programme, mise en ligne et suivi évaluation est engagée, afin d'aboutir à une seule saisie pour les différents supports et à des éléments d'évaluation standardisés et automatisés, qui faciliteront grandement les suivis et les comparatifs. La complémentarité du site et des éditions papier des programmes se trouvera ainsi confortée.

S'agissant des publications sur le site Internet et de la fréquentation de ce dernier, on note

- 192 500 connexions par 130 000 internautes différents (520 par jour en moyenne contre 380 par jour en moyenne en 2009), de 147 pays différents, mais essentiellement de France (82%) ,
- 640 000 pages vues ,
- 335 articles mis en ligne dont l'avant-projet détaillé de la charte voté en juillet 2010 : il s'agit des actualités, des brèves et des dossiers (9) et des annonces (24) de marchés ou stages. De plus, 144 actes administratifs sont mis en ligne,
- 9 lettres numériques sont envoyées à 4598 abonnés à la lettre d'info (2 nouveaux abonnés par jour en moyenne / 796 personnes se sont abonnées en 2010),
- 7 nouvelles galeries photos sont mises en ligne ,
- nouveauté : diffusion de vidéos dans les articles en plus des photos,
- un édito par saison signé de responsables du parc national ou de partenaires.

A noter que le site est très utile pour les relations avec la presse et l'information de nos partenaires

3.1.1. Infrastructures d'accueil et information du public (bâtiments, brochures, plans, cartes, etc.)

Poursuite du programme de qualification et de mise aux normes des maisons du parc :

- la requalification du siège du secteur du Valgaudemar est achevée au printemps. L'extension du bâtiment a permis de concevoir une vitrine des patrimoines de la vallée. Cet aménagement spécifique, poursuivi dans l'été reçoit le label « tourisme et handicap ». Cette maison de parc national représente un élément de la relance économique de la vallée. Des programmes de valorisation des hébergements collectifs et de constructions d'offres de découverte durable sont en cours en appui à cette réalisation.
- deux « maisons de la montagne » sont achevées par les collectivités locales dans deux sites majeurs du parc national des Ecrins à Ailefroide (commune de Pelvoux) et à la Bérarde (commune de Saint-Christophe-en-Oisans). Dans les deux cas l'accompagnement de l'EPPNE a été décisif et se poursuit dans la mise en place de programmes d'accueil, d'information et de sensibilisation aux patrimoines et à leur conservation.
- les dossiers et argumentaires sont élaborés, pour la qualification de la maison du parc du secteur du Valbonnais à Entraigues et pour étudier la faisabilité d'une salle de cinéma partagée avec la commune, dans l'espace audiovisuel de la maison du parc au Bourg-d'Oisans. Les réflexions sont par ailleurs engagées concernant le fonctionnement de la maison de la vallée de Pont-du-Fossé (Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas), pour lequel une convention et des projets d'équipements en vidéo-projection sont discutés, en vue d'une concrétisation en 2011.

Les résultats 2010 de la fréquentation des dispositifs d'accueil du parc national des Ecrins font néanmoins apparaître une baisse de 6,1% soit 237 433 visiteurs en 2010 pour 252 731 l'année précédente.

3.1.2. Fréquentation et comportement des visiteurs (nombre, répartition dans l'espace et le temps)

Le réseau de sentiers du cœur (700 km) structure la fréquentation du territoire protégé, hors période hivernale). Certains sites de haute notoriété et de forte fréquentation réclament une présence accrue des agents du parc et de guides naturalistes: Pré de Madame Carle, Lauvitel, Bérarde, Gioberney, Charnières...

La mise en place des 48 « portes de parc » aux principaux départs de sentiers « canalise » les fréquentations vers les seuls itinéraires offerts à la visite en rappelant la réglementation et les bonnes pratiques à adopter.

En hiver un programme de sensibilisation au patrimoine, « hiver et ses hôtes naturels », est mis en place avec, pour objectif, de faire comprendre les enjeux de conservation de la montagne hivernale. Ce programme concerne principalement les territoires périphériques au cœur.

Les données de 10 éco-compteurs, repartis sur des sites très parcourus, indiquent un niveau de fréquentation cumulé de 498700 visiteurs, dont 92% en période estivale. Cette fréquentation estivale est en hausse de 6% par rapport à 2008.

Le cahier des charges de suivi de la fréquentation fait l'objet d'un groupe de travail inter-parcs et les travaux de 2010 permettent une analyse statistique critique des protocoles retenus dans les différents parcs, en vue de leur amélioration. Une actualisation de l'enquête de fréquentation générale est attendue pour 2011. Il est initialement prévu une intégration dans les questionnaires d'éléments d'enquêtes concernant les attentes et comportements en zone d'adhésion.

3.1.3. Visites particulières (personnalités, groupes, etc.)

Dans le cadre de l'examen intermédiaire du projet de charte, une délégation associant personnalités du Ministère de l'écologie et rapporteurs du Conseil national de protection de la nature, est accueillie durant deux jours (7 et 8 juillet) et visite le territoire du parc national afin notamment, de recueillir des avis locaux sur le processus d'élaboration de la charte et sur les points sensibles de la construction d'un partenariat local avec les collectivités.

3.2. Recherche scientifique

Il n'est pas dans les attributions du parc national d'effectuer de la recherche scientifique proprement dite, mais il a pour mission d'accueillir la recherche sur son territoire et d'améliorer la connaissance de son territoire et de ses patrimoines. Les principaux partenaires sont sur Grenoble (LECA, CEMAGREF, LTHE, LGGE) et sur Marseille (IMEP, Camille Julian...). Ce partenariat est renforcé en 2010.

3.2.1. Recherches en cours ou terminées (observation, expérimentation; recensement ou inventaire des espèces figurant aux annexes de la Convention de Berne, etc.)

Il s'agit des projets suivants :

- la zone atelier alpes est support de nombreuses activités et collabore à de nombreux protocoles du parc national, parmi lesquels
 - la mise au point du protocole de suivi de la ressource en herbe dans les alpages,
 - la mise au point et le test de la méthode de suivi de l'évolution de la physionomie du parc (suivi paysager) ;
- la poursuite des collaborations sur les programmes d'étude de la végétation des grandes faces sud du parc (écologie verticale) ;
- La participation au projet DIVERSITALP de l'Agence nationale de la Recherche, qui lie le parc au LECA pour 4 années sur le thème « Impact des changements globaux sur la flore des Alpes françaises : distribution des diversités spécifiques fonctionnelles et phylogénétiques, simulations et stratégies de conservation » ;

- Le bilan de la pullulation des campagnols sur les prairies d'altitude du parc (Haute-Romanche en particulier).

Dans le cadre de collaborations avec la Recherche, la participation au colloque « écologie 2010 » permet de nombreux rapprochements.

3.2.2. Publications scientifiques

- Etude du déneigement saisonnier des alpages sentinelles du parc national des Ecrins (France) grâce à l'imagerie MODIS.

En marge des publications scientifiques de nombreux dossiers sont publiés sur le site Internet (<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>) voir les 335 articles mis en ligne.

4. Description de la zone (vulnérabilité, statut juridique de protection, régime foncier, documentation)

4.1. Modifications d'ordre législatif ou réglementaire

Pas de modification notable en 2010.

4.2. Modifications du régime foncier (domanialisation, locations, etc.)

Rien à signaler.

4.3. Extension ou aliénation, nouvelles affectations (par exemple en réserves intégrales)

Pas de modification notable en 2010

5. Gestion de la zone (plan de gestion, budget et personnel)

5.1. Aménagements effectués

Plusieurs types d'aménagements sont réalisés en 2010.

Sentiers : des reprises partielles d'assiettes de sentiers ainsi que de nouvelles passerelles (passerelle de Plaret génie dans l'Oisans, sentier banquettes en bois, sentier du col du vallon...)

Cabanes : trois cabanes d'alpages sont restaurées ou rénovées (cabane du vallon à Valjouffrey, cabane du Tourond à Champoléon, cabane du Couleau à Châteauroux-les-Alpes).

Ces projets exemplaires concrétisent le partenariat actif du parc national depuis plus de quinze ans avec l'ensemble des acteurs du pastoralisme.

Autres projets exemplaires tant dans la gestion du chantier que dans la mise en œuvre des techniques de restauration: restauration du mur de la cabane de la Cantine et des abords du four des Faures à Valjouffrey, restauration du four de Saint-Julien-en-Champsaur et aménagements des abords et espaces publics.

5.1.1. Interventions écologiques sur la flore et les biotopes; contrôle de la faune

Le PNE participe au second concours « prairies fleuries », avec la fédération des parcs naturels régionaux et de PNF.

L'évaluation première fait apparaître un intérêt réel des agriculteurs et montre qu'il s'agit d'un bon outil de valorisation de ces savoir-faire. Les partenaires du projet invitent l'EPPNE à réaliser une étude (2011) sur l'ensemble des prairies et prés de fauche, comprenant un relevé cartographique et la création d'une typologie des prairies.

Du point de vue de la gestion des habitats d'intérêt communautaire, à la demande des collectivités locales iséroises, le PNE assure l'animation Natura 2000 (sur 4 sites) hors zone cœur et plus particulièrement dans la zone d'adhésion iséroise.

Il met en œuvre huit contrats Natura 2000 sur les sites Natura 2000, dont il est gestionnaire pour l'année 2010 avec des personnes privées, des associations des communes et des EPIC, et parfois

les équipes de l'EPPNE en régie. La somme totale mobilisée à travers ces contrats est de 125 000 €.

5.1.2. Protection contre les éléments naturels (feux, régime des eaux)

Le partenariat avec le RTM 38 aboutit à une communication très en amont des projets de travaux en cœur de parc.

5.1.3. Voies d'accès et de circulation (pistes, chemins, parkings, signalisation, clôtures, etc.)

Pour les travaux sur sentiers : voir 5.1.

Par ailleurs, l'année 2010 est une année de forte implication technique, dans les réunions de mise en place du PDIPR des Hautes-Alpes. Ces réunions pilotées par le Conseil général des Hautes-Alpes, permettent d'envisager une finalisation du programme en 2011.

5.1.4. Equipement de séjour (refuges d'observation ou d'étude)

Pas d'action particulière en 2010.

5.1.5. Gestion des déchets

Pas d'action particulière en 2010.

5.1.6. Utilisation de systèmes d'énergies renouvelables².

Le développement du projet PERSIL, dans le cadre du programme « ALCOTRA », se traduit par la réalisation des deux audits énergétiques sur une maison du parc (commune de Vallouise) et sur le chalet hôtel du Gioberney (La-Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar).

La réalisation d'un guide pour l'intégration des systèmes solaires dans l'architecture du département des Hautes-Alpes (avec un zoom sur les territoires du parc) est engagée.

Début d'instrumentation de plusieurs projets réalisés notamment des lieux d'accueil et de découverte.

(Gîtes, centre de vacances, maison à thème...)

5.2. Gestion

5.2.1. Service administratif: modifications intervenues

Pas d'évolution notable en 2010.

5.2.2. Service de gardiennage: modifications intervenues

Pas d'évolution notable en 2010.

5.2.3. Mesures de police intérieure

En 2010, l'EPPNE et les parquets des deux départements de l'Isère et des Hautes-Alpes conviennent d'un protocole de collaboration pour que la politique pénale (définie par l'autorité judiciaire) soit efficacement mise en œuvre. Le protocole de politique pénale est signé le 13 décembre 2010, en présence des agents assermentés, du directeur et des parquets de Gap et de Grenoble.

5.2.4. Infractions et dégradations; poursuites judiciaires

En 2010, 34 infractions font l'objet d'une procédure, timbre-amende, procès-verbal ou avertissement formalisé en cœur et aire optimale d'adhésion, mais l'action de surveillance se traduit souvent aussi par une intervention purement pédagogique. 86 infractions font l'objet de

5.1.6.										
5.2.3.										

Gris foncé : contribution forte à très forte / Gris clair : contribution faible à modérée

Annexe : Recommandations formulées dans le cadre du renouvellement du diplôme européen

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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 multifonctionnelle exemplaire ;

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 7. Être 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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 ;

Recommandation N° 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.

Annual report for Piatra Craiului National Park – 2010

State: ROMANIA

Name of the area: Piatra Craiului National Park

Central authority concerned:

National Forest Administration – ROMSILVA

31, General Gheorghe Magheru, sect. 1, Bucharest

Tel.: +40(0)21 3171005

Fax: +40(0)21 3169848

E-mail: ariiprot@rnp.rosilva.ro

Authority responsible for its management:

Piatra Craiului National Park Administration

Toplitei 150,

Zarnesti 505800

Brasov County

Tel.: +40(0)268 223165

Fax: +40(0)268 223008

E-mail: office@pcrai.ro

I. General information

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – Conservation situation

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
No change.

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover: presumed causes
No change.

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places
No change.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage

. 2.1.1 Changes concerning cultural heritage.

No change.

2.2. Socio-economic context

. 2.2.1 Changes concerning the socio-economic context.

No change.

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1. Visitors - Information policy

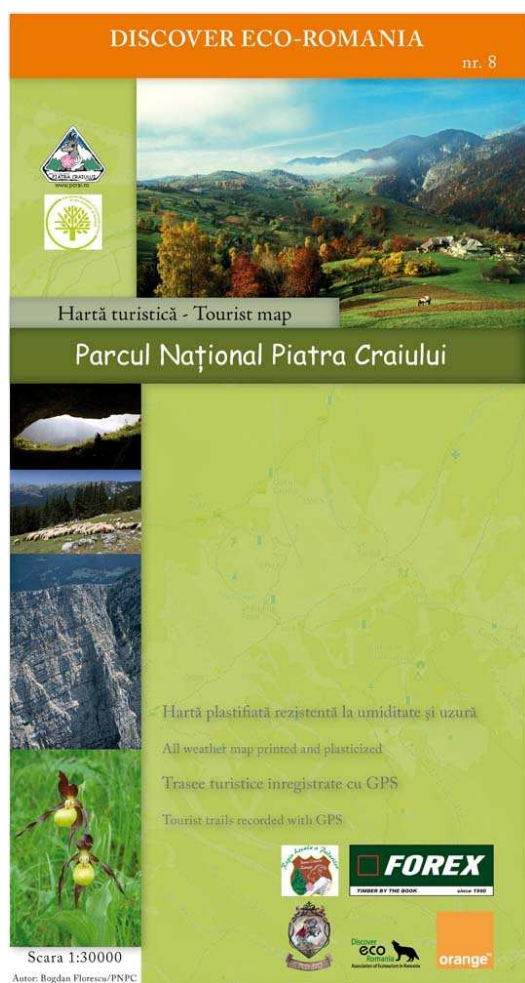
. 3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

The Park Administration will apply for a Sector Operational Program Pillar 4 project, as the last application was rejected because the feasibility studies for the buildings were made

according to old legislation. The studies were updated and the project will be submitted in February 2011.

The aim of the project is to set up the visitors sector of Zarnesti Visitor Centre; 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.

The tourist map was printed in 3000 copies, and was made available for tourists. The costs for printing were supported through sponsorship, and the cover contains the European Diploma logo.



The park's web page (www.pcr.ai.ro) was updated with new information and images, and a new map was included in the web page, based on Google Maps and 3D Google Earth.

The webpage had over 1.000.000 hits in 2010, with visitors from 92 countries.

. 3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

No change comparing with the previous report.

The tourists' number increased to more than 90.000 persons/year. This increase was stimulated by the increase of the number and quality of the accommodation places in the local guest houses.

According our data, approximately 70% of tourists visit the north sector of park, the other 30% preferring the southern sector. The biggest number of tourists was recorded in June-August.

In order to appreciate the tourism phenomenon and the efficiency in applying the tourism strategy, the tourism survey was continued in 2006, 2007 especially the qualitative one.

The preliminary results are indicating that the main activities performed by the visitors are hiking 85%, walks 37%, bicycling 3%, jogging 3%, climbing 15%, picnic 17%, making photos 45%, Caving 3%, Fishing 2%, (some of the tourists are performing more than one activity).

In comparison with the number of tourism activities identified at the level of the year 2004, in 2006 and 2007 the tourism activities were diversified.

Increasing of the visitor numbers staying more than one day is also observed (only 25% are performing one day visit) and they are using more local types of accommodations (tent, 35%, mountain cabins 35%, mountain shelters 15%, pensions 15%).

The transportation means used to travel to the park are: train 30%, bus 21%, car 49%, and most of the visitors are traveling in the park by walking.

In 2010 we found and increased number of foreign tourists, from all over Europe but also from other countries like USA, Israel, Japan.

3.1.3 Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

- In 2010, we had 3 specialised group visits. One group of German foresters from Bavaria (36 people), one group from Finland – Metsähallitus the Finnish Forest Service, with 25 people from the forest management sector but also from the protected areas, one group from Denmark – professors and students.
- In spring 2010 a delegation led by the Secretary of State for Forests from the Czech Republic, together with his Romanian counterpart visited the park.

3.2. Scientific research

. 3.2.1 Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention...)

The park administration finalized 12 monitoring protocols which were approved by the Ministry of Environment and will be subject for the SOP Project.

There are currently students working on the park territory at graduation thesis, master thesis and PhD thesis, focused on flora, fauna and tourism.

. 3.2.2 Scientific publications

There were published over 5 scientific articles:

Ioja, I. C., Patroescu, M., Rozyłowicz, L., Popescu, D. V., **Verghelet, M.**, Zotta, M. I., Felciuc, M., 2010, The efficacy of Romania's protected areas network in conserving biodiversity, *Biological Conservation*, 143(11), pp. 2468-2476.

Antofie M.M., **Pop O.G.**, Gruia R., 2010, Resilience of ecosystems a target for assessing the implementation of the Rio Convention's synergy, *Environmental Engineering and Management*, 1629-1636.

Onete M., **Pop O.G.**, Mărculescu A., 2010, *Dianthus callizonus* habitat traits and growth strategies - stages in conservation and management, *Environmental Engineering and Management*, 1651-1658.

Pop O.G., Mărculescu A., Gruia R., 2010, Management of medicinal and aromatic plants in Piatra Craiului National Park, *Environmental Engineering and Management*, 1671-1680.

Vezeanu C., **Pop O.G.**, Gruia R., Mărculescu A., 2010, Geospatial techniques in the cartography and management of habitats in Piatra Craiului National Park, *Environmental Engineering and Management*, 1611-1618.

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No change.

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentings, etc.)

No change

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

No change

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

5.1. Improvements made

. 5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

No change

. 5.1.2 Protection against the elements (fire, water, regime)

No change

. 5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

A new panel was installed in Predeal (on the main road between Bucharest and Brasov). The panel is **8x3m**, and it fits the park campaign meant to educate the visitors about the garbage management in the park.



The panel is using the Piatra Craiului mascot, and the text says “*Your children will also come here...*” and also contains the European Diploma logo.

. 5.1.4 Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

A set of field equipment was bought for all the park staff, including jackets, wind stoppers, trousers for winter and summer, three seasons boots etc.

Two new laptops were bought for the administration staff.

5.2. Management

. 5.2.1 Administrative department: changes made

The park biologist temporarily left the administration for a postdoctoral scholarship in Brasov. A new biologist was hired following a contest in December 2010.

The Piatra Craiului National Park is one of the 5 sites in the GEF/UNPD project **Improvement of the Financial Management of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas**. The aim of the project is to identify potential income sources and to create business plans linked to the park management plans, improve the legislation and cooperate with the other parks in the Carpathians.

Piatra Craiului is the leading partner in the **Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians -Bioregio**. The project was submitted in 2010, was approved and now we are negotiating the details with the SEE Secretariat.

In 2010 the park administration finalized the new edition of the **Park Management Plan**, which includes also provisions for the Natura 2000 ROSCI 0194 Piatra Craiului. The plan was approved by the Scientific Council, by the Consultative Council and will be submitted by the park administration for approval through governmental decision in 2011.

The plan has also an improved annex dealing with the preservation of the tradition architecture, which now includes more details for constructions.

. 5.2.2 Wardens' department: changes made

The park's team is complete, including 12 people.

. 5.2.3 Internal policing measures

No change

. 5.2.4 Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

In 2010 there have been recorded several infringements in the area.

The park administration penalized the involved persons according the law and the park's regulation as follows:

- o 1 penalty for illegal collection of spruce branches – 30euros;
- o 1 penalty for stone collection – 15 euros;
- o 2 penalties for unauthorized automobile circulation inside the park - 2x 800 euros
- o 2 crime complaints for illegal buildings and 1 for illegal wood harvesting together with the Forest Inspectorate and the Environmental Guard– under investigation by the justice system
- o 5 complaints for buildings without park approval to the Construction Inspectorate– fined by the local authorities from Moeciu and Rucar
- o 2 complaints for chamois poaching – under research by the police

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

III. Conditions and/or recommendations for award or renewal

The European Diploma was awarded conditioned by the following conditions:

1. In accordance with paragraph I.b.2 of the appraisal report, to improve the forest legislation regarding the management of forests and the control of forest activities inside the PCNP, especially on private land; the legal provisions will be better enforced and a compensatory regime for the private owners will be implemented effectively by the end of 2007, at the latest; this regime will encourage the gathering of the private forest properties and the leasing and/or the exchange of them with other less sensitive lands, preferably situated outside the park limits. A report should mention what will have been done to enforce the grazing regulation in the park in a proper way.

The biggest improvements mentioned in the previous report are the following:

a. With regards of the compensatory regime for the private owners. According the article 26 of the Ordinance no. 57/2007 the land owners, owning land outside build-up areas inside the protected areas, will not pay any tax to the state for that land. The administrator of the protected areas will establish some conservation measures which require compensations for the owners, which will be sent to the future National Agency for Protected Areas. The owners of the lands which has some uses restrictions for conservation purposes will not pay the tax for the land, as well, based on an certificate issued by the park administration.

b. The Ordinance no. 625/04.09.2006 (regarding the approval of the methodology for granting the compensations for forest owners for sustainable forest management) represents a very important issue for forests conservation in Piatra Craiului National Park. The ordinance contains the calculation methodology for the value of the compensations granted to forest owners, taking into account different parameters (issued in the low).

c. The Ordinance no. 139/5.10.2005 (regarding the forest administration in Romania), article 5, helped the PCNP Administration to control in a more efficient way the forest activities inside the park. This Ordinance forbidden the preparation of the forest management plans for small surfaces, which limited the chaotic forest cutting by private forest owners. Article 5 state the obligation of preparing the forest management plans for surfaces no smaller then 100 ha. There are two types of forest management plans: type I – an unique forest management plan for all the proprieties smaller then 100 ha/owner, included on the administrative territory of the same locality and type II – an unique forest management plan for each forest propriety bigger then 100 ha/owner or for each forest surface resulted by the association of more forest owners, if this surface is bigger then 100 ha.

d. Article 3 of the Ordinance no. 139/5.10.2005 (regarding the forest administration in Romania) state the obligation of the forest owners (regardless of the propriety type and the size of the forest owned) to have a forest management contract with an authorized forest district.

e. Forbidding of the forest clear cutting in national parks according Article 22, Paragraph (8) j of the Ordinance no. 57/2007. According the same article, the first forest compartments placed in the close vicinity of the “strictly protected area” received the same conservation status as the forest compartments included in the “strictly protected area”. Thus, in all this forest compartments, similar with those of the “strictly protected area”, started with June 2007, only conservation activities are allowed (see the attached map).

f. In 2007 there was a request to the Scientific Council of Piatra Craiului National Park from behalf of a forest owner, interested in forest conservation (S.C Sanatate & Natura SRL), to extend the park’s “strictly protected area” over 247 ha of forest owned by this company, placed currently in the park’s buffer zone. The same forest owner offered for the inclusion in the park’s area 350 ha placed currently outside the park’s borders, in the close vicinity. The Scientific Council approved this requests, and after all the scientific and legal requirements will fulfilled, these forest surfaces will be included in the above mentioned categories, for conservation purposes. This is another fact which leded to the reduction of the forest cutting inside the park. Further, the company owns now 3500 ha of forest within the park area.

g. Regarding the grazing regulation it is better enforced in the field by daily patrols of the park's 6 rangers. It was included in the park's internal zoning the "grazing forbidden area" (see Annex 1). In this area including the alpine and subalpine areas of the park the grazing is totally forbidden.

Beside these, in 2008, through the Law no. 46/2008, it was approved the new Forest Code, which is strengthening all the provision from the points b, c and d from above.

2. In co-operation with the local municipalities and the two counties concerned, to elaborate, by the end of 2006, an action plan on litter and garbage collection, dumping and treatment; this plan will cover, as far as possible, the entire territory of the municipalities concerned.

An Action Plan on Litter and Garbage Management, containing an implementation schedule for certain actions have been developed with the local municipalities and the Brasov and Arges Counties. It started to be developed and implemented in each local municipality on the park's area.

In addition, renewal is subject to the following recommendations:

1. To guarantee the park budget, from internal sources preferably, especially the operating part;

There is a new Administration Contract of the park signed by the National Forest Administration and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development which guarantee that the NFA will provide 571,263 RON/year for the operating activities of the Piatra Craiului National Park (tourist trails and mountain shelters rehabilitation, public awareness, ecological education, salaries of the park's staff, office expenses etc.). There is also a project sent to the "Environment Sector Programme – Priority Pillar 4" of Structural Instruments of European Union entitled "Increasing the public awareness and the public support for biodiversity conservation in Piatra Craiului National Park" – value of 1,371,800 Euros. The Piatra Craiului National Park is a pilot area within the GEF MSP Improving the Financial Management of the Carpathia Protected Areas – project which will be implemented by the NFA, which will start in 2010.

2. Monitor the water ecosystems in order to maintain or improve water quality and to organize an awareness campaign dedicated to river and water conservation;

A study on water quality on the main water streams of the park and the identification of the existent and potential water pollution sources was finalized under the framework of the Life Natura Project "Natura 2000 sites in Piatra Craiului National Park". Based on the study results recommendations for monitoring of the water ecosystems (using biological indicators) in order to maintain or improve water quality have been developed and included in the park's general monitoring plan.

There was started an awareness campaign dedicated to river and water conservation (included in the Life Natura Project). A leaflet was printed, and a number of meetings with the local communities and ecological education activities in the local schools, focused on this issue were conducted.

3. To fully implement the Park Management Plan, Article 21 and to finalize the guidelines on architecture and building activities; it is strongly recommended to bind them legally through the land-use plans of the local municipalities;

The guidelines on architecture and building are completed and the provisions included in the guidelines are enforced in the field by the park administration.

4. To fully implement the sustainable tourism strategy and to monitor those activities;

In order to appreciate the tourism phenomenon and the efficiency in applying the tourism strategy, the tourism survey was continued in 2008, 2009 especially the qualitative one.

The results are indicating that the main activities performed by the visitors are hiking 85%, walks 37%, bicycling 3%, jogging 3%, climbing 15%, picnic 17%, making photos 45%, Caving 3%, Fishing 2%, (some of the tourists are performing more than one activity).

The number of tourism activities identified at the level of the year 2004, in 2006 and 2007 the tourism activities were diversified.

Increasing of the visitor numbers staying more than one day is also observed (only 25% are performing one day visit) and they are using more local types of accommodations (tent, 35%, mountain cabins 35%, mountain shelters 15%, pensions 15%).

The transportation means used to travel to the park are: train 30%, bus 21%, car 49%, and most of the visitors are traveling in the park by walking.

The distribution of the age classes it has also diversified showing the development of the activities range, and the visitors of the Piatra Craiului National Park have the highest level of incomes per family from all the national parks.

A new tourist map of the park, with many details, was printed (see it attached) as a component of the improved tourism strategy.

There was also a campaign of promoting the local guest houses. There were included in a bilingual (English - Romanian) bird guide of the park, pictures and contact details of the local guest-houses. This led to an increase of the number of tourists accommodated in the local guest houses.

There were installed in the field two bird-watching towers, and in order to prevent the soil erosion in the fragile habitats, crossed by tourist trails, around 500 m of wooden stairs and 200 m of mattresses were realized as a result of a Life Natura Project.

In 2009, based on a project financed by Environmental Partnership Foundation and MOL Romania, in collaboration with Renaturapa Association, it was designed and realized an thematic botanical garden on 500 sqm near the park's Visitor Centre in Zarnesti. The botanical garden displays some characteristic plant species, illustrating the main habitats of the park. For each habitat type there is an information panel, designed mainly for children. The botanical garden contains as well rocky habitats, sheltering rare plants.

Under the framework of the same project, it was realized an photo and popular art exhibition in the reception of the Visitor Center.

The Park Administration applied for a SOPE Axis 4 project, in 2009 and the contract will be signed in 2010. The aim of the project is to set up the visitation sector of Zarnesti Visitor Centre; 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 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.

It was conceived as well a new detailed tourist map, which it will be printed in 2010.

The park's web page was updated with new information and images.

5. To pursue inventories and mapping of species and habitats, not only in the future NATURA 2000 sites but, as far as possible, in the whole territory of the park.

The inventories and mapping of species and habitats were continued on the whole territory of the park (see details at 3.2.1.)

State: Netherlands

Name of the area awarded the Diploma:

“De Weerribben”, nature reserve

Central authority concerned:

Staatsbosbeheer,
Post-box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen, NL
Tel. :00-31 (0)30 - 6926111 Fax: 00-31-(0)30 - 6930724
Staatsbosbeheer, Regio Oost
Post box 6 7400 AA Deventer
Tel: 00-31-(0)570-747100 Fax:00-31- (0)570-747111

Authority responsible for its management:

Staatsbosbeheer De Weerribben,
Kalenberg Noord 2, 8377 HC Kalenberg NL

Tel: 00-31-(0)570-747100 Fax:00-31- (0)570-747111

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l.kragt@staatsbosbeheer.nl (Districtsmanager)

e.beens@staatsbosbeheer.nl (Warden for Information, Recreation and Public affairs)

r.heringa@staatsbosbeheer.nl

(Project manager &International affairs,
Staatsbosbeheer)

INDEX :

General Information

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydro-ecology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) - conservation situation	4
1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropological origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated.	4
1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover: presumes causes.	4
1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places.	5
2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context	7
2.1. Cultural heritage.	7
2.1.1.Changes concerning cultural heritage.	
2.2. Socio – economic context.	7
2.2.1.Changes concerning the socio-economic context.	
3. Education and scientific interest	9
3.1. Visitors – information policy	9
3.1.1.Arrangements for receiving and informing the public. (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.).	9
3.1.2.Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space).	9
3.1.3.Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.).	
3.2. Scientific research	11
3.2.1.Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention).	
3.3. Scientific publications	11
4. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)	11
4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations Habitat Directive / Birds Directive.	11
4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rental, etc.).	11
4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into a reserve.	11
5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)	11
5.1. Improvements made	11
5.1.1.Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; control of fauna.	
5.1.2.Protection against the elements (fire, water regime).	
5.1.3.Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.).	
5.1.4.Field equipment's (hides and study facilities).	
5.2. Management	12
5.2.1.Administrative department: changes made.	

- 5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made.
- 5.2.3. Internal policing measures.
- 5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action.

Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas	13
Conditions and/or recommendations for award or renewal.	13

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydro-ecology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) — Conservation situation

- No Changes.

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropological origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated:

- Two new nature reserves have been created this year. In the eastern part, an area of 14.3 ha was developed, which is laid out in the form of a lake, reedland/rough herbage and flower-rich grassland. In the north, a larger area was developed. This is an area of 57.54 ha, which includes 26 ha of reedland, 4.48 ha of marshland, 15.52 ha of wet herbage litter and 11.57 ha of flower-rich grassland.
- There were insufficient funds to plant reeds for the development of reedland. The Province of Overijssel has now decided to do without reedlands, and to manage these areas as marshland. This is a positive development as far as nature is concerned. In addition, to save on costs, it was decided that no reeds would be planted in the new natural areas either. This means that, in future, a further section of 78 ha of marshland may be added.
- In 2010, the Life II project 'New Life for the Marshes' got going. Approximately 20 ha of deciduous swamp wood was cleared this year in preparation for more open water. The actual work has also already started: around 6 ha of the 20 ha have been turned into open water. Because of the cold winter of 2009/2010, and a great deal of ice drift, work had to be stopped for some time.
- The wildlife corridor along the Steenwijker Aa and the Weerribben that was to connect with the N2000 *Drents Friese Wold* has been cancelled. Study of the literature supposedly shows that the connection will not function for a great number of species. In actual practice, some species are found in Steenwijk after all without the buffer zone. There was also lots of criticism from Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten about the species chosen. Many of these are not relevant for Northwest Overijssel. Due to the way in which reporting took place no political support could be raised for the buffer zone.
- Together with Natuurmonumenten, SBB drew up a plan for a sound ecological link between the Wieden and the Weerribben. Its implementation depends on funding, but agreement has been reached about its development at government and at planning level.

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover: presumed

- The new vegetation survey has been completed and provides a wealth of information. The survey has been used to evaluate the management of bog moss reedlands (sphagnum reedbeds) and floating fen vegetation in places where winter cutting was changed into summer cutting. It appeared that in many places where this management change had taken place, the vegetation had turned acid and dry. A decrease was observed in floating fen species such as Scirpidium Moss (*Scirpidium scopioides*), Fen Orchid (*Liparis loeselii*), Lesser Panicle Sedge (*Carex diandra*) and Marsh Valerian (*Valeriana dioica*). At the same time, an increase was observed in acid and dry indicators such as Common Haircap Moss (*Polytrichum commune*), Common Bog Moss (*Sphagnum palustre*), Purple Moor Grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Crested Wood Fern (*Dryopteris cristatus*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*). It was also confirmed that floating fen species that were cut in the winter and irrigated with water from a nearby ditch during the growing season in fact caused the proliferation or improved retention of the species. The improved irrigation of the reedlands in the Weerribben with local water seems to guarantee the preservation and even expansion of the floating fens. This is mainly due to the low phosphate and nitrogen content combined with relatively high iron and calcium content. We will look further into the effect of irrigation on reedlands in 2011.
- The water vegetation in open water is developing well, the Water Soldier plants in particular continue to spread enormously. New floating reedlands were found in a few places, these may be the start of floating fens. We again found a site with the rare Bog Orchid; there are now five known sites in the Weerribben.

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places:

Mammals

- The otter population is still growing. We are also receiving increasing numbers of reports about otters far outside the otter reintroduction area. Populations have settled north of the Weerribben, in marshland in the Province of Friesland, and along the Zwarte water and the IJssel rivers in the Province of Overijssel. Unfortunately, animals are still dying when they migrate from the area; these are mostly road casualties. This can be partly prevented by improving the provisions along roads and accelerating the construction of ecological buffer zones between the various wetlands. Where possible, suitable measures will be taken. The biggest problems are outside the Weerribben Wieden, in areas where new populations have settled. Most of the unsafe obstructions in the migration routes have been altered, so that the otters and all other small fauna can cross roads and canals safely.
- In collaboration with the *Nederlandse Vereniging van Zoogdierkunde en Zoogdierbescherming* (Dutch mammal society), a small-mammal study was done in the Weerribben, among other places. The occurrence of the rare Water Shrew has been confirmed at no fewer than 3 places throughout the reserve. Less-known species such as the Weasel and the Harvest Mouse were also caught with live traps. At 4 sites, the pellets of the Barn Owl were collected and sifted through for remains of prey. This study showed that the Water Shrew was found in the seepage areas at the most northern part of the area.

Birds

- The endangered marsh birds are still doing badly in the Weerribben. In 2010, only 3 pairs of Great Bitterns (*Botaurus stellaris*) were located, and 1 pair of the Marsh Harrier (*Circus aruginosus*). Again no Purple Herons (*Ardea purpurea*) were found breeding, although many were seen foraging in the marsh. But these are breeding birds from the Wieden, the other large marshland, north of the Weerribben. This year, together with colleagues from Natuurmonumenten and some volunteers, the foraging Purple Heron was

counted. The reason for this inventory is that there are plans to establish a windmill park right in the flight-foraging route of a large Purple Heron colony (approx. 100 pairs). The windmills will reach a height of 150 metres. There is also a small number of breeding Spoonbills in the Heron colony, which use the same route as the Purple Heron. In the event that the number of breeding birds increases, the incidences of birds colliding with the windmills will also increase. Together with colleagues from Natuurmonumenten, we will try to stop these plans, because we think that it poses a serious threat. Not only to the Purple Heron and the Spoonbill, but also to other N2000 species such as the White-Fronted Goose and the Pond Bat (*Myotis dasycneme*), which use the area for foraging.

- Other reed birds such as the Sedge Warbler, the Savi's Warbler and the Blue Throat have also decreased in numbers. Because of a winter with ice and a dry spring in 2010, combined with a low water level, the reed cutters were able to cut reed in places that are normally too wet for cutting. This meant that the breeding biotope available for the reed birds decreased. The Greylag Goose population is still increasing. They present problems for the nearby farmers, because the geese are causing damage to the meadows on the borders of the reserve. The population is estimated at approximately 300 pairs, which mostly nest in the fringes of the marsh adjacent to the meadows.
- The great numbers of Greylag Geese also has a negative impact on the breeding Black Terns. The geese use the breeding rafts for the terns as a resting place during the night and chase the terns away or disturb their nests. This year again, there was no successful breeding pair of Black Terns in the Weerribben.
- The number of Curlew is still decreasing. The birds were not able to raise any young, predation by foxes and birds of prey being the reason. Reed cutting until April also causes much disturbance for the breeding birds and gives predators a chance to steal eggs from the nests. In the eighties, we had almost 100 pairs in the reserve, now the numbers have dropped to 20 to 25 pairs.
- An Osprey was frequently seen in the Weerribben this year, from spring until midsummer. It slept in the forest on the eastside of the reserve. It may be the forerunner from the expanding German population and a sign of an early breeding attempt.
- The effects of global warming are also apparent in the bird species present in the Weerribben. This year, in August, a Zitting Cisticola (formerly Streaked Fantail Warbler) was heard in reedland in the northern part of the Weerribben. It was the first time, the species was observed in the Province of Overijssel and one of the few times it has been spotted in the northern part of the Netherlands.

Dragonflies

- In 2010, populations of the Norfolk Damselfly (*Coenagrion armatum*) were established in four locations. When visiting the largest population during an excursion in early May, almost 1,000 were counted by dragonfly spotters. This year, a new dragonfly species was again recorded in the Weerribben. The 47th reproduction of the White-Faced Darter (*Leucorrhinia caudalis*) was determined in the same fen bog as the largest population of the Norfolk Damselfly. This White-Faced Darter species is a rare dragonfly from well-developed mesotrophic marshes with good water quality and dense water vegetation. Dragonfly experts had expected the species to appear in the Weerribben, because of the suitable habitat. It is the only population in the Netherlands and one of the few in Western Europe.
- Other rare species such as the Common Winter Damselfly (*Sympecma peditica*), the Green Darter (*Aeshna viridis*), the Yellow-Spotted Emerald (*Somatachlara*

flavomaculata) and the Yellow Spotted Whitefaced Darter (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*) are doing very well in the Weerribben. New populations have been established in various places, especially in the Woldlakebos. Their increase is due to a better biotope resulting from the management activities and the improved water quality.

Butterflies

- The Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) has been spotted in the Weerribben this year in at least 4 sites with several examples at the same time. This woodland species has recently settled in north-western Overijssel and is still increasing. In the southern part of the Woldlakebos, a new butterfly species for the Weerribben was spotted: a Comma Butterfly (*Polygonia C-album*). It is a species found in dry, arid vegetation that is found along the paths of the Woldlakebos.

Reptiles and amphibians

- There is a large population of the Live-Bearing Lizard in the Weerribben. It is exceptional that this species is found in a peat marsh such as this. In 2010, two new sites were again found where the species occurs. In the Weerribben, there is a special type of peat moor.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage

2.1.1. Changes regarding cultural heritage:

In 2010, within the framework of the national landscape restoration plan, a subsidy was granted to restore the former decoy pond De Kooi van Pen. De Kooi van Pen is the largest decoy pond of western Europe with 18 trap ditches and a total surface of 35 ha. In the past, the decoy pond was used for catching ducks. The decoy pond has not been used since 2004 and has deteriorated. The pond is now being restored in collaboration with a group of volunteers. In the future, the decoy pond – which is now a cultural-historical monument – may be visited with a guide. Besides the cultural-historical values, the decoy pond possesses high natural values.

2.2. Socio-economic context

In February 2010, Waterrijk Weerribben-Wieden received the Eden Award which was presented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The prize is a reward for the sustainable collaboration of various parties in the domain of sustainable recreation and tourism: nature, landscape and government authorities and private individuals. The award is an extra stimulus to continue to develop in the coming years the plans that were drawn up in 2009 by the steering committee for recreation and tourism in such a way that a balance is maintained among nature and landscape considerations, sustainability and responsible entrepreneurship.

In 2010, the European Diploma was extended for the Weerribben area and expanded with De Wieden. This was joyously celebrated on 17 September. The extension and expansion of the Diploma gives an even stronger basis to manage and protect nature reserves even better. It helps collaboration among Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten and the leaseholders and entrepreneurs. From the economic point of view, the European Diploma is also of enormous value, because the unique selling points of the Weerribben and the Wieden – space and restfulness – attract many tourists. This creates lots of jobs in the recreational and hospitality industries.

The area is not really suitable for mass tourism, which is why quality is more important than quantity. As a result of good collaboration among Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten, National Park, agreements with local authorities and entrepreneurs, this was given further substance in recent years. Among other things, by drawing up a visitor management plan and establishing the Recreation and Tourism Steenwijkerlands steering committee.

2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context:

Repair regulation

Some of the reedland managers who made use of the SN - 2000 regulation before 1 January 2006 also received the Repair regulation in 2010. The regulation will end on 1 January 2012. An alternative has not yet been found.

Stimulus regulation

In 2010, the Province of Overijssel also paid the Stimulus regulation to reedland managers (leaseholders and private owners) who had registered for it. The regulation applies to 2009 and 2010. It is not allowed to apply for both regulations. In collaboration with the Province, the total amount available for 2009 and 2010 was €4,000,000 for both the Weerribben and the Wieden. The area-managing organisations (Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer) have implemented the regulation for their organisations, and their administrative and auditing systems. From the total amount, €750,000 was put aside to devise a logistics program for the transport of biomass and to develop local markets or find buyers for this biomass.

In the autumn of 2010, the member of the Provincial Executive of the Province of Overijssel, *mr.*¹ P. Jansen promised that the province will also implement the Stimulus regulation for 2011 within the scope of the Rural Areas Department (ILG) [*Investeringsbudget Landelijk Gebied*] for the Weerribben, because there is still no adequate or definitive structural payment system in place for Staatsbosbeheer. This means that approximately €1,000,000 will be made available for the leaseholders in the Weerribben.

Staatsbosbeheer management

With regard to the current management structure, Staatsbosbeheer receives insufficient resources to properly manage the growing bog moss and floating fens. Cutbacks in national and regional budgets are relocated to districts and management budgets. If we want to outsource part of the summer cutting activities to third parties, approximately €150,000 is needed p.a. This amount has been slashed. In the end, the district was given permission to carry out part of the job by over-extending the budget by an amount of €100,000. About 70% of the area could be cut during the summer.

In the context of Natura 2000, everything argues in favour of restoring as much as possible of the peat marshland of north-western Overijssel at macro level, so that the production of biomass and wild shoots will be reduced. This will be more in concord with the many purposes of the area and requires drastic measures in both spatial planning and the use of land, as well as rigorous financial investments. In the long run, however, it will mean pure gain for the area or ecosystem, and also a drastic saving on annual running costs.

LIFE-OBN

After a long winter period, a start was made in 2010 with the implementation of the LIFE-OBN Weerribben – Wieden project, in the Weerribben. The primary objective of the project is to restore the succession cycle by producing open water, removing trees and cutting sods.

¹ *Mr.* is the title awarded to Dutch law graduates. By international convention, holders may use the title Master of Laws (LLM) in international dealings.

The activities were suspended during the closed period from 1 April to 1 August. In accordance with agreements with Brussels, the activities must be completed by 31 December 2011.

Leaseholders evening

A leaseholders' evening was also organised in 2010. The theme of the evening was the implementation of the Stimulus regulation and the LIFE-OBN project.

Government policy and nature management in the Netherlands

With the new Dutch government in the form of a VVD-CDA "tolerance" cabinet condoned by the PVV, a new policy of heavy cost-cutting measures was introduced, which particularly focuses on imposing cuts in nature conservation.

Cuts proposed:

- a. review of the National Network of Important Ecosystems 2010;
- b. cutting down on Natura 2000, where possible;
- c. cutback in the Staatsbosbeheer budget by 45% to 50%; current national budget €89,000,000;
- d. cut back in the budget of the Rural Areas Department (ILG) of the provinces by 40%;
- e. sale of natural areas outside the National Network of Important Ecosystems by Staatsbosbeheer, whereby the proceeds will go to the budget of the central government.

This measure directly threatens the continuity and existence of Staatsbosbeheer. For the Weerribben, this will mean that very drastic choices will have to be made because regular forms of management will become impossibly expensive. The result of a reassessment of nature objectives to come to cheaper management is to opt for deciduous swamp woodland. The intended measures have led to a great deal of discontent and do not mesh with Natura 2000 objectives.

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1. Visitors — Information policy

Since late 2006, Natuurmonumenten (The Wieden) and Staatsbosbeheer (The Weerribben) have been participating in a unique project: 'New Life for the Marshes' The aim of this project is to improve and develop the special natural marshland. The project receives financial support from the European Union Life Nature Fund and is a continuation of an earlier successful collaboration. This emphasises both the importance of the project and the natural values of the area. Restoration work in the Wieden has been completed. In the Weerribben this will be achieved in 2011.

A special exhibition about the LIFE project has been organised in the Staatsbosbeheer Visitor Centre to inform a broad public of the Staatsbosbeheer activities and the restoration of natural values. In collaboration with Natuurmonumenten, a school educational programme was carried out this year.

In June, the "Kooi van Pen" celebrated its 125th anniversary. This was commemorated with a mini symposium about decoy ponds. A discussion took place among decoy men, volunteers and nature managers on why and how we were able to continue to fulfil our international obligations with respect to the maintenance and management of decoy ponds. An exhibition about decoy ponds and the craft of decoy men was opened in the

Staatsbosbeheer Visitor Centre in Ossenzijl in September. Visitors were able to take part in special decoy pond excursions.

Within the framework of the Year of the Biodiversity, various activities were organised in and around the Visitor Centre; they were linked to boat excursions.

For members of the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament, in collaboration with *Natuur Milieu Overijssel*, the National Park and Natuurmonumenten, on 1 September, Staatsbosbeheer organised a special information meeting for the Provincial Executive of the Province of Overijssel and members of the Lower House of various political parties. Professor Matthijs Schouten addressed the values of biodiversity and the importance of protecting them.

3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

The warden of the Weerribben is using the new social media program Twitter to inform a broad public of Staatsbosbeheer's daily affairs. This account can be followed via Twitter: twitter.com/deboswachter

The educational programme for primary schools was developed further. It is now possible for schools outside the Municipality of Steenwijkerland to take part in the programmes. This is an ongoing project.

Both the youth nature club and the Junior Rangers are engaged in many different educational activities. The interest in participating in one of the groups is still growing.

In cooperation with the Green Wish Foundation [*Stichting Groene Wens*], plans are being developed to make nature more accessible for people with a disability. For this purpose, a special electrically-powered boat was developed, as well as an 'educational senses path' near the Visitor Centre. The first official boat trips will take place in May 2011. In collaboration with the Foundation, a skipper and nature guide pool was set up, who can take guests around for boat trips and guide them through the National Park.

We also organised another bird-watchers' event this year. In collaboration with Grasduinen and Swarovski, Staatsbosbeheer organised a second "Readers' Day".

3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)

- The number of visitors to the Nature Activities Centre (NAC) is the same as that of last year: a total number 136,000;
- 80 excursions led by Staatsbosbeheer in 2010, 1057 children took part in the "Watersafari" school project and 276 children in the Water Wilderness excursions.

3.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

Foreign visitors

- Municipal Executive and Municipal Council of Bela Crkva, Serbia;
- Prof. Dr. E. Kuijken, Council of Europe;
- Mr Edwin Bibiano Abath, Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba;
- Mr Fraser Rush, Nature Reserves Officer, East Devon District Council, UK;
- Mr Bangun Panji, Development Programme Manager & Budget Planner, Municipality of Cimahi, Indonesia;

- Mr Vigyan Gadodia, biotechnician, Sahaj Agrofarm, India.
- Study tour by Serbian Nature Protection Specialists to the Netherlands:
- Mr Slobodan Puzovic, Provincial Secretary, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina;
- Mr Dobrivoje Antonic, Director, Fruska Gora National Park;
- Mr Goran Matic, Manager, Development Department, Fruska Gora National Park;
- Mr Vladimir Stojanovski, General Secretary, Camping Association, Serbia;
- Mr Boris Saulic, President, Balkan Urban Movement;
- Ms Biljana Panjkovic, Director of the Institute for Nature Conservation, Vojvodina Province.

Politicians and government authorities

- Mrs Esmé Wiegman-van Meppelen Scheppink, Member of the Dutch Lower House, Christen Unie;
- Ms Anja Timmer, Member of the Dutch Lower House, PvdA (Dutch Labour Party);
- Mr Malik Azmani, Member of the Dutch Lower House, VVD (Dutch Conservative Party);
- Mr P. Jansen, member of the Provincial Executive (Province of Overijssel);
- Provincial Executive, Province of Overijssel;
- Provincial and Municipal groups;
- Municipal executive and Municipal Council of the Municipality of Steenwijkerland;
- Mr K.M.A. Weustink, Regional Director East, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality;
- Mr A. Perik, Regional Director East, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

Nature organisations

- Mr Piet Winterman, Managing Director, Staatsbosbeheer (East Region);
- Prof. Dr. Mathijs Schouten, Professor Nature Conservation, Wageningen University;
- Management Council National Park "De Biesbosch";
- Mr J. Gorter, Director Natuurmonumenten, East region;
- Mr H. Hengeveld, Director Landschap Overijssel;
- Mrs Godelieve Wijfels, Director Nature and Environment Overijssel;
- Mr Albert Moens, Chairman National Park Weerribben-Wieden;
- Several colleague managers.

Other

- Students from the Van Hall Institute, Saxion College, Leeuwarden College and the University of Groningen, University of Nijmegen, and University of Wageningen;
- National and international media: Radio and TV;
- Decoy pond Mini symposium participants.
- Board of Chairmen, Marketing Boards;
- Mr H.J. Joustra, Chairman of the Product Board for Horticulture;
- Mr G.A. Koopstra, Chairman of the Dairy Commodity Board/Chairman of the Board of Chairmen;
- Mr B.J. Krouwel, Chairman of the Product Board for Poultry and Eggs;
- Mr S.W.A. Lak, Chairman of the Product Board for Livestock and Meat;
- Mr Th.A.M. Meijer, Chairman of the Product Boards for Arable Crops, Animal Feed, Wine;
- Mr B.J. Odink, ex Chairman, Fish Product Board;
- Mr W.Oosterhuis, Chairman of the Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils;

- Mr J.J. Ramekers, ex Chairman, Product Boards for Livestock, Meat and Eggs;
- Mr F. Beekman, Secretary, Dairy Commodity Board/Secretary of the Board of Chairmen.

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention...)

Mammals: Otter: monitoring of the animals that were put out. Roe Deer: annual counting of the population in the Weerribben.

Birds: Breeding birds: around 1,900 ha are annually surveyed for rare and characteristic breeding birds..Rare species and birds of prey: the entire nature reserve is surveyed annually. Water bird counts: the water birds present in the area are counted 6 times during the winter.

Butterflies: Large Copper: each year eggs are counted in 12 plots; this data is collected together with other incidental observations.

Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary: butterflies are counted on a monitoring route every year.

Dragonflies: the flying areas of rare species are monitored annually; three routes are walked for the more general species.

Fish stocks study: the pike stocks are studied annually in the Weerribben by the Pike Study Group of the Netherlands.

3.3. Scientific publications:

- The new vegetation survey in of the Weerribben is published in 2010

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations Habitat Directive / Birds Directive

No changes

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentings, etc.

No changes

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

Two new nature reserves have been created this year. In the eastern part, an area of 14.3 ha was developed, which is laid out in the form of a lake, reedland/rough herbage and flower-rich grassland. In the north, a larger area was developed. This is an area of 57.54 ha, which includes 26 ha of reedland, 4.48 ha of marshland, 15.52 ha of wet herbage litter and 11.57 ha of flower-rich grassland.

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

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna:

No change

5.1.2 Protection against the elements (fire, water, regime)

In 2010, the dry summer necessitated a ban on burning the mown clippings in the Weerribben. This caused some delay in summer cutting, but it did not lead to any problems with burning.

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

The municipality of Steenwijkerland has expanded a parking place on the south-eastern border of the Weerribben and adapted the slipway. This was done in consultation with Staatsbosbeheer. The advantage of this is that the area does suffer less now from illegal parking.

5.1.4 Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

See 3.1.1

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No changes

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No change

5.2.3. Internal policy measures:

Last year's elections have led to a new Cabinet, which has currently drawn up a programme of expenditure cuts. This means that the budget for nature conservation will be greatly reduced. Unfortunately, this has enormous consequences for the management of the Weerribben, the effects of which will be mapped out. It will mean that less work can be executed by local leaseholders and that the management and conservation of rare, vulnerable species will be at issue.

The N2000 management plan is still not ready. The changed political views have resulted in a switch from maximum protection to minimum protection. The biggest problem is the emission of nitrogen in agriculture. In 2010, it was still not yet clear how this should be dealt with. The municipality is another party that is looking more critically at the N2000 management plan.

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action;

In total, 421 inspections were carried out with respect to compliance with the various laws and regulations. The outline includes the summary offences for which police reports were drawn up.

<u>Offences</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>number of official reports :</u>
Illegal fishing / violation of the Fisheries Act.		18
Illegal shooting / fish poaching		5
Collecting birds' eggs		0
Illegal planting or moss picking		1

Traffic offences	5
Fast boating	45
Entering a vulnerable area	16
Illegal dumping	21
Hunting dogs	1
Other	4

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

The Council of Europe has decided to grant the European diploma to the Weerribben and to expand it with the Wieden nature reserve. This upscaling has made the influence of the diploma more important, and will now be used to stop the construction of windmills in the flight route of the Purple Heron.

III. 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.

Increased efforts are needed in the realisation of the 'wet axis' between the reserves of the Weerribben and the Wieden, connecting both reserves along a wide landscape corridor to be developed as part of the National Ecological Network.

- Within the framework of the land use planning, the plans for developing a buffer zone are becoming more and more defined, and the Rural Area Department is the project leader. In addition, a project group was started in 2010 to alter the barrier in the N333 motorway in such a way that migration is possible at more places. One of them is the extension of the existing embankment of the river Wetering and to make it into a wide passageway with wet and dry zones.

The twinning programme of the Weerribben and the Wieden reserves is to be promoted.

- Exchange of knowledge takes place several times a year, whereby Staatsbosbeheer and Natuurmonumenten work together on a longer-term vision for further development of the area.

The stand-still of recreation infrastructure (lodging, embarkation points, canoe rental stations) being a high priority is to be combined with further strict limitations as to the access of boats and canoes in vulnerable canals and core zones (e.g. temporary closure of some routes in breeding season); further zoning of recreation needs continued monitoring of leisure developments (number of boats, canoes, bikes) and must take this data into account by elaboration of permanent impact assessments

- No changes.

Through the NAC (Nature Activity Centre); a campaign for co-ordinated boat rental via one centralising body (Kalenberg) is needed to inform all users about the vulnerability and high international value of the reserve.

- No changes

Studies to reduce the intensive passage of larger yachts and boats through the Kalenbergergracht are to be continued;

- No changes

The further establishment of a Blankenham – Nederland bicycle route making use of the dike owned by Staatsbosbeheer is to be reconsidered in order to prevent or minimise disturbing effects in remote areas where up to the present, no public access is possible.

- This plan will definitely not be carried out, the old cycle track route will be maintained

Staatsbosbeheer needs to investigate whether actual agreements with reed cultivators could be transformed into less rigid contracts for shorter periods than 6 years. Enabling stricter integration in management priorities and needs; reed cultivators need to be convinced that biennial Phragmite-vegetation is necessary for specific breeding birds which is to be achieved by cyclic mowing of plots or strips (these detailed localities are to be included in the annual management plan).

- No changes, this process is still going on

When renewing permits for fishing (1992), the density and distribution over the reserve is to be reconsidered. More strict conditions are to be formulated in order to reduce risks for protected and other species caught in funnels (Otter?); adaptation to prevent secondary catches (Otters!) and clear marking of different fishing devices placed in the ditches is intended to enable more efficient control.

- As a consequence of changes in the law on fishing, it is no longer interesting for eel fishers to fish in the area. This is the result of European regulations for the protection of eels and an increase in the minimum water surface area that fishers must have under contract. For the Weerribben, this change means that five licence holders have stopped fishing with traps.

State: Republic of Belarus

Name of the area: State Nature Protection Institution
"Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve"

Central authority concerned:

Name and address:

211188, Tsentralnaya St., 3, Domzheritsy, Lepel District, Vitebsk Region, Republic of Belarus

Fax: +375 (0)2132 26342

e-mail: bbsr@tut.by

Authority responsible for its management:

Name and address:

Presidential Affairs Management Department of the Republic of Belarus 220016, K.

Marx Street, 38, Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Fax: +375 (0) 17 222 3660

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve is situated in the temperate boreal nemoral zone. Weather-climatic conditions in the year 2010 didn't significantly differ from long term annual indices. The territory of the reserve totals 85,199 ha.

The list of insects has increased on 1 new species – Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*).

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

There is a permanent exhibition "History of reserves of Russia and Belarus XIX-XXI centuries" in the Ecological Education Centre, and an the exhibition of the French photographers' pictures «La Biodiversite» devoted to the International year of biodiversity, given by the Embassy of France in the Republic of Belarus, and the temporary exhibition "The fifth Gospel" by catholic priest Cornelius Konsek,.

Financing from the state budget is 3.6 million € in the yearly balance of the reserve, including 2.2 million € given by the Republican Conservation Foundation. A part of the monetary funds comes from tourism and other economic activities on the territories outside the reserve.

3. Education and scientific interest

Four promotional brochures have been published, two illustrated wall calendars, and five kinds of souvenirs produced.

The reserve participated in 4 international exhibitions and received the Certificate of Merit from Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus at the Republican ecological forum. The Ecological Education Centre and Ecological Trail were renewed, filled with informational stands and equipment through implementation of the UNDP project "Raising environmental awareness of the youth through establishment and development of Green Schools in Belarus". One new ecological trail for children was built. 28 workshops and one international research and practice conference devoted to the 85th anniversary of the Berezinsky Reserve were organized. Gathering of young ecologists from Belarus and Russia "Ecology without Borders" was held on the basis of the Berezinsky Reserve.

During 12 months of 2010 26,979 visitors, including 1,996 foreigners, came to the reserve as tourists and for ecological education purposes. The Museum of Nature and the Ecological Trail served as the basis for 17,942 excursions, including 1,030 for foreign guests. Seventy percent of visitors are school groups and students.

Among special visits, the following might be noted:

- Visit of the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Minh Triet in the frames of the program of the official visit to the Republic of Belarus;
- Visit of Ministry of environment and land-use planning of the Republic of Serbia delegation with Secretary of State Mr. Ivica Radovich on the head;
- In the frames of cooperation programme Berezinsky Reserve welcomed Kampinos National Park (Poland) delegation with Director Mr. Jerzy Misiak on the head, Vosges du Nord Regional Park (France) delegation with Director Mr. Eric Brua on the head, and Smolenskoe Poozerie National Park (Russia) delegation with Director Mr. Alexandr Kochergin on the head;
- Visits of two scientists from Kampinos National Park (Poland);
- Hans Joosten, Secretary General of the International Mire Conservation Group (Germany), and Albert Pieter Grootjans, Professor of the University of Groningen (The Netherlands);
- Barrie Cooper, Manager in the sphere of international informational and educational activities, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK).

Realisation of the State Programme "Creation of complex ecosystem monitoring network" is continued.

Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve obtained the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas until September 11, 2020. The Reserve was awarded the status of a Ramsar site, a wetland of International Importance, due to uniqueness of its nature complexes.

45 scientific articles and report synopses were published. Collection of scientific articles "Special Protected Territories of Belarus. Part 5" with the size of 256 pages, and the source book of the international research and practice conference «Reserve management in the Republic of Belarus: results and perspectives» with the size of 280 pages, were edited.

4. Site description

There were no changes in laws governing functioning of the territory. All lands of the reserve are owned by the state. Protection status has not changed.

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

Census of background animal species was taken for fauna control purposes.

Plan to protect the reserve from forest fires (air patrol, ground control, maintenance of fire-breaking lanes (250 km)) was fulfilled. There was no fire registered in 2010 on the reserve's area.

143 information billboards and 8 barriers were erected, 2 barriers were repaired on the roads within the reserve.

In August 2010 the strong windstorm damaged about 100 ha of forest range in the southern part of the reserve.

The reserve employs 415 persons, 259 of them financed from the state budget. Protection personnel counts 159 persons.

Work is underway to strengthen ecological education through infrastructure development, improving scientific research and protection for natural complexes, implementing new policies in international cooperation, and attracting investments. Accomplishment of the reserve's central place in the settlement Domzheritsy is continued.

During the current year, 79 cases of violation of the protective regime have been registered. Totally 2,184,000 Belarusian rubles of fines have been collected.

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

Renewal of the European Diploma raises the status of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, aids to form its international image, helps to strengthen the protective regime of the territory, and improves scientific research and ecological education. International expert examination for duration of European Diploma for Protected Areas has been carried out.

III. CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENEWAL

Conditions and recommendations attached to the renewal are observed and implemented in stages for a 10-year period:

- The protection regime of the reserved area is carried out in accordance with the current nature protection laws and stays unchanged.
- The reserve constantly widens its international contacts to promote its image and attract additional finances through renewal of the European Diploma and obtainment the status of a Ramsar site;
- The project of ecoduct arrangement for great mammals migration over the road M3 was prepared
- The project of widening the open-air cages with wild animals is being implemented.
- The study program on mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration between the core and the buffer zones has been carried out to further elucidate the effect of

hunting.

- Tourism development is controlled effectively on the basis of scientific research.
- The study program focused upon mitigation of possible risk and damage connected with climatic changes and large-scale disturbances on the Reserve has been worked up.
- In order to widen interconnection with NGOs, viz APB BirdLife Belarus, managing director of this organization was included in the scientific and technical council of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve.

Director

Viktor Onikeenko

BEINN EIGHE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER 2009 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

State: United Kingdom (UK)

Name of the area: Beinn Eighe

Legal Status: National Nature Reserve (NNR)

: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

: Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Central authority concerned:

George Hogg

Area Manager

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Fodderty Way,

Dingwall Business Park

Dingwall

Ross-shire

IV15 9XB

Tel: 01349 865333

Fax: 01349 865609

E-mail: george.hogg@snh.gov.uk

Website: snh.org.uk

Authority responsible for its management:

Eoghain Maclean

Reserves Manager

Scottish Natural Heritage

Anancaun Field Station

Kinlochewe

Ross-shire

IV22 2PA

Tel: 01445 760254

Fax: 01445 760301

E-mail: eoghain.maclean@snh.gov.uk

Website: nnr-scotland.org.uk

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Environment

The fully automated climatological data logger (CDL) continues to give the information required to complete the annual meteorological records for the Reserve. SNH staff are still involved in policy maintenance. Rainfall which amounted to 1134mm during the 12 month period covered by

this report is less than half (c.2742mm 08/09) with the wettest day being the 2nd October 2009 when 46.8 mm of rain fell and November 09 being the wettest month when 256mm of rain fell. May has been our driest month when 23mm fell.

The maximum air temperature was recorded at 24.5 on 3rd September.

Lowest minimum temperatures began in October 2009 at -0.1 and ended on May 2010 on -2.4 all the intervening months recorded – temperatures with the lowest being -12.1 on January 2010

1.2 Flora and vegetation

MSc student Maren Flagmeier of Aberdeen University as part of her PHD course looked at the Scottish liverwort heath community on the Reserve in relation to climate change as the liverwort-dominated community on the NNR has been described as an ‘internationally significant feature’ of the British uplands. Occurring in highly oceanic areas in north-west Scotland, on northerly facing rocky slopes, and in dark sheltered corries, the community is predicted to be highly sensitive to climate change. The findings will be produced as a PHD thesis.

University of St Andrews undertook a pine wood study within the Coille na Glas Leitir to look at survey methods including mapping of glaciological features, hydrological longitudinal river surveys and woodland stand dynamics as part 3rd year Physical Degree Program.

1.3 Fauna

Loch Maree Islands Black Throated Diver survey this year revealed that Otters (*Lutra lutra*), hooded crow (*Corvus corone*) and raven (*Corvus corax*) were visiting rafts and nests were predated by all or some of these predators.. Pine martens (*Martes martes*) which have been the main predators were not recorded possibly because the raft that was regularly being predated is still in its new location.

First recorded record of a Red Kite was witnessed by Reserve Managers Peter Duncan & Eoghain Maclean in November 2010 close to the Reserve Mountain Trail. As the bird was tagged the sighting was reported to the local Royal Society for the Protection of Birds representative and we were informed that this was one of ten birds which have been adopted by various primary schools in the Highland area.

American mink (*Mustela vison*) are being seen in the Wester Ross area but thankfully have not been yet recorded on the Reserve. **See Recommendation 3**

Bob Heckford, amateur entomologist has once again made several visits during the reporting period and has put together a record of lepidoptera found on the Reserve. This paper has been saved in the Scottish Natural Heritage electronic filing system.

Staff monitored our pair of golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) who were unsuccessful For the second year in succession. Ospreys continue to be seen occasionally on the Reserve close to the Loch Maree.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE & SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 Cultural heritage

2.2 Socio-economic context

The ninth full season of the refurbished Visitor Centre and new trails was again a considerable success in terms of public enjoyment although our visitor numbers were slightly lower than our figure for 2009.

3 EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

3.1 Visitors - information policy

3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public

The Visitor Centre was open from 31st March – 31st October (30 weeks). A total of 10486 visitors, including 1031 children, were recorded. This represents a marked decrease in % on 2009 but more or less reflects the trend seen across Scotland during 2010. The average daily rates through the season were lower at 49 people/day compared with 66 people/day for 2009.

August was, as usual, the busiest month with 2241 visitors. Visitor attractions across Scotland reported a 3.4% increase in 2009 but figures for the Highlands rose to 10.1%.

We again received several visits throughout the year from local primary schools and the local secondary school, who helped out with work in the tree nursery. They were given an introductory talk about Beinn Eighe NNR by Reserve staff to set the scene. This has become an annual event with bookings for 2011 already in place.

A Biodiversity day looking at dragonflies on the Reserve held on 1st August led by Jonathon Willet a local dragonfly expert accompanied by Terry Doe SMO and was attended by 11 adults and 4 children.

Our all abilities footpaths continue to be used regularly by the local community and visiting public with the Highland Disabled Ramblers once again having visited the Reserve for their annual outing to Wester-Ross.

Work on the new style trail guides for the Ridge and Visitor Centre Trails is now complete and they are in circulation.

Beinn Eighe NNR New Trails Guide Leaflet
Beinn Eighe NNR Ridge Trail Leaflet

SNH (2010)
SNH (2010)

The BBC Natural History Unit film “ Secrets of the Highlands” was shown in December 2009 and was well received by all. The film focussed on both Beinn Eighe and Loch Maree Islands NNRs and highlighted the natural beauty, the flora and fauna of the Reserves.

3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behaviour.

The Field Station was occupied for 1005 bed nights, which represents a decrease of 28% on last year. Users can be categorised as follows:

Student placements	80%	Residential Courses	3%
Educational Groups	3%	Long-term volunteers	12%
University of the Highlands	2%		

Altogether, volunteers and placement students worked a total of 855 days which is a 14% decrease on the figure for 2009 which was 992. Once again the majority of individuals were placement students from France. The breakdown was French 12 and UK 2

Two university groups visited the Reserve the University of Cumbria and the University of Sussex in order to carryout practical conservation work on the Reserve and learn about the ongoing projects on Reserve as part of their respective degree courses.

Our campsite which is situated at the east end of Loch Maree on SNH owned non designated land generally needs little management but continues to provide a needed facility for people wishing to camp within the village of Kinlochewe.

3.1.2 Special Visits

In June we once again had a group from The Highland Disabled Ramblers Group who visited the Reserve for their annual visit to our abilities trails. They were again most grateful and impressed, they reported so in their monthly newsletter.

Educational group visits included the Scottish School of Forestry, University of Sussex, University of Cumbria and The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). Peter Duncan provided a presentation to both UHI lecturers and students and we are hopeful that Beinn Eighe will be used as a future study location for UHI students, with longer term monitoring projects being established. SNH is fully supportive of this venture.

3.2 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

3.2.1 Current or completed research

Staff conducted climatological recording and moth trapping. The following projects were undertaken by others.

Continuing Survey for *Plutella haasi* (microlepidoptera) Bob Heckford

3.2.2 Scientific Publications

None printed

4 SITE DESCRIPTION

No changes

5 SITE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes

Details of woodland restoration and deer management are outlined in section III.

5.1.2 Protection against the elements

Fire plan is being continually updated in keeping with any changes that occur.

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares

The people counters installed on our most recent path network continue to provide useful information about usage. Required repairs to the Mountain Trail are proposed to begin in 2011 and Ridge Trail repairs should be complete by 31st March 2011.

Resurfacing of all other trails will be carried out as required

5.1.4 Field equipment

The ring-fence and other fences were checked at regular intervals, an assessment of condition made, and minor repairs carried out. Due to a change in policy we will be managing our woodland areas more and more without fencing as such in the future we will be dismantling rather than repairing any non essential fences.

5.1.5 Waste Management

Paper, cardboard, glass, cans and batteries are recycled. Green cleaning products are used and our Visitor Centre was again awarded a Silver in the Green Tourism Business Award Scheme. All wooden picnic tables which were due for replacement have been replaced with tables made from recycled plastic as is our new pond dipping platform.

5.1.5 Use of renewable energy systems.

At present the Reserve Office heating system is still being run on oil but a replacement Bio Mass heating system should be in operation by the end of March 2011.

5.2 Management

5.2.1 Administrative department

The profile of Health & Safety (H&S) issues on NNRs continues to be high. Work continues on completing a comprehensive corporate H&S checklist. Task based risk assessments are continually being edited to ensure that they meet the required format.

The Reserve Management Plan is now complete and will become a working document on completion of the Deer and Woodland Management Plans.

5.2.2 Wardens department

We are now beginning to see the real benefit in working along with other National Nature Reserves within the area in delivering our objectives. The area in which Beinn Eighe NNR is situated within will once again change on 1st April 2011 to form the South Highland Area which will incorporate a number of other high profile National Nature Reserves including the Isle Of Rum.

Eoghain Maclean continues in role of Reserve Manager whilst Peter Crichton and Terry Doe continue in their roles as Site Management Officers. Peter Duncan Reserves Manager, East Highland Reserves continues in his role with overall responsibility for the three Wester Ross Reserves plus 4 other Reserves 3 near Aviemore and 1 near Dingwall.

A contract stalker has been employed to assist with our deer cull. In addition, in line with our new policy of better integration with other NNR managers, staff from Creag Meagaidh National Nature Reserve spent a week on the Reserve to assist with the deer cull. Eoghain Maclean spent a week on Creag Meagaidh NNR in a reciprocal visit.

Monthly meetings involving all key staff involved in Beinn Eighe NNR management deal with operational issues such as assessing progress against objectives within the Reserve management plan.

Both Peter Duncan and Eoghain Maclean have been trained to use the new Scottish Natural Heritage electronic purchasing system, i buy.

All Reserve staff attended a mandatory course on Equality & Diversity.

The Visitor Centre was staffed by Annette Crichton in her seventh year and by Douglas Gibson who is in his fourth year. Annette Crichton has decided to give up her employment in the Visitor Centre as such we will recruit a replacement attendant for the 2011 season
Heidi MacLeod continues as cleaner but will retire in 2011

Peter Duncan delivered the 2010 power point presentation to trainee gamekeepers at Thurso College about SNH's approach to deer management.

Essential maintenance was carried out on all Reserve buildings. A full program of repair, replace windows, carpeting and kitchen units has begun in Anancaun Field Station/Office and should be completed by Spring 2011.

5.2.3 Internal policing measures

Wardening and patrol work were maintained at levels consistent with staff numbers. Two members of staff are currently members of the local mountain rescue team and one staff member is a member of the Search and Rescue Dog Association. Fire signs were erected during dry weather periods.

5.2.4 Infringement of regulations and damage

There were no infringements of regulations or damage to property

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

With competition for resources within SNH, the recommendations of the Council of Europe through the European Diploma will continue to be a factor in helping to justify funding for Beinn Eighe NNR.

CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RENEWAL (2008) Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)12 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve (United Kingdom)

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2008
at the 1031st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

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

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (83) 7 awarding the European Diploma to the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve (United Kingdom);

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

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve until 25 May 2018.

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. *set up and implement the new-style reserve plan and organise the required prior public consultation;*

Reserve Proposals have been incorporated and the completed Reserve Plan will be finalised on completion of the woodland & deer management plans which are both expected to be completed shortly. Full public consultation took place with events held at Gairloch and Kinlochewe.

- *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 fifth phase of restocking No 2 Enclosure was completed and 8000 broadleaved trees and 7000 Scots Pine trees were planted on mounds created in 2008. 600 Goat willow (*Salix caprea*) cuttings were also grown with all being planted in No 2 Enclosure by a local contractor. We are grant aided annually for this operation through the Scottish Forestry Woodland Grant Scheme. The native tree gene bank was maintained and the following seed collected:-

<i>Betula pubescens</i> 209g	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> 179g
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	9lt <i>Corylus avellana</i> 154 nuts

2. *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;*

Ongoing high level of deer control was maintained. Four marauding red deer (*Cervus elephus*) stags and 2 roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) were shot within woodland enclosures under a night shooting licence from the Scottish Natural Heritage Wildlife Unit.

- In addition 34 red stags, 28 hinds/calves were culled from unfenced areas Under normal cull seasons and in conjunction with our annual Sect 5 License.
A deer management plan has been written and should be completed by April 2011.

A constructive meeting of our Deer Management Group (Gairloch Conservation Unit) was held on in October 2010.

Staff attended the last annual DCS meeting and best practice seminar before its incorporation into Scottish Natural Heritage

Monitoring of deer dung transects took place in June which indicated a density of 8.4 deer/100ha in the ancient pinewood compared with 3.4 for 2009. Deer dung transects in No 2 Enclosure revealed densities of 1.03 deer/100ha compared to 0.5 deer/100ha for 2009.

The issue of the trampling impacts recorded during Site Condition Monitoring has been discussed more widely with SNH Policy and Advice staff. A more detailed survey is planned to be carried in 2011 by an independent private surveying company. The results should be available for the 2010/2011 report.

3. *monitor the evolution of the American mink (*Mustela vison*) population and its propagation within the area;*

- Field staff remain vigilant in monitoring during routine fieldwork. A mink raft which records tracks is still placed in a tributary of Loch Maree and monitored routinely by staff. No signs have been recorded as yet. A sighting of a lone mink seen on the Applecross peninsula (approximately 30 kms from the Reserve) was reported to the Reserve Manger

4. *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;*
 - Existing visitor facilities were maintained to the present standard. The Visitor Centre was re-assessed this year by the Green Tourism Business scheme and was awarded a high silver. We continue to hope now that we will be able to attain Gold after our next inspection. No development took place within the core area of the Reserve.
5. *improve car park facilities for hill-walkers in Glen Torridon;*
 - The consultation on the Reserve Plan has provided an opportunity to discuss the possibility of establishing a car park at the Torridon end of the NNR with neighbours, the local authority and the local community. There is now general support for the project and a bid has been made for funds next financial year.
- 6 *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;*
 - Visitor facilities and any hazards on the Reserve are checked either monthly or quarterly depending on the facility. Repairs are noted on a proforma sheet and are actioned according to severity. The reserve Fire Plan is updated as required.

RAPPORT ANNUEL POUR 2010**ETAT : BELGIQUE****NOM DE LA ZONE DIPLOMEE : RESERVE NATURELLE DOMANIALE DES HAUTES-FAGNES**

Autorité centrale concernée : Ministère de la Région Wallonne

Direction de la Conservation de la Nature

Avenue Prince de Liège, 15

5100 JAMBES/NAMUR

Tél. : 081/335858

Fax : 081/335822

E-mail : Catherine.Hallet@spw.wallonie.be

Autorité à contacter parmi les gestionnaires de la zone diplômée :

Ministère de la Région Wallonne

Cantonement d'Elsenborn

Unter den Linden 5

B-4750 ELSENBORN

Tél. : 080/410170

Fax : 080/446196

E-mail : Rene.Dahmen@spw.wallonie.be

I. DONNEES GENERALES**1. PATRIMOINE NATUREL - ETAT DE CONSERVATION****1.2 Flore et végétation - évolution - causes présumées**

Une partie de l'ancienne station de *Diphasiastrum alpinum* des Trois-Hêtres a été étrepée, en vue de tenter de faire réapparaître ce lycopode disparu du site depuis les années 1970 et actuellement éteint en Wallonie. La station des Trois-Hêtres était bien connue et localisée depuis les années 1950. Des échantillons d'herbiers conservés à la station scientifique des Hautes-Fagnes de l'Université de Liège attestent que le lycopode fructifiait régulièrement. On peut dès lors espérer que l'étrépage réalisé mette en lumière des spores du lycopode et que celles-ci soient toujours viables (les spores de lycopodes constituant des banques de diaspores très persistantes, comme en atteste les apparitions en 2009 de nouvelles stations de *Lycopodiella inundata* et d'*Huperzia selago* dans des zones d'étrépage).

Découverte d'une petite station de *Crepis praemorsa* dans une nardaie à *Meum athamanticum* du camp d'Elsenborn gérée par mise à feu régulière. Cette espèce calciphile n'avait pas encore été signalée en Belgique.

1.3. Faune : modification des populations

Les recensements de tétras lyre (*Tetrao tetrix*) effectués au printemps 2010 n'ont permis de dénombrer que 9 coqs (et ce malgré des prospections incluant le camp militaire d'Elsenborn et la fagne de Malchamps), soit seulement un coq de plus qu'en 2009. Pour la première fois, aucun coq

n'a été observé dans les fagnes du Nord-Est (seule une poule a été observée au Misten). Comme les années précédentes, c'est en fagne Wallonne que le nombre de coqs est le moins bas.

Même si les recensements ont permis de dénombrer un mâle de plus que l'an dernier, la situation reste extrêmement critique. Le fait qu'un seul mâle juvénile ait été observé est particulièrement inquiétant. Le manque de recrutement était très perceptible au printemps 2010. Ainsi, le dernier tétras lyre des fagnes du nord-est, qui paraissait encore sur la tourbière du Misten en 2009, n'a pas été remplacé. De même, l'unique coq signalé dans la fagne de Cléfaye depuis 2006 n'a pas eu de successeur. Ces chiffres indiquent à quel point la population des Hautes-Fagnes est vulnérable. A ce stade, toute perte de nichée devient catastrophique pour la survie de l'espèce sur le haut plateau.

La plupart des observateurs présents lors des recensements des fagnes de la Baraque-Michel ont aussi constaté la faible fidélité des coqs à leur arène. Dès l'aube, des mouvements d'une arène à l'autre sont observés. Ces déplacements ne sont pas l'apanage d'oiseaux juvéniles (d'ailleurs, seul un juvénile fut recensé cette année) mais concernent essentiellement des mâles adultes. En outre, il arrive fréquemment que les coqs se posent et se mettent à parader à des endroits éloignés de toute arène connue.

La fidélité à une arène de parade ne semble plus être la règle mais plutôt l'exception. Ainsi, sur les 9 coqs recensés cette année, seuls deux d'entre eux n'ont pas quitté leurs territoires pendant la durée des observations.

Heureusement, les observations automnales, faites principalement en Fagne wallonne (plus de 30 individus mâles et femelles observés en même temps), attestent pour la première fois depuis plusieurs années d'un recrutement significatif en jeunes. Il faut espérer qu'une partie de ces juvéniles survivra à l'hiver. Les recensements du printemps 2011 seront renforcés pour vérifier s'il y a bien une remontée des effectifs de la population de tétras lyre.

Divers oiseaux migrateurs ont été observés (parfois en grand nombre) de passage au-dessus des zones fraisées ou inondées: le faucon émerillon (*Falco columbarius*), la grue cendrée (*Grus grus*), divers chevaliers (*Tringa ochropus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Tringa nebularia*, ...), la bécassine de marais (*Gallinago gallinago*), la bécassine sourde (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*), le vanneau huppé (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Les castors qui se sont installés dans le Brackvenn Nord sont bien établis. Il y a construction de plusieurs barrages. Une première installation de castors est également à signaler dans la vallée de la RND de la Schwalm.

3. INTERET PEDAGOGIQUE ET SCIENTIFIQUE

3.1 Visiteurs – Politique d'information

3.1.1. Infrastructures d'accueil et information du public (bâtiments, brochures, cartes, etc.)

Le bureau d'information de Mont-Rigi a accueilli 4.586 visiteurs ce qui représente une augmentation de 17% par rapport à l'année 2009. Ce bureau gère le service de surveillance assuré par les surveillants auxiliaires.

3.1.2. Fréquentation et comportement des visiteurs (nombre, répartition dans l'espace et le temps)

La fréquentation reste très importante sur le Haut plateau des Fagnes. Les dispositions prises en 2004 pour diminuer la fréquentation en zone C (interdiction d'accès de certaines pistes d'une part et d'autre part la limitation à 2 promenades guidées par mois en zone C et

par Guide nature mandaté), sont restées d'application. Le nombre de personnes (5914) ayant fréquenté les zones C en 2010 était de 16% inférieur aux chiffres de 2009. Cela s'explique par la fermeture de la réserve pour des raisons de sécurité en janvier et février à cause de la couche importante de neige et par les conditions climatiques en été (juillet très chaud et août très pluvieux)

L'interdiction d'accès aux zones C pour la quiétude des tétras lyre (*Tetrao tetrix*) durant le Balz et la période de nidification a été maintenue.

3.2. Recherche scientifique

3.2.1. Recherches en cours ou terminées (observation, expérimentation ; recensement ou inventaire des espèces figurant aux annexes de la Convention de Berne...)

- Programme de recherche du Département de l'Etude du Milieu naturel et Agricole (ex Centre de Recherche de la Nature, des Forêts et du Bois). Service public de Wallonie (ex Ministère de la Région Wallonne) (Ph. Frankard et P. Ghiette).
 - Recherches sur le fonctionnement des tourbières hautes actives et la restauration des tourbières hautes dégradées ; sur la restauration des landes sèches et tourbeuses, nardaies, prés maigres.
 - Etude de l'impact des mesures de gestion sur la flore et sur certaines populations animales (avifaune, mammifères, ...).
 - Coordination et suivi scientifique de l'application du plan de gestion écologique de la RNDHF.
 - Etablissement de plans de gestion pour les nouvelles acquisitions.
 - Supervision du projet LIFE
- Cartographie des sites N2000 et élaboration des arrêtés de désignation (Schott O., Kever D., Gérard S., DEMNA) .
- Etude pluridisciplinaire relative aux modalités de l'accumulation récente de la tourbe dans la tourbière ombrogène du Misten, en relation avec les changements climatiques et les effets des activités humaines (Convention SPW/DGOARNE – Ulg/SSHf n° 08/13701).
- Etude socio-économique de la conservation et restauration (projet LIFE) de la nature dans les Hautes Fagnes (Bureau d'étude RDC-Environnement).
- Etude des Thécamoebiens comme témoins des conditions aquifères des tourbières hautes, dans le passé, avec réalisation d'une fonction de transfert liant les différentes espèces de Thécamoebiens aux gradients d'humidité encore observables entre les dépressions inondées et les coussins des diverses sphaignes s'élevant au dessus de la nappe aquifère superficielle (Gunnar Mallon, Université de Southampton).
- Travaux de stagiaires/mémorants

- Baudoux Amaury. Etude de l'évolution de la végétation du secteur sud de la tourbière haute active de la fagne Wallonne, en relation avec l'infestation de ce secteur par *Lochmaea sutturalis* en 2001.
- Demoulin Fanny. Evaluation de l'impact écologique des mesures de restauration de milieux humides sur le Plateau des Hautes Fagnes, par le biais d'un bio-indicateur : les Odonates et comparaison de 2 protocoles d'observation.
- Houssa Grégory. Suivi de la restauration de landes tourbeuses restaurées par diverses techniques (fraisage, mises à feu, mises en exclos).
- Moens Romain. Effet de la restauration de milieux tourbeux sur les populations de diatomées et de thécamoebiens sur les plateaux des Hautes-Fagnes et des Tailles.

3.2.2 Publications scientifiques

De Vleeschouwer F., Luthers C. & Streel M., 2010. – Recherche d'intérêt général et pluridisciplinaire relative aux modalités de l'accumulation récente de la tourbe dans la tourbière ombrogène du Misten (Hautes-Fagnes, Belgique), en relation avec les changements climatiques et les effets des activités humaines. Convention SPW/DGOARNE – Ulg/SSHF. Rapport final, 98 p. + annexes.

Frankard Ph., Loute M., Mackels D. & Janssens X., 2010. - La genévrière de la Haute Harse. Evolution depuis 25 ans. Perspectives de gestion conservatoire et de restauration. Hautes Fagnes, 278 : 16-19.

Leroy S., 2010. – Fragmentation et restauration des tourbières sur le massif des Hautes-Fagnes : impacts sur les populations du nacré de la canneberge. Hautes Fagnes, 277 : 15-17.

Loute M., Mackels D., Plunus J., Janssens X., Wastiaux C. & Frankard Ph., 2010. – Projet LIFE « Hautes-Fagnes ». Les réalisations printemps-été 2010. Hautes Fagnes, 279 : 14-15.

Moens R., 2010. Effet de la restauration de milieux tourbeux sur les populations de diatomées et de thécamoebiens sur les plateaux des Hautes-Fagnes et des Tailles. UCL, Mémoire de Master en Biologie des Organismes et Ecologie, 53 p.

Pissart A., 2010. – La croissance latérale des lithalses. Hautes Fagnes, 277 : 18-23.

4. DESCRIPTION DE LA ZONE (VULNERABILITE, STATUT JURIDIQUE DE PROTECTION, REGIME FONCIER, DOCUMENTATION)

4.3. Extensions ou aliénations

Le cantonnement de Malmedy a introduit des propositions d'extensions de la réserve sur 433 ha. D'autres secteurs domaniaux désenrésinés seront également classés en réserve naturelle domaniale, par exemple au Geitzbusch/Rond Buisson/Duret (326 ha) sur le cantonnement de Verviers, 15 ha au sud est de Sart Luro sur le cantonnement de Spa. Au niveau du cantonnement d' Elsenborn 217 ha seront classés (dont la zone de Bovervenn – Gänsebruch)

5. GESTION DE LA ZONE

5.1 Aménagement effectués

5.1.1. Interventions écologiques sur la flore et les biotopes

Liste des nouveaux travaux réalisés en 2010, s'ajoutant aux travaux de gestion récurrents.

Restauration de 53,6 ha de tourbières dégradées, par fraisage, avec raclage du broyat, en fagne des Deux-Séries (10 ha), à Cléfaye (36 ha) et en fagne Wallonne (7,6 ha).

Restauration de 7 ha de tourbières dégradées, par étrépage, au Duret.

Restauration de 3,2 ha de landes humides à tourbeuses par fraisage et endainage du broyat en fagne Wallonne (nord de l'ancien Bois Calozet).

Restauration de 34,1 ha de landes humides à tourbeuses par étrépage (Fraineux, au Kutenhart, à Sart Luro ha).

Restauration par étrépage d'une partie de l'ancienne station de *Diphasiastrum alpinum* aux Trois-Hêtres, en vue de tenter de la reconstituer.

Restauration de tourbières tremblantes dans 29 traces de lithalses dans les fagnes de l'Allgemeine Venn et du Brackvenn nord, par fermeture des exutoires artificiels creusés dans les remparts ; de 2 traces de lithalses en fagne Wallonne, par fermeture de l'exutoire artificiel creusés dans le rempart et par décapage de la molinie à l'intérieur des cuvettes ; de 4 traces de lithalses au compartiment 553 par décapage de la molinie à l'intérieur des cuvettes.

Bouchage de 98,9 km de drains : les zones les plus importantes étant à Cléfaye (18,6 km), Fagne Devant Troupas et Petite Rur (12,9 km) et vallée de la Soor (34 km).

Coupe de 381,7 ha de semis naturels de résineux au Stuhl (45 ha), à Herbofaye (30 ha), au Setay (16 ha), à Wihonfagne et à la Haie Henquinet (23,9 ha), dans la vallée de l'Eau Rouge (23 ha), à Cléfaye (139 ha), à Lonlou (31,4 ha), à la Poulète (16,2 ha).

Coupe de 10,2 ha d'épicéas sans valeur économique dans la vallée de la Helle (Fraîche Haie).

Fauchage des fougères aigles (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dans les zones de landes sèches restaurées par fraisage en 2007 au Kutenhart (5 ha), dans la fagne des Deux-Séries (0,7 ha) et à Neuwald (1,9 ha).

Broyage des arbres et fraisage du sol dans des zones envahies d'aulnes blancs (*Alnus incana*) dans l'Allgemeines Venn, Steinley et au Nahtsief.

Coupe de 154,9 ha de peuplements d'épicéas sur sols tourbeux à Hoscheit (21 ha), entre Setay et Fraineux (7,2 ha), aux Chôdières/vallée de l'Eau Rouge (22 ha), entre les Petites Fagnes de Malmedy (6,5 ha), au compartiment 575 (14,2 ha), à Cléfaye (58 ha), dans les fagnes de Polleur de Hockay (11,5 ha), en bordure de la fagne Wallonne (5,5 ha), au Misbach (1,6 ha), près de Cléfaye (4,7 ha), à Nampire (2,7 ha).

Décapage de 3,7 ha de tourbières hautes dégradées à molinie en fagne Wallonne, Setay, vallée de la Soor, à Cléfaye.

Création de digues d'argile pour ennoyer 9,4 ha de zones de tourbières exploitées ou de tourbières désenrésinées au Misten (5,26 ha), aux Potaies (2,32 ha), à Herbofaye (0,68 ha), en Fagne Devant Troupas (1,15 ha).

Relance de la régénération des feuillus naturels dans 11,7 ha au Stuhl (0,98 ha), aux Mousseux et à Boltéfa (10,75 ha), via l'installation de clôtures.

Restauration par fraisage d'une nardaie à jonquille (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) à l'Herzogenvenn (1 ha).

Restauration par fraisage de nardaies à fenouil des Alpes (*Meum athamanticum*) dégradées dans les vallées de l'Hundelbach, du Windchenbach, de la Rur

Restauration de nardaies à fenouil des Alpes (*Meum athamanticum*) par mulchage à l'aide d'une motofaucheuse dans la vallée de la Schwalm

5.1.2. Protection contre les éléments naturels (feux, régime des eaux)

Incendie sur une surface de 0,50 ha au lieu dit Potalles le 09.07.2010. L'incendie est rapidement circonscrit par le personnel, équipé du Flexmobil (tracteur chenillé) d'intervention incendie. Un bouleau foudroyé est à l'origine de l'incendie.

5.1.3. Voies d'accès et de circulation (pistes, chemins, parkings, signalisation, clôtures, etc.)

En 2010 un problème de renouvellement des caillebotis de la piste de la HELLE, dorsale de la RND des Hautes Fagnes, s'est posé. Un budget complémentaire a finalement pu être obtenu en vue de refaire cette piste primordiale.

5.1.4. Equipement de séjour (refuges d'observation ou d'étude).

Création d'un mirador d'observation ornithologique pour le grand public sur la mise à blanc du Geitzbusch.

III. SUIVI DES CONDITIONS ET/OU RECOMMANDATIONS D'OCTROI OU DE RENOUVELLEMENT

Etat d'avancement des mesures prises pour se conformer aux conditions et/ou recommandations définies lors de l'octroi ou du renouvellement du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés.

Recommandations:

1. Finaliser l'actualisation du plan de gestion et prévoir les moyens budgétaires adéquats pour sa mise en œuvre ;

L'actualisation des plans de gestion des RND des Hautes-Fagnes, de la Schwalm et de l'Olef est en cours et devrait être terminée en 2015. Pour les nouveaux secteurs acquis dans le cadre du projet LIFE Nature et qui deviendront des RND fin 2011, l'équipe LIFE est chargée de faire des propositions de plans de gestion. Ceux-ci seront finalisés ensuite par le DNF.

En fonction des moyens (financiers, humains, matériels) disponibles, l'ancien plan de gestion écologique de la réserve naturelle est mis en application: fauchage, étrépage, pâturage, ... Depuis 2007, les travaux réalisés ont pris une toute autre ampleur que précédemment grâce au projet LIFE-Nature qui se terminera fin 2011. Le plan after-LIFE prévoiera les axes de restauration/gestion qu'il conviendra de mettre en place et réaliser dans la foulée du projet LIFE Nature.

L'impact des différentes interventions est suivi par de nombreux relevés: cartographie précise de la végétation, carrés permanents, transects de végétation, piézomètres, tensiomètres, points d'écoute des oiseaux, comptage des tétras lyres, suivi des odonates et de lépidoptères (*Boloria aquilonaris*, *Euphydryas aurinia*), ... Une intensification du suivi scientifique a été réalisée dans le cadre du projet LIFE-Nature, mais il restera à trouver les moyens pour assurer cet important suivi scientifique après le projet LIFE-Nature.

2. Elaborer et mettre en œuvre un programme permettant la mise en place de plans de gestion réguliers des tourbières individuelles et ensembles de tourbières de la réserve ; ces plans doivent notamment comprendre l'objectif, le lieu et le calendrier des relevés réguliers, des expériences et des études d'impact, des systèmes de suivi systématique, et doivent être dotés de moyens humains, financiers et techniques suffisants .

Dans le cadre du projet LIFE, le programme de gestion des tourbières hautes est largement amplifié. Cette année encore de vastes zones de tourbières hautes dégradées ont été restaurées ou ont été désenrésinées puis restaurées (voir 5.1.1.). Tous les travaux réalisés font l'objet d'un suivi scientifique systématique par les scientifiques du DEMNA, aidés par l'équipe LIFE. Un suivi scientifique plus étoffé de la flore, de l'avifaune, des Odonates et des Lépidoptères est en cours dans le cadre du projet LIFE et devra continuer après celui-ci.

3. Poursuivre avec détermination la mise en application des plans d'agrandissement des périmètres de bassin versant, incluant les zones tampons et les zones de transition, et la création de couloirs entre les éléments qui constituent la réserve ; il conviendrait de porter une attention particulière à l'acquisition, au moins, des parties les plus importantes de la zone située au confluent de la Grande et de la Petite Rur; dans le secteur de Bovelervenn-Gänsebruch ; dans les secteurs Haie Henquinet, fagnes de Hockay, Fraineux ;

Le projet LIFE a déjà permis d'acquérir 128 ha de sites de grand intérêt biologique. Ils seront classés en RND en fin de projet (décembre 2011). En outre, dans le cadre de ce projet, une attention toute particulière est portée sur la création de zones de transition et de couloir entre les différents secteurs de la réserve.

Divers secteurs domaniaux désenrésinés seront également classés en réserve naturelle domaniale, par exemple la future réserve Geitzbusch/Rond Buisson/Duret (326 ha) sur le cantonnement de Verviers et environ 15 ha au sud est de Sart Luro sur le cantonnement de Spa. Au niveau du cantonnement de Malmedy 433 ha seront classés en réserve naturelle et à Elsenborn 217 ha, dont la zone de Bovervenn - Gänsebruch

4. Poursuivre de façon cohérente le projet de pâturage ovin dans la Grande Fagne et la fagne des Deux-Séries ;

Cette année, environ 1000 moutons ont pâturé la RND dans la Grande Fagne (95 ha), dans la fagne des Deux-Séries (140 ha) et aux Potaes (60 ha). Vu que la pression de pâturage est trop faible, le berger a racheté 400 moutons fin septembre et il prévoit d'augmenter son cheptel jusqu'à plus de 1500 têtes pour 2011 grâce à l'agnelage.

La clôture à bovins contruite en 2007 à Wihonfagne (RN communale très proche de la RND) a été pâturée par une dizaine de vaches « Highland ». Les résultats sur la végétation semblent prometteurs. De nouvelles clôtures pour du pâturage de bovins seront installées en 2011 à Neuwald et à Rurhof.

5. Poursuivre et renforcer les contacts formels avec la population locale, les élus locaux et les autorités du parc, afin de mieux faire comprendre la nécessité de préserver ces paysages qui possèdent également une valeur socio-économique par leurs fonctions récréatives et touristiques ; de même, la participation des établissements scolaires est possible et souhaitable ;

Dans le cadre du projet LIFE de nombreux contacts sont pris avec les élus locaux et les propriétaires forestiers. Ceux-ci sont d'ailleurs représentés dans le comité de pilotage du projet. Des actions de sensibilisation pour la population locale et le grand public sont également menées dans le cadre de ce projet (conférences, dépliants toutes boîtes, animations et posters dans différentes manifestations locales). Des actions dans les établissements scolaires de la région sont aussi organisées.

6. Poursuivre la mise en œuvre des mesures de gestion en vue de restaurer les habitats du tétras-lyre. Prendre des mesures pour sensibiliser les adjudicataires des lots de chasse entourant la réserve naturelle à la nécessité de réduire l'importante population de sangliers dans les massifs boisés entourant la réserve naturelle ;

Les travaux mis en œuvre dans le cadre du projet LIFE devraient être favorables à cette espèce, puisqu'ils conduiront à la restauration d'une mosaïque d'habitats ouverts, semi-ouverts et forestiers (de types naturels) sur de vastes superficies et amélioreront la connectivité des sites. Une convention de recherche a été passée entre l'équipe LIFE et l'Université de Liège pour dresser l'état des lieux des zones fréquentées par le tétras lyre avant le démarrage du projet et pour suivre les effets de sa réalisation sur la localisation et les effectifs du tétraonidé.

Pour l'instant, on constate que le déclin de l'espèce, observé depuis plusieurs années déjà, ne s'est pas encore enrayé. Un contrôle des prédateurs (renards, corneilles) aux abords (et dans) de la réserve naturelle est prévu au printemps 2011. Vu l'observation d'un plus grand nombre d'oiseaux juvéniles, les recensements en fin d'hiver devront montrer si la population augmente ou s'il faut envisager d'autres mesures (translocation de tétras de Scandinavie, en vue de renforcer la population des Hautes-Fagnes).

7. S'efforcer de maintenir (université de Liège) ; poursuivre et renforcer généralement la participation du Centre scientifique de la Région wallonne et la collaboration scientifique avec la station scientifique.

Le maintien de la station scientifique des Hautes-Fagnes semble assuré.

ANNUAL REPORT
- 2010-

COUNTRY:

ITALY

NAME OF THE PROTECTED AREA

MONTECRISTO ISLAND

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE
FOOD FOR ITS MANAGEMENT

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
AND FOREST POLICIES

CORPO FORESTALE
DELLO STATO
Ufficio Territoriale per la
Biodiversità di Follonica
Via E. Biccocchi n°2
FOLLONICA (GR)
Telefono e fax n. 0566/40019
utb.follonica@corpoforestale.it

I – GENERAL INFORMATION

1) STATE OF CONSERVATION

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, current or possible

No changes or relevant alterations occurred except for the fall down of some plants of *Pinus pinea* and *Eucaliptus spp.* due to adverse weather conditions.

1.2 Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover; presumed causes

The native flora is threatened and therefore limited in expansion by excessive stripping of the goats and by the action of rats and rabbits which strongly restrict its spread. Furthermore, the presence of *Ailanthus* is still growing, with detrimental effect on the native species such as Holm oak, which survives in a few dozen of aged specimens.

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

Also in 2010 the annual census of wild goat population has been carried out, reporting a substantial numerical balance.

The flows of migratory fauna are constantly monitored with particular attention to the nesting species and Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*. It is confirmed the substantial failure of nests due to the predation by rats. Overall, no changes occurred than the previous years. It is confirmed the decrease of rats population, following the most correct behaviours. However it has been found a negative interference on nesting species of seabirds and vegetation. The characterization of rats population is going to be completed as scheduled by an action of LIFE project, which started in January.

2) CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 Cultural heritage

2.1.1 Changes concerning cultural heritage

There are no significant changes with regard to cultural heritage.

2.2 Socio-economic context

2.2.1 Changes concerning the socio-economic context.

No changes occurred in this regard. On the island there is not a standing social community, but only staff of Italian State Forest Service.

3) EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

3.1 Visitors-Information policies

3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public

Actually, there are a working museum of local fauna and flora and a laboratory of research and experimentation. An area suitably equipped allows to welcome visitors for a first information about the island. The forest guards who take turns in serving on the island, besides supervising accompany visitors in the educational tours suitably realized, providing basic information.

3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behaviour

As stated by the Council of Europe, it has been observed the maximum of 1000 visitors per year by giving priority to groups of students and environmental associations. Many requests have not been cleared to respect the above mentioned limit.

The tours have been granted mainly on holidays and days before holidays during the spring and summer.

The visitors are ordered and conducted in three allowed paths and it has been forbidden to wander in the island.

In 2010 there has been an increase of attempts in unauthorized entry, which led to an intensification of sanctions application.

3.1.3 Special visits

Also this year the island has been visited by personalities from the political and institutional sectors. The high offices of state and international entrepreneurial class have had the opportunity

to visit the special natural environment of the island and appreciated the work done for its preservation.

The island has been also visited by several television troupes who have made interesting documentaries to bear witness of the particularity and conservation status of the reserve. In addition, several press journalists have visited the island.

3.2 Scientific research. Current or completed research

It seems clear that, in recent years, there has been a contraction in studies on the island of Montecristo due to their high costs. The current studies are:

- a) the census of wild goat population in collaboration with the National Park of Tuscan Archipelago and ISPRA in Ozzano Emilia – Bologna
- b) The census of lichen species by University of Florence
- c) MONTECRISTO Oceanographic campaign organized by National Research Council ISMAR of Bologna
- d) Sampling and research on marine water quality by the European Commission, Joint Research Centre Institute for Environment and Sustainability Rural, Water and Ecosystem Resources Unit, Ispra (VA), Italy.

3.2.2 Scientific publications

The results of the researches referred to above have been or will be published.

4) SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 Changes in legislation or regulations:

There were no changes compared to previous reports.

4.2 Changes in ownership title

none

4.3 Extension or transfer, new uses

none

5) SITE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes

During 2010 it has been launched a LIFE project 08/NAT/IT/000353 entitled “Montecristo 2010 – eradication of invasive alien species of flora and fauna and protection of species and habitat in the Tuscan archipelago”.

The project will last 54 months until the 1st January 2015 and include an overall financial support of € 1.584.856,00, out of which the European Commission will contribute for the 50%.

The actions concerning the island of Montecristo are:

- a) eradication of rats;
eradication of *Ailanthus* plants;
creation of exclusion zones for the protection of natural vegetation;
actions for the protection of wild goat.

During the first year preparatory measures for the eradication of rats and *Ailanthus* plants have been carried out. In particular, it has been undertaken the mapping of invasive populations and the preparation of related maps and executive project.

Similarly, a monitoring activity has been carried out also for the rats, by installing traps to define reproductive activities and migration of these animals, in line with the executive project for the rats control. At the same time, a genetic characterization of rats population is taking place in order to detect possible reintroductions at the end of the project.

5.1.2 Protection against natural elements:

Ordinary maintenance of the facilities has been carried out.

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares

The signposting has been completed along the authorized trails of the island.

5.2 Management

5.2.1 Administrative department: no changes occurred, the management is maintained by Italian State Forest Service, Territorial Office of Biodiversity in Follonica.

5.2.2 Wardens' department: no changes occurred. The patrolling service continues to be carried out by the Italian State Forest Service.

5.2.3 Internal policing measures: The forestry staff has a service boat.

5.2.4 Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

During 2010 there have been the usual attempts of illegal entry and sometimes illegal fishing, promptly punished by the staff of Italian State Forest Service.

II – INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

The grant or the renewal of European Diploma has placed greater emphasis on the importance of Montecristo Island Nature Reserve, causing an increase in the requests for visits, as well a general interest towards the protection and preservation of natural environments also thanks to the echo resulting from the dissemination by the press and audiovisual media through reports, surveys, documents, etc.

III – CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RENEWAL

During 2010 LIFE 08/NAT/IT/00053 project has been launched with first concrete actions representing the main activity carried out on the island. It is expected that eradication of *Ailanthus*

will be started through cuttings and chemical control of shrubs. In addition, fences of exclusion will be installed for the preservation of habitat affected by the pressure of wild goats.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY POLICIES
ITALIAN STATE FOREST SERVICE
TERRITORIAL OFFICE FOR BIODIVERSITY
PRATOVECCHIO
ANNUAL REPORT 2010

State: ITALY

Name of awarded area:

Integral Nature Reserve of SASSOFRATINO.

Central Authority:

Italian State Forest Service
Central Office for Biodiversity
Via Giosuè Carducci, 5 - I-00187 ROMA
Tel 06/4881804
Fax 06/4820660
E-mail: dg.segreteria@corpoforestale.it

Authority responsible for its management:

Forestry Doc. Alessandro BOTTACCI
Territorial Office for Biodiversity
(Ufficio Territoriale per la Biodiversità UTB)
Via Dante Alighieri, 41
I 52015 PRATOVECCHIO (Arezzo).
Tel 0575/583763
Fax 0575/504085
E-mail: utb.pratovecchio@corpoforestale.it

I. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. (see previous reports)

1.1 Environment: The 2009-2010 winter season was marked by heavy snowfall from late November to April. Spring and summer were particularly rainy. This seasonal pattern has allowed to recharge the groundwater depleted by a very hot and dry summer in 2009.

1.2. Flora and vegetation: no change in Reserve flora and vegetation has occurred. A new species was found and added to the 389 already reported entities (Gonnelli *et al.*, 2009). This is the rare orchid *Epipogium aphyllum* (Schmidt) Swartz. (Gonnelli *et al.*, 2010). Importance has been given to the experimental activity carried out in the stations of two rare species (*Matteuccia struthiopteris* e *Trollius europaeus*). The study would highlight the cause of almost total disappearance of these two species. Small portions of soil were removed by the activities of ungulates from 2008 and these areas have seen reappearance of these two rare species. A new fungus, *Botryobasidium sassofratinoense*, was discovered by the professor Bernicchia who

carried out the studies in collaboration with Prof. Gitta Langer of Gottingen (Germany) and Prof. Pérez Gorjón of Salamanca (Spain).

1.3. Fauna: The load of large herbivorous wildlife (**deer, fellow deer**, etc..) is not a real problem inside Sasso Fratino Reserve. The more complex situation, occurring in areas outside the reserves and in some parts of it (picking of the young sprouts, debarking, etc..), still leads to continue the current monitoring work, based on sample areas identified in the Reserves surrounding Sasso Fratino in 2003.

During 2010 the third experimental deer census has been performed in all Casentino Nature Reserves, including Sasso Fratino Reserve. It has been noted the presence of a large number of deers (450) in all reserves, but no relevant damages caused by this species occurred in Sasso Fratino.

Also this year, scattered sightings of **mouflon** (*Ovis musimon*) have been registered, both within the Sasso Fratino Reserve and in neighboring areas. So, the investigation on the presence and distribution of this species has been sustained.

Following frequent reports of sightings of supposed **feral cats**, it has been started a research on the presence of this rare animal in the areas surrounding the Reserve. The research is coordinated by Prof. Ragni from University of Perugia, maximum Italian expert in wild felines, and it has been carried out through photo-traps distributed along the Reserve. The first results have been very encouraging, with the detection of 7 different specimens, 4 of which almost pure. The surveys will continue in 2011.

The presence of **black woodpecker** (*Dryocopus martius* L. 1758) showed a marked expansion. This supports the role of the Reserve and confirm the validity of management decisions taken by the Territorial Office for Biodiversity of Pratovecchio, throughout the territory of Casentinesi biogenetic reserves managed with the respect to all structural types of forest plants, in order to encourage the dynamics of increased biodiversity. Further investigations have been undertaken on this species to test both dynamism and tropism (see research list). There have been numerous sightings inside Sasso Fratino and in neighboring areas. It is definitely increased the number of dead trees colonized by woodpeckers for food in Sasso Fratino Reserve and surrounding reserves (Camaldoli, Scodella, Campigna, Badia Prataglia-Lama) always managed by the Biodiversity Office of Pratovecchio.

During the summer 2010, three specimens of **golden eagle** (two adults and one chick) have been seen. Taking into account the frequency of sightings during the years, it can be established that the golden eagle has become sedentary in the reserve.

2 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 (see previous reports)

2.2 (see previous reports)

3 EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

3.1. Visitors – Information policies

- 3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public. Information and data on the role of the reserve are provided at the Museum of Forestry and in equipped premises at fixed places of Camaldoli and Badia Prataglia and in the visitor centres of National Park through the aid of maps, brochures, videos, guides, etc.

During this year, the renovation of a building has been made for the reception of researchers and students just outside the Reserve (La Lama locality).

In 2010 further improvements were made to the Forestry Museum of Badia Prataglia, which was the most visited museum in the Province of Arezzo. During the summer the Territorial Office for Biodiversity has organized educational activities on natural aspects of Sasso Fratino and the surrounding Reserves. A total of about 300 people have participated to these meetings.

The relations with local and national television have been intensified, collaborating on media reports about the importance and significance of the Integral Reserve.

- 3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behaviour. Visits are only permitted to researchers and students or groups of environmental associations for scientific research and educational excursions. No anthropic impact occurred in the Reserve.

- 3.1.3 Special visits. There have been some guided visits for researchers and groups of environmental associations inside the Integral Nature Reserve of Sasso Fratino. To reduce the number of entries and select the type of visitors without a total refusal toward some groups, alternative routes of great environment interest have been proposed, but outside the INR.

Tours with students of Italian and foreign universities have been organized successfully, highlighting the educational and scientific value of Sasso Fratino.

It is important to note the risk related to landslides of two paths commonly used to the control and access of the researchers. A minimal improvement of these areas is needed for security reasons. In the absence of such arrangements the study and monitoring activities would face considerable difficulties.

3.2. Scientific research

- 3.2.1 Current and completed scientific research:

1. Bartolozzi L. (Institute of Zoology “La Specola”, University of Florence) – G. Crudele. *Entomological research on Curculionidi beetles.*
2. Bernicchia A. (Plant Pathology Institute, University of Bologna) – Italian State Forest Service-Territorial Office for Biodiversity of Pratovecchio. *Study on mycological flora of Casentino Nature Reserves.*
3. Bernicchia A. (Plant Pathology Institute, University of Bologna) – *Saproxyllic fungi on the dead wood in Casentino Nature Reserves.*
4. Bottacci A. (Pratovecchio) – M. Paci, L. Bianchi (DiSTAF, University of Florence) *Study on the vegetational dynamism in Sasso Fratino Reserve.*
5. Bottacci A., A. Zoccola, S. Bertinelli (CFS-Pratovecchio), G. Mazza (Institute of Entomology and Zoological Museum “La Specola”, University of Florence). *The entomofauna of caves and natural cavities in Casentino Nature Reserves.*
6. Bottacci A., A. Zoccola, S. Bertinelli (CFS-UTB Pratovecchio) – M. Lucchesi, R. –

Survey of the presence and distribution of Mouflon in Casentino Nature Reserves.

7. Bottacci A., A. Zoccola, S. Bertinelli (Territorial Office for Biodiversity, Pratovecchio), M. Landi, F. Frignani (Dept. Environmental Sciences, Univ. Siena). *Check-list of the vascular flora of Scodella Nature Reserve in the biogenetic nature reserves Casentino forests.*
8. Bottacci A., Gonnelli V., Zoccola A. *Knowledge and conservation of Trollius europeus population of Poggio Scali in Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve.*
9. Bottacci A., Zoccola A. *Study on plant recolonization of the landslide of Acqua fredda ditch in Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve.*
10. Bottacci A., Padula M. (UTB Pratovecchio). *Study on the distribution and dimensions of the gaps in Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve.*
11. Del Prete C., D. Dallai, E. Sgarbi, G. Crudele (University of Modena) – A. Bottacci, A. Zoccola (Territorial Office for Biodiversity, Pratovecchio). *Interventions aimed to the collection of rare or threatened species of flora in the territory of Casentino Nature Reserves for ex-situ propagation and in-situ reuse, with the dissemination of such activities and the promotion of nature and protectionist culture.*
12. Ducci F. (Agriculture Research Centre- Experimental Institute for Forestry of Arezzo) – Comunità montana del Casentino – A. Bottacci (CFS-UTB Pratovecchio). *Genetic characterization of Abies alba Mill. in Casentino Reserves.*
13. Gonnelli V., Bottacci A, Zoccola A., Bertinelli S. – *Ecological characterization and distribution of rock plants in Sasso Fratino Reserve and in the other Casentino Nature Reserves.*
14. Gonnelli V., Simoncini P., Bottacci A., Mencucci. M., Zoccola A., Bertinelli S., Fiorini U. – *Survey on the presence of Acer pseudoplatanus L. cv. purpurescens in the National Park of Casentino Forests.*
15. Groppali R. (Department of Ecology, Land and Environment, University of Pavia) – G. Crudele. *Survey on spiders (Aracnida Aranae) and on the populations of Formica rufa (Hymenoptera Formicidae).*
16. Groppali R. (University of Pavia) – G. Crudele – *Assessment of mechanical action of the Black Woodpecker (Dryocopus martius) against diseased forest species on the restoration of deadwood related to forest soil fertility.*
17. Landi M., L. Lastrucci, V. Gonnelli, F. Selvi, A. Zoccola , A. Bottacci. – *Survey of Matteuccia struthiopteris (L.) Tod. population in the National Park of Casentino Forests.*
18. Mazza G. (Entomology Institute and Zoological Museum “La Specola”, University of Florence) – A. Bottacci, A. Zoccola (Ufficio Territoriale per la Biodiversità– Pratovecchio). *Survey on beetles of several wet lands of Casentino Nature Reserves.*
19. National park of Casentino Forests, M. Falterona e Campigna - CFS-CTA Pratovecchio - CFS-UTB Pratovecchio – *Genetic monitoring of the wolf in the National Park of Casentino Forests, M. Falterona and Campigna.*
20. Ragni B. (Univ. of Perugia), Bottacci A., Lucchesi M., Tedaldi G. (Natural Sciences Museum of Meldola).- *Presence and distribution of Wild Cat and Marten in the Nature Reserves of Casentino.*
21. Roversi F. P., A. Binazzi, F. Pennacchio (Experimental Institute for Agricultural

Zoology, Firenze) – G. Crudele – *Integrated study for the preservation in-situ and ex-situ conservation of rare or vulnerable animal species of Casentino Nature Reserves, included among the Arthropodos (insects and mites) and nematodes, as well as the divulgation of such activities and the promotion of nature and protectionist culture.*

22. Selvi F., L. Lastrucci (Dep. of Plant Biology, Univ. of Florence); A. Bottacci; A. Zoccola (Territorial Office for Biodiversity, Pratovecchio); V. Gonnelli (Professional Institute of Agriculture, Pieve Santo Stefano) – *The flora and vegetation of wet lands in the biogenetic nature reserves of Casentino forests.*

3.2.2 Scientific publications

1. Gonnelli V., Bottacci A., Zoccola A., Bertinelli S., 2010 – Segnalazioni floristiche n. 79: *Epipogium aphyllum* (Schmidt) Swartz. (Monocotyledones *Orchidaceae*). Quaderno di Studi e Notizie di Storia Naturale della Romagna n. 30: 227.
2. Bottacci A., 2010 – The integral reserve of Sasso Fratino: forests and sustainable development. 9th Conference UPM “From the ancient Chinese theories to the Pianesi sustainable development”, Aula Magna of La Sapienza University, Roma, 22 april 2010: 109-122.
3. Bernicchia A, Langer G, Pérez Gorjón S., 2010 – *Botriobasidium sassofratinoense* subsp. *nova* (Cantharellales, Basidiomycota) from Italy. Mycotaxon, Vol. 111: 403-409.

4. Site description (see previous reports)

5. Site management

5.1.

5.1.1 (see previous reports)

5.1.2 (see previous reports)

5.1.3 It continues with the works aimed to prevent over-trails for hiking in the border areas of the Reserve such as Poggio Scali, Monte Falco and Monte Penna. The enlargement works of the ski runs have been finally concluded in the Nature Reserve of Campigna.

5.1.4 The Territorial Office for Biodiversity of Pratovecchio has made available staff and transport means to the researchers and the use of La Lama barracks, located near the border of Sasso Fratino Integral Reserve.

5.2 Management

5.2.1 Administrative department: The service is provided by the staff of the Territorial Office for Biodiversity of Pratovecchio.

5.2.2 Wardens' department: The vigilance of the protected area is provided by the staff of fixed place in Badia Prataglia, under the authority of UTB of Pratovecchio, and by the staff of local Forest Service offices under the authority of the Territorial Coordination for Environment of the National Park of Casentino forests.

5.2.3 The Territorial Office for Biodiversity of Pratovecchio is proceeding with the revision of management plans of the nature reserves bordering with Sasso Fratino Reserve. These plans cover the natural management of forests, the conservation

actions of special habitats and the activities for the renaturation of forest stands of artificial origin. To achieve these plans, the GIS system included in the Office has been implemented. The management plan of Camaldoli Reserve is going to be concluded.

- 5.2.4 Infringement of regulations and damage, legal action. During the summer 2010, 9 people have been charged for illegal trespassing and illegal harvesting of mushrooms, and the related judicial processes are still ongoing.

II. **INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS**

(see previous reports)

III. **CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENEWAL**

Recommendation 1 (Résolution ResDip(2005)2).

- The Plan of Casentino Forests, Falterona and Campiglia National Park has been approved in December 2009. The proposals of integral protection area enlargement under Pratovecchio UTB have been included: these concern the lands closed to Sassofratino (Monte Rovino and Monte Penna).

Recommendation 2 (Résolution ResDip(2005)2).

- Pratovecchio UTB has kept and enforced its contact with University and Research Centers, to implement the interdisciplinary approach to the Reserve analysis. Besides it has continued to inform on features and importance of the Nature Reserve by Conferences, print and television articles. On the 10th of October 2010 in Lama Forest House a join celebration between Pratovecchio UTB and National Park had place, to celebrate 25 years of the European Diploma grant. In this occasion there were some commemorative reports.

Recommendation 3 (Résolution ResDip(2005)2).

- Sasso Fratino Reserve and surrounding biogenetic Reserves are all managed by Pratovecchio Office, particularly careful to their integrated management. It tends to limit or to delete any interventions in the border Reserves to create a buffer band. Less attention is paid to the lands managed by Tuscan and Emilia-Romagna Region, where there have been cuttings in ridge zone too.

Recommendation 4 (Résolution ResDip(2005)2).

- In Monte Falco area specific signposting has been placed to avoid an excessive anthropic impact. The trail from Fonte Sodo dei Conti to Monte Falco will continue to be closed. The Park Authority decided to include in the Nature Reserve not only Monte Falco area, but also the Monte Rovini, Posticcia and Monte Penna, all managed by Pratovecchio UTB.

Recommendation 5 (Résolution ResDip(2005)2).

- An annual meeting of researchers that work in the protected area will take place, and the results of each research will be sent to everyone.

Recommendation 6 (Résolution ResDip(2005)2).

- In relation with enlargement project of Campiglia ski installations, required by Consorzio Monte Falco (composed by Santa Sofia Municipality and Mountain Community of Appennino Forlivese and Forlì Provence), the situation is blocked at the moment. The enlargement projects of the Capanna black ski run and the projects related to the reactivation of Burraia-Monte Gabrendo runs have been shelved.

Territorial Office for Biodiversity of Pratovecchio in relation to further protection activities has provided to:

1. Improving conditions in wet and impermeable lands characterized by aquatic flora and fauna species.
2. Improving trails in signposting and planning for different areas of National Park.
3. It has provided to collect seeds and little portions of rare plants to proceed with *in vitro* propagation and with their *ex situ* conservation. It has happened thanks to the Modena-Reggio Emilia University assistance.
4. As the commitment in maintenance of forest roads and public buildings is essential, at the same time it is important the arrangement of landslides and streams in excavation (outside Sasso Fratino borders) just using naturalistic engineering works.