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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
ROOM 14, PALAIS DE L'EUROPE**

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**Bayerischer Wald National Park
(Germany)**

Renewal

**Expert Report by
Mr Pierre Galland
(Switzerland)
20 – 21 July 2010**

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

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Preliminary remark

The European Diploma was awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park in 1986 and was regularly renewed since then. The last on-the-spot appraisal took place in 2005 and the Diploma was renewed in 2006. Comprehensive annual reports were provided on a regular basis to the secretariat.

The mission was organized back to back with the evaluation of the Sumava National Park nomination; Mrs Françoise Bauer, from the secretariat, joined both missions. Due to the neighbouring situation of both parks and their close cooperation, the organization of the joint mission was justified and proved to be very positive.

1. Introduction

Bayerischer Wald National Park was established in 1969 by a decision of the Bayerischer Landtag (parliament of the Federal State of Bavaria) and officially opened in 1970. It covered some 13' 300 ha and constituted the 1st German national park.

It was extended with another 11'000 ha in 1997, after some delays due to local strong opposition from some municipalities and groups of interest. It covers now a global surface of 24'250 ha, almost completely covered by forests.

The Park constituted is completed on the German side by a large Nature Park; the National Park itself was declared as Biosphere Reserve following the old model. An attempt to adapt the Biosphere Reserve to the modern concept, following the Sevilla strategy failed. The district authorities of Regen and Freyung-Grafenau could not agree on forming the buffer and transition zones of the Biosphere Reserve. Therefore the Biosphere reserve was removed from the UNMESCO MaB list.

While most of the bogs in the upper part of the mountain on Czech side are declared as Ramsar zone, there are not important enough on the German side to deserve such a designation.

The park has a rectangular shape following the German / Czech border. On the Czech side the much larger Sumava National Park was established in 1991 covering 70'000 ha. A very good collaboration between both parks was established and many activities are undertaken jointly. Both parks are certified as Transboundary Parks by the Europarc federation. Both parks are designated as Natura 2000 sites and are also the largest terrestrial sites in their respective countries.

Both Parks cover the core of the Bohemian Forest (Sumava Mtn in Czech), one of the largest and best protected forest zone in Central Europe. The conservation and management issues of this forest area of European significance have to be addressed globally by both concerned countries. The European Diploma application from the Czech side is therefore welcome and the organization of a joint mission was highly justified

The mission took place from July 20th – July 24th. The first 2 days were spent in Germany for the appraisal of the Bayerischer Wald National Park; the second part of the mission took place in Czech Republic to assess the application of the Sumava National Park with a short joint meeting of both teams on the border at Bayerisch Eisenstein.

The German part of the mission was very well prepared by the national park team. Discussions covered all the actual relevant management issues, including the integration of the park's extension in the regional context and the relations with surrounding territories, both in Germany and in Czech Republic. We had the privilege to visit some of the most spectacular realization of the Park and to discuss in detail some "hot" management issues

We would like to thank the numerous partners met during the mission and in particular the Director, Mr. Karl Friedrich Sinner, and Mr Hans Kiener (head of department for Nature Conservation). All participants contributed to give a comprehensive picture of the state of the

park, the current management issues and their vision about the role of the national park in the regional and international context.

The representatives from the Bavarian Ministry of Environment, Mr. Franz Bichlmeier, was present the first day, demonstrating the strong interest and commitment of the State Authority (Bavaria) regarding the management of the Park and the renewal of the European Diploma.

The detailed programme with the 1 partners met during the mission is attached to this report.

2. Summary of the findings

The park covers nowadays an area of 24'000 ha along the Czech border. It is the oldest national Park in Germany and one of the 2 national parks of the Federal State of Bavaria. The whole park lies within the mountain zone and is covered by forests, largely dominated by spruce at high elevation and beach mixed with silver fir, spruce and other broad leafed trees on the lower slopes. In the "old" part of the Park, natural processes without human intervention occur on 75 % of the surface. The remaining 25 % form a buffer zone with forest and wildlife management, in order to protect the surrounding commercial forest and agriculture land from bark beetle and wildlife damages.

The number of visitors is very high and certainly exceeds 1 million people per year. A very large majority of visitor come from Germany; a growing number of Czech visitors were recorded these last years, in particular since the full opening of the border (Schengen space). Some spectacular visitor's infrastructures have been set up during the recent years; some of them show a particularly interesting model of public – private partnership.

Discussions regarding the forest management and in particular the bark beetle problem have been going on since the creation of the Park. While the 75 / 25 % management principle is now quite well accepted in the "old" part of the park, there is still a strong reluctance toward accepting a similar scheme for the "new" part. It is now expected to reach also the 75 / 25 proportions by the horizon of 2027.

While a very coherent management has been applied for the park, there is currently no formal management plan available. A real management plan is under preparation and should be approved by the State Authority soon.

The park is implementing a high quality research programme, largely in close cooperation with the neighbouring colleagues.

In Germany, the National Parks are under the responsibility of the respective States (Länder). The Bayerischer Wald National Park receives its budget from the Federal State of Bavaria (Freistaat Bayern). Highly competent staffs with the equivalent of about 180 collaborators are in charge of the Park and visitors management

The programme of the evaluation mission was prepared by the Director and his staff. All key management issues were covered and a broad range of topics were discussed. A special attention was paid to the recommendations issued from the previous appraisals and to their implementation progress. The mission could meet some of the key stakeholder, and in particular a representative of the "Bürgerbewegung zum Schutz des Bayerischen Waldes". This association, lead by the former director of the local forest office, is strongly opposed to the current park's management policy, in particular in the "new" (extension) part of the Park.

Despite 40 years of animated discussions on the topic Wilderness – forest management, great progresses have been registered. The Bohemian forest (Germany and Czech sides) constitute a unique European heritage and at the same time an invaluable reference scientifically documented regarding the possible approaches to deal with the bark beetle issues in natural condition, in particular following windfalls of other climatic events. The very stable management system (only 2 park directors in 40 years!) and a long term management vision implemented on a coherent way

are the guarantee for achieving very good results. This management policy should be confirmed and secured for at least a 10 years period in the new management plan.

3. Brief description of the park's main ecosystems and management issues

NB: the situation is very similar in the Sumava National Park and most of the issues addressed in this chapter are also relevant for the Czech side

The park has been described quite in detail in the nomination file, previous appraisal reports and the annual reports from the park itself. Only a few important features for management issues discussed later will be mentioned here.

The Bayerischer Wald National Park is located in the SE part of Bavaria, adjacent to the Czech border, in the heart of the Bohemian forest. The highest mountains reach 1300 – 1400m; the climate is relatively humid with long and harsh winters. The park is covered by forests, namely beech and other types of mixed forests at lower elevation and almost pure spruce forests at higher elevation. The forests in the whole area have been intensively used; the species composition has been largely modified, with large pure spruce forests dominating the landscape today. The natural vegetation would certainly be a mosaic of mixed forests with some stands, in located wet, cold areas, dominated by conifers.

The monospecific and even-aged features of the forests have favoured major so-called “disasters”, mainly a combination of windfalls, snow break and bark beetle massive attack on living or weakened trees. This is not new for the area, historical records showing similar massive attacks in the past. The park policy is in accordance with the IUCN Guidelines for Protected Area Categories (2008) with a non intervention strategy to be applied to 75 % of the territory; of course this means that some areas, left without intervention after a bark beetle attack, look like a dead forest from far away and this for a certain number of years depending upon the location and altitude. However, a close look shows everywhere a very good natural regeneration in all location. It must also be noted that the experimental role of the park in the study of natural processes is now well known and has attracted in the past years large number of scientists and visitors keen to discover by themselves how a natural dynamic works. While this 75 / 25 % policy is fully implemented in original (“old”) part of the park, it will be gradually implemented in the “new” (extension) part until 2027. This deadline has been postponed from 2017 to 2027 under the pressure of the local communities surrounding the new part and of interest groups constituted to fight against the NP administration, under the lead of former foresters.

The buffer zone (25 % of the territory) is located at the margin of the park and is very carefully monitored. Attacked trees are immediately eliminated in order to avoid the spreading of the pest to commercial forests outside of the park. This zone is also used for wildlife management.

Good populations of ungulate are present; the absence of large carnivores (i.g. wolf, brown bear) obliges the park authority to take active game management measures. Lynx have been reintroduced and a stable population is now well established and closely monitored on both sides of the border; however they cannot control the red deer population. Capercaillie and Hazel grouse are regularly observed; several management measures have been implemented in favour of the capercaillie population (restricted access zone, trail closed until mid-July).

4. Park perimeter, park zoning and management plan

The perimeter seems adequate, though the size is probably close to the lower limit to guarantee the integrity and the free development of typical ecosystems. Thus the increasing cooperation with the Sumava National Park is extremely important, and the role of the Nature Park as buffer zone for the National Park should be reinforced.

The zoning is somewhat difficult to understand, with the superposition of intervention / non intervention zones and the free / limited access zones. It might be difficult for visitors to understand why they observe trucks loaded with trees coming from areas with restricted access to

pedestrians! The zoning, in particular in the new part, is still temporary and has to be adapted with certain flexibility; however it would be advisable to consistently aim towards reaching the objective established in the past and not to change the rules according to the circumstance.

The overall policy and its timely implementation should be firmly established with the approval of the authorities in a management plan valid for at least 10 years. Such a plan is under preparation and should be adopted as soon as possible.

5. Management structure

The Park directorate has a very good structure with well defined resort areas. The director has been in function for almost 12 years and is only the second director since the creation of the Park! The director seems extremely popular in the area; he is seconded by an important staff of more than 180 collaborators.

Considerable amount of human and financial resources have been put into the visitors management and infrastructures. Research work and wildlife management also mobilize important resources.

A Kommunaler Nationalpark Ausschuss (community park committee) has been established. It has 2-3 regular meetings per year and is composed of:

- 11 community mayors
- 2 Landräte (head of regional authority)
- 1 representative of the Nature Park

The decisions taken by this committee are implemented when they are approved by the park administration; in case of disagreement, the ministerial authority (Federal State of Bavaria) decides. It appears that the necessity to appeal to the State authority never occurred!

In addition there is a Nationalpark Beirat (advisory committee) with a consultative role; in addition to the previous board it encompasses NGO representatives, scientists, etc.

6. Information, education visitor centres and visitors management

Considerable efforts have been put in the last few years in this sector of activities. An excellent network of information centres and information points is fully operational. Czech language has been added to most information material; translations exist often in English, but not on the boards themselves; this reflects the large majority of local / regional visitors. An extensive description of the 2nd large information centre was provided in the previous appraisal report.

The most spectacular infrastructure is the Tree Top Walk, or Canopy Trail, the longest and highest in Europe, which allows discovering the various aspects and function of the canopy. The bridges bring the visitors from 8 meter to 25 meters height across a typical mixed and old forest stand to the 44-meters Tree Tower with its breathtaking view on the tree tops, the National Park Panorama and the surrounding beautiful cultural landscape. The whole complex had been built and is exploited by a private firm with a concession from the park. This is a particularly interesting example of public – private partnership. Opened in October 2009, it has already attracted more than 200'000 visitors.

A very comprehensive network of buses has been organized in and around the park. All surrounding villages are connected and the buses bring the visitors inside the park on roads that are closed to private traffic. A special fee is included in the hotel bills; a pass for the buses is automatically provided in exchange. While still a large majority of visitors come to the Park with their private vehicle, more and more leave them in the villages parking and use the public transport system.

Another very interesting initiative is the “National Park Partner”. It is a certification for goods and services provided locally (hotels, B&B, shops, etc.); the quality of the products is controlled and services must be performed according to precise ToR.

During the mission a joint meeting of both parks was organized on the border in Bayerisch Eisenstein. The old train station is a very long building which was at the same time border post. It is not used any more and has been transformed into an information centre jointly managed by both countries!



7. Research

A very comprehensive research programme is in place and several research programmes have been conducted for many years. The most important is certainly the monitoring of the bark beetle and the consequences of the management regimes. A special project on bark beetle dispersion is conducted jointly with Berchtesgaden national Park.

Biodiversity and climate: Long term observation help to predict the structure of plant and animal populations and their reaction to changes like climate changes or management interventions.

Special projects address the distribution and ecology of key species, like Hazel grouse, Ural owl and Capercaillie. The park has undertaken a bat inventory and the lynx population is closely monitored including by radio tracking.

Wildlife is also closely monitored as a part of the wildlife management and damage prevention programme.

Many of these activities are conducted jointly or in good collaboration with the Czech colleagues of the Sumava National Park .

8. Main management issues

8.1. Forest regeneration and transformation – bark beetle issue

Most of the forests have been used in the past and as a consequence their composition and structure have been profoundly modified. The overall goal of the national park is to facilitate the return of the forest to their original status and to ensure the free ecosystem development. This is a

long term process which implies that “natural disasters” will happen, the spruce monoculture being particularly sensitive to climatic events (drought, windbreaks) and biological phenomenon (bark beetle attacks).

Different techniques have been applied in order to protect the living trees from the bark beetle and the respective forest areas carefully monitored. In the non intervention zone nothing is done and large areas of standing dead trees can be observed. In the zones in transitions (zones that should become progressively non-intervention areas) attacked trees are either debarked and left on the spot, or logged in order to protect the still intact zones. In the buffer zone the trees are eliminated individually or in small groups as soon as an attack is recorded.

Regeneration is taking place naturally everywhere and is very successful. The composition and growing speed of the new generation of trees greatly vary from place to place, according to the local condition, seed source, altitude, etc. At low elevation, on western and southern exposures, broad leaves trees occur more frequently, while at higher elevation and on eastern and northern exposures spruce still largely dominates the young forest stands.

The fight against the bark beetle on large surfaces in the middle of the park is a “combat d’arrière garde” with very low efficiency. The result will just be a delay but will not “save” the forest as alleged by the opponents to the park administration.

The current levels of wildlife populations are compatible with a natural regeneration of mixed forests; however these populations have to be regulated (see below) due to the absence of large carnivores.

8.2. Ungulate management and large carnivores

Relatively large ungulate population can be found within the park (red and roe deer essentially). No hunting is allowed in the park, and therefore population regulation measures have to be undertaken. These are of two types

- Reduction of the population by selective shooting
- Winter feeding of the deers in a few selected location

The second measure is certainly the most controversial in term of conservation and national park management. The regeneration of young trees does not suffer from wildlife damages in summer, when the food is abundant. However severe damages may occur in winter and spring, when the snow is still covering the ground and food sources are scarce. The well established lynx population contributes to some extent to the game regulation; however the lynx cannot control the red deer population. Bears and wolves are not present in the park, though occasionally passing wolves can be observed.

In autumn and early winter forage is provided in a few fenced places; when the deers are gathered, the fenced areas are closed in order to keep the animals and to prevent browsing in the sensitive areas. The animals are released when the snow has disappeared and natural food supply level is sufficient. This appears to be the only solution allowing the maintenance of a fairly good deer population while allowing the natural regeneration of white fir and various broadleaved trees.

8.3. Relation with surrounding communities

With the establishment of the community park committee the relations with local communities can be qualified of good. However a difference can be seen in the attitude towards the park from the 2 concerned Landkreise (local districts). While the communities around the “old” national park have now, after 40 years, well accepted the principle of non intervention in the whole core area, there is still some resistance in the communities surrounding the “new” part. According to the park direction the change of mind is just a question of time and eventually the situation will be the same everywhere with a large acceptance of the park and the acknowledgment and the benefits it provides.

8.4. Transboundary cooperation

Very good and active transboundary cooperation exists in many areas (research, monitoring, trail marking, information, forest and wildlife management, etc. All these aspects are now integrated under the umbrella of the “Europe’s Wild Hart” project. This cooperation is essential to guarantee a coherent management of the whole area which is the largest wild forest area between Atlantic and Ural. Considerable efforts have been made for a bilingual marking system on the German side; unfortunately this is not the case on the other side.

Many visitors visit both side; however they still usually in large majority wish to stay overnight in their own respective countries. Four transboundary trails have been opened and are widely used by visitors.

The efforts regarding the transboundary cooperation have been recognized with the delivery of the Europarc federation certificate for Transboundary Parks.

9. Progress made regarding the 2006 recommendations

Six recommendations were attached to the 2006 renewal of the European diploma for the Bayerischer Wald National Park. Progress made towards their implementation was largely discussed during the mission.

1. *Maintain close contact with the local population and the 11 districts of the national park with a view to a better acceptance of the principle of non-intervention on 75% or more of the total surface area, especially in the expanded area. This is the prerequisite for the wilderness (Wildniß) concept to make continued progress;*

The principle 75 / 25 % is fully implemented in the "old" part of the park; in order to facilitate the acceptance of the "new" part, the same objective had to be postponed to 2027. It can be reasonably assessed that this objective will be reached on time and that the acceptance will be the same regarding both parts of the park.

The acceptance towards the park is quite good for the "old" park area but is still insufficient in the "new" park area; however one can expect a slow change of minds providing that the park administration can continue implementing its policy with the support of the state authority and the international conservation community. The excellent natural regeneration that can be seen everywhere in the park is the best argument on the long term.

2. *Find ways of ensuring that the “Igelbus” transport network will continue to be financially viable after 2006 since, after ten years in operation, it has proved its efficiency and forms part of the park’s sustainable development;*

The transport system “Igelbusss” is well developed and fully operational. The area can be reached by train. However financial sustainability of the public transportation system is still fragile and should be secured on the long term.

3. *Stand by the principle of land purchase, making a particular effort to raise funds to buy the small enclaves of private forest around the margins of the park;*

This is a very slow process, depending upon opportunities for land purchase or exchange. The funding is not necessarily the main obstacle.

4. *Step up scientific research, particularly the satellite tracking of the lynx, the initial results of which have revealed its movements and daytime activities; seek means of putting original projects into practice such as the study on the forest canopy using cranes;*

Excellent research programs are implementing, several of them in close cooperation with the Czech neighbors. The large project "Wild Heart of Europe" must be especially mentioned. Lynx tracking has already provided comprehensive data; the private project "canopy trail" is providing

access to canopy life for long term research; this is far more efficient than cranes and allows the general public to experience it as well.

5. *Draw up if possible in the framework of the transboundary co-operation with the Sumava National Park (Czech Republic) an overall network plan of paths in order to reduce their impact on species likely to be disturbed, such as the capercaillie;*

The collaboration is functioning very well and many joint initiatives have been undertaken. The mission continued on the Czech side in order to evaluate the candidature of the Sumava National Park .However a joint vision for the whole region (both national parks and surrounding protected areas) integrating both management plans would be highly desirable. Cross border trails have been open and are managed following the same rules. Capercaillie reproduction has been particularly taken into account – closing some of the trails until mid-July.



DRAFT RESOLUTION

On the renewal of the European Diploma of protected areas to the Berchtesgaden National Park

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 (98) 29 on the regulations for the European Diploma for protected areas;

Having regard to Resolution (86)18 on the award of the European Diploma to the Bayerischer Wald National Park in category A;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma on 14-15 March 2011

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

Renews the European Diploma awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park until 18 June 2021

Makes the renewal subject to the following recommendations:

1. Finalize the Management Plan and have it adopted by the state authority by 2012. Secure on a long-term basis the current policy of non intervention in large zones of the park and continue the corresponding scientific monitoring
2. Pursue consequently non intervention policy for 75 % of the forests the old part of the park and progressively implement it in the new park, following the agreed upon objective of achieving the same ration by 2027.
3. Continue targeted interventions to control the bark beetle development outside of the park, but limiting it strictly to the buffer zone (or "bark beetle management" zone)
4. Pursue and develop the dialogue with the local communities; develop the synergies with the Bayerischer Wald Nature Park and assess together the potential for the reestablishment of the Biosphere reserve according to the Sevilla strategy.
5. Pursue the collaboration with the Sumava National Park and develop further synergies. Prepare a joint document "vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to or included in the national parks as an umbrella document leading to a coordinated management and zoning system. Secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border.
6. Maintain and the public transportation network "Igelbuss", secure its financial sustainability on the long-term and possibly develop it across the border in cooperation with Sumava National Park.

Programme
for the visit of Mr Pierre Galland / Consultant for Environment and Development and Mrs Francoise
Bauer / Biological Diversity Unit-Council of Europe in the Bavarian Forest National Park (BFNP)
20 – 21 July 2010
(on the spot appraisal prior to the renewal of the European Diploma)

Tuesday, 20 July 2010: Arrival at the BFNP

- 8:43 a.m. Arrival at Passau railway station
Departure for the BFNP: The transport will be provided by the Park's Ranger Service.
- 9:30 a.m. Headquarters of the BFNP in Grafenau:
Welcome by Mr. Karl-Friedrich Sinner, Park director and Mr. Franz Bichlmeier, representative of the Bavarian Ministry for Environment and Health.
- 9:45 a. m. General introduction
- Basic information about the BFNP
 - Essentials of the last five years
 - The National Park Management Plan
 - The Natura 2000 Management Plan
 - The BFNP – an important component of the regional economy
 - Priority projects in scientific research, environmental education and regional development.
- Participants BFNP: Mr Sinner, Barthmann, Kiener, Wanninger, Dr. Heurich
- 11:30 a.m. Departure for National Park Centre Falkenstein-Rachel: "Haus zur Wildnis" (House of wilderness) and Tier-Freigelände (enclosure area with Stone Age Cave)
- Working lunch
 - Presentation of the new visitor centre by W. Bäuml and Mrs B. Sagmeister
 - Field trip to the high altitude spruce forests at Lakaberg (Mt. Laka): The concept of expanding the nature zones in the Falkenstein-Rachel-section - transboundary bark beetle management.
- Participants BFNP: Mr Sinner, Barthmann, Baierl, Kiener
Participants NGO's: Prof. Hubert Weiger, President of BUND, Germany
- 4:30 p.m. Field trip via the relic forest of "Hans-Watzlik-Hain" to the "Schwellhäusl"
- Visitor management in the BFNP
 - The Bavarian Forest and Šumava – a joint National Park region
- Joint projects:
- > "Beastly Wild" tourism concept to promote and connect National Park Communities in the BF and Š
 - > "National Park Partners" – project to support and connect enterprises of the tourism industry on both sides of the border
- Participants BFNP: Mr Sinner, Barthmann, Kiener, Hußlein, Baums
- Dinner at "Schwellhäusl"

Wednesday, 21 July 2010: Visit to the Rachel-Lusen-section of the BFNP

- 8:00 a.m. Excursion to the high-altitude spruce forests around Mt. Lusen, left alone for 40 years

- Natural regeneration of high-altitude spruce stands after large die-off caused by bark beetles
- Transboundary co-operation in various fields
 - Project “Europe’s wild heart”
 - The Glass ark project
 - New transboundary trails after Czech Republic’s joining of the Schengen treaty and species protection
 - Project Transboundary Park

Participants BFNP: Mr Sinner, Barthmann, Kiener,

12:00 a.m. Working Lunch in the “Waldwirtschaft” near Neuschönau

12:30 a.m. Meeting the District mayor and chair of the Communal National Park Committee, Ludwig Lankl

13:30 a.m. Short visit to the “Hans-Eisenmann-Haus” (visitor centre): Presentation of the concept of renovation by Mrs Dr. Schilz

2:00 p.m. Headquarters of the BFNP Ranger Service near Neuschönau

The BFNP - challenges, chances and perspectives for the regional economy

- Rural Communities: Thomas Müller, mayor of the rural community of Bayerisch Eisenstein
- District authority for agriculture and forestry Regen: Christoph Graf, Director and Head of section forestry
- Tourism: Susanne Wagner, Head of unit at Landratsamt Regen (district administration)
- Public transportation concept: Christina Wibmer, Head of unit at Landratsamt Regen (district administration): The “Igelbus”- Public transportation system – an innovative and successfully transboundary approach
- Economy: Bernd Bayerköhler, marketing director, die ErlebnisAkademie, Kötzting and Elke Stieglmeier, Landhotel „Tannenhof“, Spiegelau
- Press: Andreas Nigl, „Grafenauer Anzeiger“ Grafenau, local journalist and Ivo Maruszyk, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Regionalbüro Passau.

Participants BFNP: Mr Sinner, Barthmann, Kiener, Wanninger

After the meeting opportunity to hike the new canopy trail.

After consultation with the director and colleagues from Šumava NP the common meeting to discuss the co-operation issues is planned for Friday, 23 July around lunchtime or early afternoon.

Resolution ResDip(2006)1 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany)

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 September 2006 at the 974th 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 on the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (86) 18 awarding the European Diploma to the Bayerischer Wald National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas (PE-S-DE(2006)2) at its meeting on 23 and 24 January 2006;

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP),

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bayerischer Wald National Park until 18 June 2011;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Maintain close contact with the local population and the 11 districts of the national park with a view to a better acceptance of the principle of non-intervention on 75% or more of the total surface area, especially in the expanded area. This is the prerequisite for the wilderness (*Wildniß*) concept to make continued progress;
2. Find ways of ensuring that the "Igelbus" transport network will continue to be financially viable after 2006 since, after ten years in operation, it has proved its efficiency and forms part of the park's sustainable development;
3. Stand by the principle of land purchase, making a particular effort to raise funds to buy the small enclaves of private forest around the margins of the park;
4. Step up scientific research, particularly the satellite tracking of the lynx, the initial results of which have revealed its movements and daytime activities; seek means of putting original projects into practice such as the study on the forest canopy using cranes;
5. Draw up if possible in the framework of the transboundary co-operation with the Sumava National Park (Czech Republic) an overall network plan of paths in order to reduce their impact on species likely to be disturbed, such as the capercaillie;
6. Continue the outstanding co-operation with the Sumava National Park, which could lead to the award of the European Diploma to the Czech park or the award of a joint diploma to these two protected areas at the heart of Europe.