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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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Draft Resolutions

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the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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I. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania)

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 CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2006) 10 on the award of the European Diploma to the Piatra Craiului National Park;

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

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

Renews until 27 September 2021 the European Diploma of protected areas to Piatra Craiului National Park;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. complete the process of preparing and approving the new management plan by the end of 2011.

Attaches the following 6 recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure the budget of the National Park so that the PCNP Administration is able to manage it appropriately and obtain all financial resources needed in order to pay the staff on a regular basis;

2. complete the construction and infrastructures of the headquarters, especially the exhibition room and other tourist accommodation, within three years and make particular efforts to raise the appropriate funds to achieve this;

3. elaborate and implement a specific high profile programme devoted to the promotion, preservation and restoration of the local landscape and architecture; this exemplary programme should be performed with the relevant specialists and contribute to making this region the paragon of the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;

4. pursue the scientific work and monitoring of biodiversity in the whole PCNP ; those activities should assess the status and trends of species and habitats, considering the National Park as part of a functional ecosystem and consequently use appropriate methods and indicators that keep the PCNP Administration aware of the global changes to this ecosystem;

5. pay more attention at both central and local forest service levels to the enforcement of the forest law on the National Park's fringe and in the surroundings of the PCNP; the measures taken and the results obtained should be reported to the Council of Europe on an annual basis;

6. pursue the efforts made by the PCNP Administration to address the litter and garbage issues and to engage a new phase of activities that could be facilitated by this Administration; a detailed report on the results of those activities should be sent to the Council of Europe every two years.

II. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and the Vanoise National Park (France)

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

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

Having regard to Resolution ResDip (2006) 9 on the award of the European Diploma to the Gran Paradiso National Park;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip (1976) 14 on the award of the European Diploma to the Vanoise National Park;

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

Taking into consideration the expert's reports presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

Welcoming the wish of the 2 parks to strengthen their cooperation in the field of biodiversity and landscape conservation and to consider both their European Diplomas as "twined" Diplomas.

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to to the Gran Paradiso National Park and to the Vanoise National Park until 18 March 2021

Gran Paradiso National Park:

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. the park management plan must be formally approved before the end of 2012.

Attaches the following 7 recommendations to the renewal:

1. ensure that funding is chiefly provided by the state, the regions and the provinces, and that it is properly integrated with other resources;
2. provide the park with adequate staff at executive level to enable the director to deal with essential tasks, especially strategic issues;
3. actively defend the inclusion of measures to safeguard natural and landscape assets in town-planning proposals and decisions;
4. integrate the value of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans;
5. continue to foster farming activities which are compatible and synergise with biodiversity preservation;

6. avoid all new projects for the catchment of water resources for electricity generation, apart from mini-hydroplants duly authorised by the National Park;

7. establish a scientific advisory council or other mechanism to provide input from the scientific community to the park management.

Vanoise National Park:

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. ensure that there is a buffer zone consistent with the conservation of natural assets, particularly those located in the core area of the park.

Attaches the following 6 recommendations to the renewal:

1. pay close attention to natural and landscape issues when development projects are carried out in the periphery of the park and avoid any direct or indirect impact on the central area;

2. co-ordinate the park's "core" and "optimal buffer zone" objectives with the green and blue infrastructure objectives;

3. ensure that nature and landscape protection interests are fully taken into account when making decisions concerning water resources and the renewal of hydro-power concessions;

4. actively pursue the diagnostic and management measures ensuring that the park's agricultural uses mesh harmoniously with, and are in synergy with, protection of its natural assets;

5. continue to strike a balance between the reception and service functions of refuges and refuge-gates on the one hand, and their information and awareness functions on the other hand, by pursuing the development of facilities for categories of visitors who require special attention, such as people with disabilities;

6. supervise and strictly regulate air sports so as to reduce their adverse impact on the fauna.

Both National Parks

Ask the 2 parks to consider submitting a joint annual report.

III. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany)

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 CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised 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 at its meeting on 13 and 14 March 2011;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bayerischer Wald National Park until 18 June 2021;

Attaches the following 6 recommendations to the renewal:

1. 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 the non intervention policy for 75% of the forests in the old part of the park and progressively implement this policy in the new part, following the agreed objective of achieving the same proportion throughout the National Park 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 (Czech Republic) and develop further synergies; work towards a joint document "Vision for the Bohemian Forest" including all the protected areas adjacent to, or included in, the National Parks as an umbrella document leading to a co-ordinated management and zoning system; secure together a large joint core zone on both sides of the border;
6. maintain the public transportation network "Igelbuss", secure its financial sustainability and possibly develop it across the border in cooperation with Sumava National Park.

IV. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve (France)

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Camargue National Reserve;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 14 and 15 March 2011;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue National Reserve until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. guarantee the implementation of the management plan 2011-2016.

Attaches the following 6 recommendations to the renewal:

1. Study the possibility of reviving co-operation with other deltaic sites awarded the European Diploma (such as the Doñana National Park in Spain or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania);
2. grant sufficient additional resources, both financial and human, in particular with a view to the setting up of a perimeter of protection as laid down in the law of 1976 on nature conservation, so as to guarantee management, surveillance and scientific monitoring;
3. ensure the strict application of limits on discharges of agricultural water into the reserve, particularly into the Vaccarès lagoon, and pursue co-operation with the rice growers in accordance with sustainable development principles, as well as to ensure the implementation of the 5 year action programme as agreed with the different stakeholders;
4. initiate studies for the biological control of invasive species, including plant species such as *Jussiaea repens* (= *Ludwigia peploides*) or *Baccharis halimifolia*, and provide the resources needed for their mechanical or manual control;
5. give a higher profile to the European Diploma and the work of the Council of Europe, particularly in information provided at public reception points and in leaflets on the Camargue National Reserve;

6. control the number of visitors at the periphery of the reserve,
7. prepare a plan for adaptation to climate change, including the rise in sea level.

V. Draft of Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Turkey)

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 (76) 15 awarding the European Diploma to Kuşçenneti National Park;

Taking into consideration the expert's report submitted to the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas at its meeting on 14-15 March 2011;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Kuşçenneti National Park until 14 March 2021;

Attaches the following 4 conditions to the renewal:

1. finalise the revised management plan within 1 year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;
2. submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;
3. regularly and consistently monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and research their populations dynamics particularly at Siğirci Delta and Koçocay Delta;
4. continue the control of pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the Lake and of the streams flowing into it.

Attaches the following 3 recommendations to the renewal:

1. increase the number of staff to meet the exigencies of the park's enlargement;
2. ensure the well-being of the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;
3. set up a small unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) for the protection of the area.

VI. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (Tammisaari) (Finland)

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 CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 30 awarding the European Diploma to the Tammisaari Archipelago National Park;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park until 19 June 2021;

Attaches to the renewal the following condition:

1. within 1 year finalise and complete the approval process of the management plan (master plan), which itself will include the plan to enlarge of the National Park.

Attaches to the renewal the following 6 recommendations:

1. make efforts to implement all aspects of the new management plan;
2. inform the Secretariat of the results of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (State of the Parks Reporting) which will be made on a regular period of 5 years;
3. continue the management of habitat types and species; particular attention should be paid to :
 - the inventory of marine habitats and the development of the methods involved, and
 - the restoration of damaged communities and the control of alien, invasive species;
4. continue to pay close attention to the recreational facilities and educational issues, in particular:
 - improve the safety, quality and quantity of the infrastructure,
 - further develop customer service and interpretation, and
 - raise the public awareness of nature conservation in Ekenäs Archipelago National Park;
5. review and where necessary renew the regulations of the National Park within 2 years;
6. deepen and promote the collaboration with local stakeholders, especially nature tourism operators.

VII. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Seitsemien National Park (Finland)

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 CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (96) 29 awarding the European Diploma to the Seitsemien National Park;

Taking into consideration both the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Seitsemien National Park until 19 June 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. implement the new master plan for the Seitsemien National Park around the year 2014 evaluate if there is a need of a new updated management plan.

Attaches the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

1. inform the Secretariat of the results of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (State of the Parks Reporting) which will be made on a regular period of every 5 years;

2. continue the restoration plans for both mires and forests; continue appropriate grazing of meadows to encourage their biodiversity;

3. Metsähallitus should continue to bring together the community of people with interests in biodiversity so as to foster knowledge transfer and exchange; scientific research should actively continue;

4. deepen the cooperation with local stakeholders, especially local nature tourism entrepreneurs;

5. provide the necessary funding to continue the refreshment of the recreational facilities; customer services and nature interpretation should be further developed.

VIII. Draft resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium)

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

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

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site managers and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes-Fagnes Nature Reserve until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. finalise, by 2015, the updated management plan for the reserve as a whole and provide the human resources necessary to this end.

Attaches the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

1. pursue the restoration of the peatland areas using the new techniques developed under the LIFE programme;

2. continue to acquire privately-owned plots of land inside the reserve and classify those of significant ecological value as publicly-owned nature reserves;

3. continue to raise awareness of the nature reserve's European significance among local inhabitants, peripheral municipalities and decision-makers;

4. continue and intensify the efforts to safeguard the black grouse population in co-operation with the relevant European partners;

5. ensure that the sustainability of the measures taken under the LIFE Programme, which have had a very positive effect, by providing the reserve with a guarantee of sufficient financial and human resources.

IX. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany)

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 CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of protected areas;

Having regard to Resolution (71) 21 awarding the European Diploma to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve;

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site manager and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve until 21 September 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. to draw up a management plan within 3 years in order to guarantee the preservation of the reserve and its cohesion within the larger unit of the nature park.

Attaches the following 7 recommendations to the renewal:

1. implement the management plan (in case of changes in the management of the area, the leading role of the VVS [Verschönerungsverein für das Siebengebirge], whose work to date has been fully satisfactory in the eyes of the Council of Europe, should be maintained;

2. develop a new financial plan together with the local communes and the Rhein-Sieg-District;

3. continue the provision of financial support by the North Rhine Westphalia government;

4. maintain great vigilance regarding the possible construction of new roads;

5. minimise disturbance caused by traffic on all roads crossing the Siebengebirge area and consider the setting up of a system of public transport for visitors;

6. continue investigating the possibility of extending the wilderness area so as to guarantee the preservation of the natural beauty, features, resources and biodiversity of the Siebengebirge as a protected area;

7. encourage the continuation and extension of the scientific research.

X. Draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom)

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 CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (66) 22 awarding the European Diploma to the Peak District National Park;

Taking into consideration the discussions held between the Secretariat and the site managers and the advice of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas ;

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

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Peak District National Park until 28 March 2021;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. complete the review of the national park management plan and continue implementation of the plans and strategies which sit within it;

Attaches the following 11 recommendations to the renewal:

1. secure and enhance the management of existing important key conservation habitats in farmland, especially hay meadows, wetlands, limestone dales and remaining areas of lead mine rakes, particularly through advice and brokerage of agri-environment schemes in conjunction with appropriate partner organisations;

2. halt and reverse the past degradation of heather moorland and blanket bog through moorland management plans, agri-environment schemes and the Moors for the Future Partnership;

3. step up measures to address the decline in breeding populations of priority bird species, particularly lapwing, curlew and snipe on farmland;

4. negotiate agreements to secure appropriate management of ancient and semi-natural woodland sites;

5. implement with partners actions to achieve the targets and objectives set out in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan, 2011 – 2020;

6. maintain at least 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land in favourable or recovering condition on National Park Authority owned land; in addition, implement measures on Authority-owned land to maximise its contribution towards nature conservation and cultural heritage objectives;

7. carry out conservation and community work at a landscape scale through an integrated area-based management approach;
8. implement the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the national park and continue to work with partner organisations, local communities and English Heritage to achieve targets;
9. continue to provide encouragement to small scale economic schemes linking conservation of the environment of the Peak District to economic benefit;
10. only authorize extensions of existing mineral workings to meet essential national needs (i.e. only if the minerals are not available elsewhere or are needed to provide traditional building materials in the park); seek restoration of mineral sites to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park;
11. continue to develop tourism activities in a way that protects and enhances both the interests of the community and environment and supports the local economy; ensure that the National Park Authority meets the requirements of an application for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism; increase the proportion of visitors using sustainable methods of travel.