
Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)12 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Dobročský Prales¹ National Nature Reserve (Slovak Republic)

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 July 2018
at the 1321st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

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

Having regard to Resolution Res(98)28 on the award of the European Diploma to the Dobročský Prales National Nature Reserve (Slovak Republic);

Having regard to Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)11 on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Dobročský Prales National Nature Reserve (Slovak Republic);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 21 and 22 February 2018;

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

Noting that holding the European Diploma implies the maintenance of exceptional European interest, the continuance of exemplary management and compliance with the provisions of Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1, especially with regard to the obligations to report annually and to give appropriate visibility to the European Diploma,

Renews the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Dobročský Prales National Nature Reserve until 18 September 2028;

Attaches the following condition to the renewal:

1. conduct a study involving all stakeholders to verify the necessity of a new forest road into the buffer zone and identify measures guaranteeing a least-intervention solution to minimise the impact of the road, provided that the construction is not carried out during the vegetation period and in the breeding season, and that the felling itself does not include heavy machinery; a natural re-cultivation of the road should be foreseen once the forestry work has been carried out; report to the Council of Europe before starting the road works;

Attaches the following four recommendations to the renewal:

1. add a chapter on scientific research to the management plan defining clearly the needs of the management of the nature reserve and including a timetable to avoid surveys that are not directly connected to the further development of the area;

¹ The word "Prales" was erroneously missing in the previous resolutions awarding (Resolution Res(98)28) and renewing (CM/ResDip(2012)11) the European Diploma for Protected Areas but has now been added following respective information provided by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic by letter dated 26 March 2018.

2. develop, according the precautionary principle, a strategy on how to deal with invasive alien species, in case of their appearance;
3. prepare a study on the effects of climate change and global warming, both on the nature reserve itself and on the regional forests, including a strategy on how to manage the surrounding forest to avoid negative impact in the nature reserve;
4. explore the possibility of moving the exhibition from the Skalicou cottage to the Forestry Museum.