



The Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal) becomes the 73rd area awarded the European Diploma of Protected Areas

On 2 July 2014, the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal) was awarded the European Diploma of Protected Areas. This recognition acknowledges the European significance of the area which harbours a large number of endemic, threatened or vulnerable species of flora and fauna and has unique and remarkable landscapes. The Desertas Nature Reserve is composed of three Macaronesian islands of volcanic origin of great ecological importance at both the regional and European level.

The European Diploma of Protected Areas is a prestigious international award granted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the proposal of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention. It is awarded to natural or semi-natural areas or landscapes of exceptional European interest for the conservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity and which are managed in an exemplary way.

Moreover, the European Diploma is an important monitoring tool, which places the diploma holding areas under the supervision of the Council of Europe. The diploma is awarded for a five year period, and is renewable every ten years.

As of today, 73 areas received the diploma and two others are candidates. They are located in 29 European countries, both member and non-member states of the Council of Europe.

For more information on this prestigious award, please visit the [website of the European Diploma of Protected Areas](#).

For more information on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal), please consult Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2014\)1](#).

Contact: Tatiana State Masson tatiana.state-masson@coe.int
 Tania Braulio tania.braulio@coe.int