

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2020)15
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 23 september 2020
at the 1384th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2025

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. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: ITALY

Name of the area: Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
1985 first award, 2020 last renewal

Central authority concerned:

Name: Arma dei Carabinieri – Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità

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Tel: 06/4665

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità di Pratovecchio

Address: Via Dante Alighieri Pratovecchio, 41 I 52015 PRATOVECCHIO STIA (AR)

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¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

N/A

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination on coherent management with the Casentino Forest National Park and national, regional and local authorities, especially in regard to visitor management and the management of wild ungulates and large carnivores;
no changes have been recorded compared to previous years. Research activities have been carried out within the Integral Nature Reserve and in the buffer area represented by the Casentino Biogenetic Nature Reserves, in close coordination with the Foreste Casentinesi, Monte Falterona and Campigna National Park. Visitors access is permitted exclusively upon authorization by the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità in Rome, in line with the provisions for the protection of natural habitats. The management of wild ungulates and large carnivores is limited to monitoring activities, conducted in collaboration with the Park Authority, in accordance with the obligations for the conservation of protected species.

2. the nature reserve should continue to stand out as a reference for nature protection in the region;
the Pratovecchio Department of Carabinieri for Biodiversity has maintained collaborative relationships with universities and research institutes for multidisciplinary studies on the Reserve. Within the framework of national conferences (this year, in particular, a conference was held in Camaldoli entitled: “Sasso Fratino: a unique model of biodiversity conservation”) and in schools of all levels, we have provided information about the characteristics and importance of the integral reserve, which continues to serve as a reference point for nature protection.

3. prepare and secure funding for a long-term monitoring programme. National park policy documents should encourage high-quality scientific research within the reserve and the whole national park area;
in the integral nature reserve and the adjacent reserves, research activities have been funded through the ongoing after LIFE projects; part of the research is financed by the park authority and part by the Carabinieri Biodiversity Unit in collaboration with several research institutes and universities. During 2025, monitoring activities financed by the Ministry of the Environment within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan began. The project, entitled “Pilot studies for the monitoring of wildlife in National Parks”, aims to produce comparable data across the parks, enabling analyses on species distribution, their trends, and their responses to environmental stressors.

4. pay special attention to the management of the buffer zone, using all existing legal instruments, taking into account the requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage and of the European Diploma;
The Sasso Fratino Reserve and the surrounding biogenetic reserves are managed by the Pratovecchio Department of Carabinieri for Biodiversity, which pays particular attention to their integrated management in compliance with the requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage and the European Diploma. Interventions on the bands of biogenetic nature reserves bordering Sasso Fratino are very limited or absent; in this sense, the reserves constitute a buffer zone. During 2025, the management plan of the Camaldoli Biogenetic Nature Reserve was drawn up. The Camaldoli plan (currently under approval), which will serve as a model for future management plans of State reserves, has a conservation-oriented approach. It was developed to be a technical and administrative tool aimed at ensuring the protection and enhancement of the forest heritage, focusing on the conservation of biodiversity and ecological balance, ecological stability by guaranteeing the resilience of the forest system to natural events and

anthropogenic pressures, and cultural and scientific enhancement by promoting its educational, recreational, and research functions.

5. avoid any further damage in the buffer zone, such as the laying of new roads or significant improvement work on the ski slopes;

there are no plans to alter the status of these areas or to build new ski slopes or roads. The Province of Forlì-Cesena (the concessionaire of the area) has submitted a project to replace the existing ski lift in the Campigna Biogenetic Nature Reserve, within Zone C of the park (Article 14 of the Planning Regulations), specifically in Zone C3: these are areas where sports activities are carried out, mainly related to winter sports. The project is currently under approval and will involve replacing the outdated lift with a new-generation system. If authorized, the work will be carried out in 2026.

6. include, in the management plan currently in preparation and in the Casentino Forest National Park management plan, specific provisions dedicated to climate change (including research needs) and how to address this issue in relation to the long-term conservation of threatened and rare species;

the management plan for the Camaldoli Nature Reserve, in the buffer area (currently under approval), provides for long-term monitoring programs to study vegetation dynamics, with particular attention to responses to climate change and the conservation of the site's naturalness. No other plan is currently under development.

7. limit the visits to the core area to researchers and people with a genuine interest in the site and other visitors to the buffer zone;

visits to the integral reserve have been limited and are strictly related to institutional and scientific purposes and therefore reserved for qualified individuals, such as researchers, administrators, public officials, and students. Access is authorized exclusively for activities of study, monitoring, training, and management, in line with the objectives of conserving and enhancing the natural heritage.

8. use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, and encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo.

the Diploma logo is regularly affixed to our publications, and we urge partners and stakeholders to make consistent use of it in publications concerning the integral nature reserve and the state nature reserves that serve as buffer areas for the diploma zone and the UNESCO site.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There have been no changes in the management of the site in 2025

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No changes to report.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

1) Biodiversity conservation and protection activities

a_ the following researches are currently underway:

- Monitoring of amphibians in collaboration with National Park and University of Florence

- LIFE18 NAT/IT/000931 STREAMS, September 2019 - December 2023. Improving the conservation status of mediterranean trout populations *Salmo cettii* through combined actions aimed at eliminating the sources of introgression and improving the quality of the species habitats. In the afterlife phase seeding of juvenile stages of Mediterranean trout in the stream of the Ridracoli river basin, outside the boundaries of the integral reserve, which in past years had already been subject to the eradication of exotic trout populations, and located within the State's biogenetic nature reserves.
- Monitoring of Northern Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) – Camera trap monitoring in the Integral Natural Reserve and in the Biogenetics Natural Reserves – Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Pratovecchio.
- Camera trap monitoring in the Foreste Casentinesi Monte Falterona e Campigna Nazionale Park and Casentinesi Biogenetics Natural Reserves – University of Study of Florence – National Park – Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Pratovecchio.
- Analysis of the relationships between structure and plant biodiversity of old forests, in collaboration with CREA-FL (Council for agricultural research and the analysis of the agricultural, forests and wood economy) and the University of Camerino.
- “Old But Gold. Restoring old – growth forests to build effective climate – change mitigating landscapes” – University of Tuscia, Department of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences.
- Research activity on forest biodiversity with a multi-taxonomic approach, in collaboration with CREA Defense research and certification center in Florence and CREA Forest and wood research center in Arezzo.
- Master's thesis on “National Biodiversity Futur Center” – University of Tuscia, Department of Ecological and Biological Sciences.
- Continuous monitoring of the main tree species and forest stands (Forest and Wood Research Center).
- Study of the interactions between nests of the ant *Formica paralugubris* and the vertebrates present in the biogenetic nature reserve of Campigna (University of Florence).
- Monitoring activities promoted by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security within the framework of the NRRP in the National Parks:
 - bioacoustic monitoring of bat populations in the park (Cooperativa Dream Italia);
 - census and monitoring of known bat colonies in the park (Massimo Bertozzi);
 - monitoring of nesting bird species in the park (Coop. Dream Italia and Coop. Sterna);
 - monitoring of amphibians and afterlife activities of the Life Wetflyamphibia project (Sandro Piazzini);
 - monitoring of Lepidoptera within the framework of the “Pollinators” directive (Sandro Piazzini);
 - Monitoring of Apoidea and Syrphidae within the framework of the “Pollinators” directive (Stefano Tempesti);
 - monitoring of Mediterranean trout populations (Andrea De Paoli).
- Afterlife phase of the European volunteer project ESC360 (Carabinieri Command for Forestry and Environmental Units)

2) Didactics, popularization and promotion

Guided tours have been carried out for researchers, technicians, scholars, and photographers; in particular, visits were conducted with students from the universities of Bologna were accompanied for teaching exercises and with technicians from the Union of Mountain Municipalities Valdarno Valdisieve.

- May 8, 2025 – On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the awarding of the European Diploma to the Reserve, the national conference “The Integral Nature Reserve of Sasso Fratino – A unique model of biodiversity conservation” was held in Camaldoli (AR).
- May 9, 2025 – Guided tour of the reserve as part of the national conference.

- October 2, 2025 – “The State Nature Reserve of Sasso Fratino as an example of nature conservation and restoration” (Ten. Col. Paola Ciampelli) – presentation within the framework of the international conference “Ancient Forests and Old Trees – A treasure of nature, life and culture.” – Vallombrosa Abbey (FI).

- November 8, 2025 – Livorno – Presentation of the photographic exhibition and unique jewelry “If You Look at Me, I Exist” by Sara Pescia.

The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

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

- 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

8. Education and scientific interest

- 8.1. Visitors – Information policy
 - 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 8.2. Scientific research
 - 8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

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

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

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

- 10.1. Improvements made
 - 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
 - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
 - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

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