

**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 2024

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

Address: Via Giosuè Carducci, 5 – I – 00187 ROMA

Tel: 06/4665

Fax: 06/4820660

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www: www.carabinieri.it

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità di Pratovecchio

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

Tel: 0575/583763

Fax: 0575/504085

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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 compared to previous years. The research activities have been carried out within the integral nature Reserve and in the buffer area represented by the casentino biogenetic nature reserves, taking care of the coordination with the Foreste Casentinesi, Monte Falterona and Campigna national park and taking into account the indications coming from the park's plan. Visitors are allowed to enter only if authorized by the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità in Rome, while the management of wild ungulates and carnivores solely consists of monitoring activities carried out in coordination with the Park Authority.
2. the nature reserve should continue to stand out as a reference for nature protection in the region;
the Pratovecchio Department (Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Pratovecchio) has maintained collaborative relationships with universities and research institutes for multidisciplinary studies of the Reserve. In the context of national conferences and in schools of all levels, we proceeded to inform about the characteristics and significance of the integral reserve which continues to represent a reference for the protection of nature.
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 adjacent reserves, research activities have been financed by the funds of the after LIFE projects in progress; part of the research is funded by the park authority and part by the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità in collaboration with some research institutions and universities.
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 which pays particular attention to their integrated management in compliance with the requirements of the UNESCO world heritage and the European Diploma. The interventions on the bands of biogenetic nature Reserves bordering Sasso Fratino are very limited or missing, in this sense the reserves constitute a buffer zone.
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 change the state of these places and make new ski runs or roads. By 2024 the Province of Forlì Cesena (the concessionaire of the ski slopes in the Campigna reserve) will present a project to replace the existing ski lift with another of the same type.
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 will be drawn up by 2025 this plan, the Natura 2000 site plan currently under preparation by Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità

and the UNESCO world heritage plan - which is going to development by University of Tuscia - provide for long-term monitoring plans to study the dynamics of vegetation with specific focus on the response to climate change and the conservation of the site's naturalness.

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 contained and they are authorized for reasons strictly linked to research and university-level education, related to the conservation of the ecosystems. To reduce the number of internal presences and to select the type of visitors, but trying at the same time to satisfy other types of visitors, alternative routes of considerable environmental interest have been proposed outside the integral nature Reserve.

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 push for the partners and stakeholders to make regular use of it in publications concerning the nature integral reserve.

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 were no management changes in 2024. Centrally funded research bodies will work on the implementation of conservation objectives and measures in Natura 2000 sites.

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 reported.

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.**
- **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.**
- **- 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**
- **Monitoring forestry surveyes in the area of traps for saproxylic insects, in collaboration with Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Verona.**
- **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.**

- Paleontological reconstruction of the Casentino forests – University of Milano – Bicocca – Laboratory of palynology and paleoecology CNR – IGAG.
- “Old But Gold. Restoring old – growth forests to build effective climate – change mitigating landscapes” – University of Tuscia, Department of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences.
- Genetic characterization of fir trees in the National Park – Institute of Biosciences of Bioresources (IBBR – CNR).
- 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.
- Study on the evaluation of the role of structurally complex forests as climate refuges for plant biodiversity – University of Bologna, Department of biological, geological and environmental Sciences.
- Study on *Pycnoporellus fulgens* and genus *Hericium* – ISPRA, ISPS CNR.

2) Didactics, popularization and promotion

- Students from the universities of Bologna were accompanied for teaching exercises.
- Promotional activities were carried out during events organized at local and national level.
- SRF Public channel 3sat – Documentary.
- Albolina Film GmbH srl - Documentary.
- Mario Calabresi – “Il tempo del bosco” (narrative).

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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