

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

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008  
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)<sup>1</sup>*

**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2021**

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:**

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.  
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

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; **the research activities are being 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 consists solely of monitoring activities carried out in coordination with the Park Authority. Next to the Reserve (in the Lama forest), the camera trapping activity highlighted the presence of an individual of the raccoon species captured last October, as part of the eradication activity envisaged by the containment plan of the species shared with the Park Authority and the Region.**

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) maintained relations with universities and research institutes for multidisciplinary studies of the Reserve. Through television and press, we proceeded to inform about the characteristics and significance of the integral reserve at regional and national level.**

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 carried out linked to the loans received with the LIFE projects in progress; part of the research is funded by the park authority and part by the Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità and 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, the reserves in this sense 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.**

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; **both the Natura 2000 site plan currently under preparation by Raggruppamento Carabinieri Biodiversità and the UNESCO world heritage plan which is also under 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'll 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 have been no changes in management in 2021 but there has been an increase in finance for plans within the 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:

- LIFE14 NAT/IT/000759 "WetFlyAmphibia"- Aimed at improving the conservation status of five population of species included in Amphibians Community interest (*Bombina variegata* declining at national level, *Salamandrina terdigitata* and *Triturus carnifex*) butterflies (*Euplagia quadripunctaria* \*, priority species, *Eriogaster catax*) and their habitats, and also the habitat of Community interest 6430 (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels) within the Natura 2000 sites included in the Casentino biogenetic National Reserves and National Forest Park. <http://www.lifewetflyamphibia.eu/it/>
- LIFE18 NAT/IT/000931 STREAMS, September 2019 - December 2023. Improve the conservation status of mediterranean trout populations *Salmo cetti* through combined actions aimed at eliminating the sources of introgression and improving the quality of the species habitats.
- LIFE 17ESC/IT/001 ESC360 – Monitoring of saproxylic beetles and other animals included in the Habitat Directive.
- LIFE GOPROFOR – Application of the IBP index – identification of habitat plants using the potential biodiversity index technique (I.B.P.).
- Project Sabiod - Scaled Acoustic Biodiversity - Study of the soundscape in areas with different levels of protection and anthropization -University of Pavia - Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences - Interdisciplinary Centre for bioacoustics and environmental research in collaboration with 'University of Toulon - LSIS.
- 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 of Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in the Casentinesi Biogenetics Natural Reserves and Integral Natural Reserve of Sasso Fratino – Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità di Pratovecchio
- National monitoring of Wolf (*Canis lupus*) - ISPRA (Italian institute for environmental protection and research) in collaboration with Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Pratovecchio.
- National genetic investigations of *Acer opalus*, in collaboration with Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità of Verona.

- **Monitoring forestry surveys 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.**
- **Biodiversity of Soil Bacterial Communities from the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve – University of Florence - (article in Microbiology Research – November 2021)**

## **2) Didactics, popularization and promotion**

- **Multi-taxon biodiversity sampling and monitoring organized as part of a training school, in collaboration with CREA-FL;**
- **Forestry surveys for degree theses (University of Florence) – “Metodi innovativi per l’identificazione, caratterizzazione e gestione dei boschi vetusti in ambiente Mediterraneo” (Innovative methods for the identification, characterization and management of the old forests in a Mediterranean environment).**
- **A rare example of an Ancient Apennine Forest – Excursion by the students of Forestry Sciences from the University of Florence;**
- **Entomological research on *Rhysodes sulcatus*, species included in annex II of the habitat directive in collaboration with Lestes Association.**
- **Wildlife monitoring of bats, birds and amphibians, in collaboration with Cooperative DREAM Italia and Cooperative STERNA.**
  
- **Corriere della Sera – Article “Natura allo stato di natura” - 19 October**
- **RAI2 TG2 Dossier – Italia, un patrimonio per l’UNESCO - 8 November**

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**

