



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
 CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
 Committee of Ministers  
 Comité des Ministres

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**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 2020**

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: SPAIN

Name of the area: DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:  
 11

**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.

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.

1. the Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Port of Sevilla development projects have no significant environmental impact on the Doñana ecosystems. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a complementary study to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report;

There have been no variations regarding this matter. The project has been dismissed by the Spanish authorities and has disappeared from hydrological planning documents.

2. the Andalusian Government, responsible for the management of the national park and also for water management, should ensure the high quality of water entering the national park and eliminate the illegal extraction of groundwater; in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, it should monitor the status of the aquifer underlying the national park and surrounding lands, the extent of groundwater extraction and the water quality;

Every year the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation (CHG) presents a specific report that aims to quantitatively analyze and interpret the piezometric information available throughout the corresponding hydrological year. To do this, it uses an indicator with bounded values between 1 and 0 and is carried out by sectors defined based on of hydrogeological criteria, regional distribution of extractions and the location of points in the current control network. The values obtained are analyzed within the framework of a time series of monthly data that begins in 1993/1994, so that the series is now 25 years old.

The conclusions of the last year (2018-2019 cycle) especially sectorize the state of the water bodies into three large categories:

- An area with a piezometric state in accordance with the rainfall and without a significant downward trend. It is a continuous strip that groups the coast, the dune cord, the Marisma and the Arroyo de la Rocina. It includes the Coastal Zone, Abalarío, Lagunas de Doñana, Marismas, Vera-Retuerta and La Rocina stream sectors. The Coastal Zone sector is included at the limit of significance and whose evolution must be monitored. This area basically and specifically coincides with the park.

- An area with a piezometry markedly lower than that which would be expected from rainfall and a significant downward trend. It forms a band with a southwest-northeast orientation and 5 and 10 km wide that borders the limits of the National Park between Cortijo del Alamillo and El Rocío (except for the Rocina stream) and continues from there to Villamanrique de la Condesa. It is characterized by two large cones of piezometric depression in relation to the levels measured in 1995, one located north of El Rocío and the other south of Villamanrique. It includes the North and South sectors of Arroyo de la Rocina, North of Rocío-Villamanrique, Intermediate Sector, North Ecotone and South of Villamanrique-free aquifer.

- An intermediate zone with three sectors with a value of the piezometric indicator lower than that expected from rainfall and with a statistically significant trend in the indicator, but not in the piezometric levels (North Zone, South La Rocina stream and headwaters sectors North of the Rocina) or the other way around (South of Villamanrique confined).

The evolution of this situation in recent years has shown a relative stabilization of the indicators, despite being in a context of low rainfall in a cycle without wet years lasting almost a decade, in which half have been dry years and the other half has barely reached average rainfall.

The different and numerous interventions that have been carried out around water management (irrigation management, hydrological planning, water police, modernization of irrigation, acquisition of farms and water rights, transfers, substitution of extractions from the aquifer by contributions surface, etc.) have undoubtedly been a turning point in the evolution of these indicators, although it will take enough time to be able to gauge the true effect of these actions.

One of the most decisive actions in the efforts being made to correct the problems of the Doñana aquifer is undoubtedly the implementation of the Special Plan for the Management of the Forest Crown of Doñana (PEOCFD), as well as the program of complementary measures to the same, approved by Decree 178/2014, of December 16. The following stand out:

- The substitution of groundwater for surface water from the neighboring Tinto Odiel and Piedras basin continues.
- Reorganization of the supply wells to the tourist center of Matalascañas, moving to the West the two closest to the lagoons of the National Park
- Approval of the Annual Plan for extractions in the Almonte-Marismas groundwater mass, based on the technical report on the status of the mass produced by the Geological Mining Institute of Spain (IGME).
- On August 24, 2020, the announcement of the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation was published in BOE No. 226 declaring the underground water masses ES050MSBT00055105 "La Rocina", ES050MSBT00055101 "Almonte" and ES050MSBT00055102 "Marismas" as not at risk reach the good quantitative status and the groundwater mass ES050MSBT00055105 "La Rocina" as at risk of not reaching the good chemical status.
- Review of 298 files on water rights, which has implied the extinction of 75 files
- Groundwater extractions have been replaced by surface waters from the transfer from the Tinto, Odiel and Piedras basin.
- The resolution of the procedure for granting water to the C.R. El Fresno will involve replacing 1.6 hm<sup>3</sup> of groundwater with surface water for 318 ha and the closure of 150 wells, which will be added to the 446 already closed since the start of the actions.
- These reductions in extractions are added to the withdrawal of irrigation from 922 hectares corresponding to the farm called "Los Mimbrales", cited in previous reports.

**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. all efforts should be made to restore the good ecological state of the river at the level of its catchment (river basin or water basin), within the meaning of the Water Framework Directive; all appropriate measures should be taken in order to make water use and other activities, especially agricultural activities, in this catchment (basin) compatible with this aim;

In this regard, the same situation remains with respect to the situation of the ecological status of the Guadalquivir river at the basin level.

Currently, the Third Cycle of Hydrological Planning of the Guadalquivir River Basin District is being drafted. So far, the public information process for the Important Issues Scheme (EpTI) has been concluded.

This new planning cycle will incorporate in its environmental assessment a specific chapter about Doñana, which will ensure the conservation of its values in the framework of a basin as vast as the Guadalquivir in which Doñana represents only 2.2% of its surface.

The EpTI actually incorporates a specific data sheet for Doñana, with a characterization of the area, a description of the determining factors, the definition of the pressures, the determination of the quantitative and qualitative state of the water masses, the identification of the impacts, an analysis of the evolution of the water bodies, a proposal of objectives and measures, an analysis of alternatives and a list of decisions to be adopted for the future Plan. In this data sheet includes a specific section on the situation of the National Park.

2. a specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be drawn up;

The Natural Area has a Self-Protection Plan against hydrocarbon spills and is a priority area in the Andalusian forest fire plan: INFOCA Plan.

There have been no changes compared to last year's report

3. the implementation of the action plans for the conservation of the flagship species, in particular the Iberian lynx and the Imperial eagle, should be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be drawn up if needed;

As reported in previous reports, different conservation plans continue to be developed for the most emblematic species of Doñana:

- Recovery plan for the Iberian lynx
- Recovery plan for the Iberian imperial eagle.
- Plan for the recovery and conservation of ghouls
- The Steppe Bird Recovery and Conservation Plan,
- The Plan for the recovery and conservation of wetland birds,
- The Aquatic Invertebrates and Fish Conservation and Recovery Plan
- The Plan of Dunes and Coastal Cliffs.

The population of Iberian Lynx from Doñana, in addition to having served as the founding nucleus for the Captive Breeding Program for the Iberian Lynx (Lynx Ex-situ), has managed to double its population since it began and stabilize it at around 90 individuals.

Specifically, the Doñana-Aljarafe population behaves like a metapopulation composed of several nuclei. The location of these nuclei includes the Doñana Natural Area and peripheral areas without a protection figure, the area of the pine forests of Aznalcázar - La Puebla del Río having a special importance. One of the most important data in this recovery has been the substantial increase in territorial females, which has tripled their number, from 9 to 26.

Regarding the imperial eagle, as of 2005 this trend was changed through the Urgent Measures Program. This turning point led to a relative recovery of the species that managed to achieve in 2016 reaching the figure of 16 chickens that reach the flight phase, the second historical maximum of reproduction of the species since data is available. As of this date, the annual reproductive balance has been reinstated between 8 and 10 chickens per year, a figure somewhat higher than the average of 7.8 chickens / year

4. concerning the Port of Sevilla development projects, the Spanish authorities should avail itself of the best international scientific expertise and also take account of the relevant international conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Bern Convention, and work closely with the relevant international bodies, including the European Union and the European Environment Agency;

As reported in the section corresponding to Condition 1, this project has been officially rejected by the Spanish state

5. the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011;

The current planning of the Doñana Natural Area has been in force since September 2016 (Decree 142/2016, of August 2, published in the Official Gazette of the Junta de Andalucía of September 26, 2016).

6. the extension of the Doñana 2005 Project to riparian vegetation, correcting erosion problems or extending its scope to adjacent areas of agricultural marsh, should be undertaken;

These measures have not yet been implemented, suffering a significant delay, mainly due to the implementation of the Special Plan for the Management of Irrigation Located to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana.

Said planning will most likely be developed within the framework of the third planning cycle of the Guadalquivir river basin where a specific section of actions on Doñana will be included.

7. the possibility of developing co-operation with other European Diploma sites which are deltas, such as the Camargue National Reserve (France) or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania), should be explored.

The Doñana Natural Area has had a twinning agreement with the Camargue Regional Natural Park since 2008, which expired in 2020 and the procedures for its renewal have begun.

Regarding the Danube Delta, no progress has been made in the management of a cooperation and development project with this wetland.

**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.

In terms of personnel, the figures are similar to those of previous years, with a workforce of approximately 113 workers and a similar number of personnel linked to different projects that support the management of the protected area. Investment in the National Park during 2020 will remain at values similar to those of 2019.

**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.

There have been no changes in the boundaries of the national park

**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.

In response to the decision taken at the 38th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Berne Conventions, the certifications and designations that overlap with the Doñana European Diploma are as follows:

World Heritage.  
Ramsar site  
Biosphere Reserve.  
Sites of Community Importance.  
Special Areas of Conservation.  
Special Protection Area for Birds.  
IUCN Green List