



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

CM/ResDip(2008)1

**Resolution
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)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year

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:
2011, 11 años

Central authority concerned:

Name: JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA. CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERÍA, PERCA Y
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Authority responsible for its management:

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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.
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.

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 changes in this matter. The project has been rejected by the Spanish authorities and has been removed from the 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;

Each year the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation (CHG) presents a specific report that aims to analyse and quantitatively interpret the piezometric information available throughout the corresponding hydrological year. For this purpose, it uses an indicator with values between 1 and 0 and is carried out by sectors defined based on hydrogeological criteria, regional distribution of abstractions and location of the points of the current control network. The values obtained are analysed within the framework of a time series of monthly data starting in 1993/1994, which means that the series is now twenty-five years old.

The conclusions of the latest report issued by this body, corresponding to the 2019-2020 hydrological cycle, follow the same line as in previous years.

Overall, the set of piezometers used has an average value of the le indicator of 0.39, the same as that of the pluviometry for the year 2019-2020 (454 mm). The above analyses make it possible to sectorize its status into three main categories

- Zone with a piezometric state in accordance with the climatology. This is a continuous strip that includes the entire dune area and its discharge area, the marsh and the Arroyo de la Rocina. It includes the Abalarío, Lagunas de Doñana, Vera-Retuerta, Marismas and Arroyo de la Rocina sectors.
- Area with a piezometric state markedly lower than would be expected from the rainfall and with a significant downward trend. It forms a band 5 - 10 km wide that borders the limits of the National Park between El Rocío and Villamanrique de la Condesa. It is characterized by two large cones of piezometric depression in relation to the elevations measured in 1995, one located north of El Rocío and the other south of Villamanrique. It includes the sectors north Arroyo de la Rocina, north of El Rocío, intermediate sector, North Ecotono, south of Villamanrique - free aquifer and south headwaters of La Rocina.

The coastal sector is also included, with a lower-than-expected value of le and a significant decreasing trend, although without data from the large area south of Matalascañas.

- Zone in an intermediate situation, with three sectors with a piezometric indicator value lower than expected from rainfall and with a statistically significant trend in the indicator, but not in the piezometric levels (sectors north Zone, south of Arroyo de la Rocina, north Headwaters of La Rocina and Marismas) or the other way around (south of Villamanrique confined).

Among the positive aspects, the sustained improvement of the South Sector of Arroyo de la Rocina stands out, which, if it continues, will allow it to move to the category of the best state. This improvement is very important news, as it allows us to detect the beneficial effects of the actions carried out, such as the closing of wells and the removal of crops from about 1000 hectares around Mimbrales.

Among the negatives aspects, Marismas shows for the first time a statistically significant negative trend, although its direct relationship with terrestrial ecosystems is scarce, and that the trend of the Coastal Zone, which until recently was in a positive situation, has not been reversed.

Among the measures adopted to make further progress in the recovery of the Doñana aquifer system for the next hydrological planning cycle is the Declaration (July 16, 2020) of the groundwater bodies ES050MSBT00055105 "La Rocina", ES050MSBT00055101 "Almonte" and ES050MSBT00055102 "Marismas" as at risk of not reaching good quantitative status and the groundwater body ES050MSBT00055105 "La Rocina" as at risk of not reaching good chemical status, according to the provisions of Article 56 of the TRLA, making this declaration effective after its publication in August 20, 2020 BOE (State Official Gazette). This declaration is the most powerful legal instrument existing in the state regulations to be able to act in the bodies of water at risk to achieve good status.

-Likewise, since 2014, work has been carried out on the implementation of the Special Irrigation Management Plan for irrigated lands located to the north of the Doñana Forest Crown, through which numerous actions have been carried out. From the last report issued by the Monitoring Commission in June, the following actions can be highlighted:

- Intense remote sensing work to determine the areas currently under irrigation and the adjustment of these areas to the zoning foreseen in the plan.
- Investment of €636,000 in actions to improve the hydrological network in the municipalities of Bonares, Lucena del Puerto and Moguer.
- Demarcation of 197.94 km of public forests.
- Environmental restoration of environments degraded by the deposit of agricultural waste in the Special Plan for the Management of the Forest Crown of Doñana (PEOCFD) area, specifically in the municipalities of Almonte, Lucena del Puerto and Moguer,
- Initiation of 224 sanctioning proceedings in FORESTRY matters in the municipalities of Almonte (3), Bonares (23), Lucena del Puerto (130), Moguer (59) and Rociana (9). The amount of the penalties imposed, both in proposed resolutions and in Resolutions, is estimated at a total of €1,413,064.09.
- Initiation of 128 sanctioning proceedings in WATER matters in the municipalities of Bonares (8), Lucena del Puerto (83) and Moguer (37). The amount of the sanctions imposed, both in proposed resolutions and in Resolutions, is estimated at a total of €140,563.07.

In the Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation, according to the information obtained through satellite images, the CHG has carried out 450 inspections, sometimes with the support of SEPRONA agents of the Civil Guard of Huelva. In the area of the Northern Crown, between 2020 and 2021, 101 sanctioning proceedings have been initiated for water abstraction and 93 sanctioning proceedings have been resolved.

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 respect, the same situation is maintained regarding the ecological status of the Guadalquivir river at basin level. The Third Hydrological Planning Cycle of the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Demarcation is currently being drafted and is in its last stage of public information.

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

The Scheme of Important Issues included a specific 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 status of the bodies of water, the identification of the impacts, an analysis of the evolution of the bodies of water, a proposal of objectives and measures, an analysis of alternatives and a list of decisions to be adopted for the future Plan. This sheet includes a specific section on the situation of the National Park.

The document submitted for public information also includes a section on the strategic environmental assessment of the measures envisaged by the Plan in Doñana 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 it is a priority area in the Andalusia Forest Fire Plan: INFOCA Plan.

There have been no changes regarding the last report issued.

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:

- Iberian lynx recovery plan.
- Iberian imperial eagle recovery plan.
- Necrophagous birds recovery and conservation plan.
- The Plan for the recovery and conservation of steppe birds.
- The Plan for the recovery and conservation of wetland birds.
- The Plan for the recovery and conservation of aquatic invertebrates and fish.
- The Dunes and Coastal Cliffs Plan.

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

Specifically, the Doñana-Aljarafe population behaves as a metapopulation composed of several nuclei. The location of these nuclei includes the Doñana Natural Area and peripheral areas without protection figure, having a special importance the area of the pine forests of Aznalcázar - La Puebla del Río. The latest census data available for 2020 indicate that the total population of this species in Doñana stands at 85 specimens, with 19 territorial females.

Regarding the imperial eagle, this trend was changed in 2005 by means of the Urgent Measures Program. This turning point led to a relative recovery of the species, which today remains relatively stable at around 9 breeding pairs.

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 Condition 1 section, this project has been officially rejected by the Spanish national government.

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 Andalusian Regional Government 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;

In recent months, the Water Working Committee of the Doñana Participation Council has carried out intensive work to define a proposal for hydrogeological actions that have been favourably reported by the Council Plenary and transferred to the competent water administration so that they can be included in the third Hydrological Planning Cycle of the Guadalquivir Basin.

The proposals included in this document are:

Groundwater:

- Technology and information.
 - Integration of modelling systems that consider groundwater with those that consider surface water.
 - Development of modelling systems and research to evaluate the relationship between groundwater and ecosystems.
 - Expand the piezometer network and improve the existing ones.
 - Include groundwater quality variables in the monitoring systems.
 - Analyse the impact of vegetation on piezometric declines.

- Resource availability. Continue to reduce pressures on the aquifer system.

- Promoting water-saving models and behaviours.
- Reducing the risks of affection for lagoon systems.

Surface water:

- Knowledge and information
 - Monitor Doñana water system with greater precision.
 - Monitor the marsh relief
 - Monitor the battery of pipes of the FAO wall.
- Improvement of the Guadalquivir river and its estuary.
 - Promote and develop initiatives and projects to recover the tidal plains of the Guadalquivir river.
 - Promote and develop initiatives and projects to reconnect the arms of the river with the main channel, increase and improve freshwater flows, and reduce the contribution of sediments, nutrients, and pesticides.
 - Protection, defense, and restoration of banks
 - Expansion and recovery of river floodplains.
 - Interventions to connect the estuary in the Veta la Palma area.
 - Restoration of the marsh in the Veta la Palma area.
 - Restoration of the Algaida marshes in Sanlúcar de Barrameda.
- Recovery of some sectors of the water system of the natural area affected by historical transformations.
 - Restoration of the Caño Guadiamar in its northern section (from Caño del Pescador to Veta Hornito) and Brazo de la Torre.
 - Expropriation of private properties in the Guadiamar Stream
 - Acquisition of the Garrido and Cerrado Garrido estates (1400 ha) and restoration of the surface area.
 - Recovery and restoration of the Marisma del Rocío. Correction of sedimentary processes
 - Reconditioning of the Doñana 2005 actions in the area of Mimbrales and Marisma Gallega.
- Restoration of Doñana watersheds.
 - Revision and adaptation to tertiary treatment of all the WWTPs.
 - Design of complementary treatment models for the El Rocío WWTP and for the crops near Doñana.
 - Restoration of the Partido stream basin from its headwaters.
 - Restoration of the vegetation of the streams and riverbanks of the Doñana region.
 - Control and elimination of invasive exotic species.
 - Study of the situation of the streams and banks that flow into the marsh and boundaries of public domains, ecological status of the banks, restoration proposals, and actions to prevent erosion.
 - Recover the green filter of La Rocina by expanding the riverbank vegetation upstream of the national park protection zone.
 - Design specific wetlands in the Partido watershed to act as a green filter capable of reducing chemical and organic inputs.
 - Analysis and proposal of solutions to reduce the dragging of sands from El Rocío into the marshes.
 - Study of the impact of greenhouses on the hydrological network, on erosion processes and on aquifer recharge.
 - Study of the impact of roads, trails and firebreaks on erosion phenomena and proposals for improvement.
- Governance
 - Create a body for the coordination of inter-administrative management of the Guadalquivir river.
 - Develop land stewardship mechanisms.
 - Establish monitoring and control systems to prevent the urbanization of flood plains or other sensitive areas of the Doñana hydrological system.
 - Streamline the administrative and legal mechanisms that allow the elimination of impacting activities developed outside the law.
 - Refine and streamline the mechanisms for delimitation of the public hydraulic domain.
 - Report annually to the participation body of the Doñana Natural Area on the progress and degree of execution of the measures included in the hydrological planning.
 - Implement educational, communication and participation programs in parallel to these restoration initiatives.

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.

Doñana Natural Area has had a twinning agreement with the Camargue Regional Natural Park since 2008, which expired in 2020; a new agreement is being drafted.

As for the Danube Delta, a proposal for collaboration with this area is being prepared in coordination with the responsible Ministry and has not yet been finished.

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 like those of previous years, with a workforce of 113 workers and a similar number of personnel engaged in different projects that support the management of the protected area. Investment in the national park during 2021 remained at similar values to 2020 at just over €13M.

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 Doñana National Park boundaries.

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 Bern Conventions, the certifications and designations that overlap with the Doñana European Diploma are as follows:

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

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