

**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 2022**

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 and 12

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA. CONSEJERÍA DE SOSTENIBILIDAD, MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ECONOMÍA AZUL. DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ESPACIOS NATURALES PROTEGIDOS.

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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 in this matter. The project has been rejected by the Spanish authorities. The third planning cycle 2022-2027, currently in the last phase of approval, does not include it among its measures.

**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;**

In relation to the implementation of the Special Irrigation Management Plan and the measures adopted for the reduction of groundwater extractions, both the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation (CHG) and the Regional Government of Andalusia are making an enormous effort in monitoring, developing and perfecting the tools for it, and improving assessment of crop area details, as well as the location of extraction points. On the other hand, progress is being made on measures such as the replacement of extractions by surface water supply and the implementation of procedures for the closure of wells.

In July 2020, the groundwater bodies of La Rocina, Almonte and Marismas were declared at risk of not reaching good quantitative status. On the same date, La Rocina groundwater body was declared at risk of not reaching good chemical status. With these declarations, the CHG has the maximum legal and administrative tools to deal with this situation.. Among the measures to be included in these action programs, the Spanish legislation enables to:

(a) Establish the replacement of pre-existing individual catchments by community catchments, transforming, where appropriate, the various individual titles with their inherent rights into a collective one that must comply with the provisions of the action program.

b) provide for the input of external resources to the groundwater body. In this case, the criteria for joint exploitation of the existing resources in the body of water and the external ones will be included.

c) Include a perimeter within which it will not be possible to grant new groundwater concessions unless the holders of pre-existing concessions are constituted as user communities.

d) To determine protection perimeters in groundwater bodies in which authorisation shall be required to carry out infrastructure works, extraction of aggregates or other activities and installations that may affect it, without prejudice to any other authorisations that may be necessary in accordance with the sectoral legislation in question. Such delimitation and conditions will be binding in the drawing up of planning instruments, as well as in the granting of licences by the competent public administrations for land and town planning.

The actions being carried out at this time, in line with the execution of the sentence, are concentrated in two main areas:

(a) concession of the Irrigation Community of El Fresno (Guadalquivir) and.

b) other enforcement procedures

In the case of the Community of Irrigators of El Fresno, was identified an initial set of 410 wells to be closed. However, as the definition of the works requires that any well that is in the irrigable area, whether previously identified or not, must also be closed, this forecast raises the total number of catchments to be closed to 443. The closure works under this file began in January 2021 and are continuing today, leaving 48 wells pending closure.

In the other group of wells, that of those that are closed by the enforcement procedure, it must be considered that the form of resolution of the file is varied. In many cases the closure is carried out by the CHGr, in others it is the offender himself who assumes the voluntary closure. There are also other cases in which, as the process develops, the catchment that was initially intended to be closed ends up being regularized by clarifying the legal situation of the use.

Since 2015, the overall data of this type of procedures amount to 93 wells in the area of the Tinto, Odiel and Piedras and 672, in the area of the Guadalquivir, adding up to a total, in the area of the Special Plan, of 765 catchments. 319 of these catchments have been closed since December 2020.

The CHG, within the scope of its Demarcation, has been carrying out the review and management of existing water extractions to the north of the Doñana Forest Crown, by means of a regulation process developed for this purpose and which is currently in full execution.

Specifically, the public water concessions granted in this hydrographic area are as follows:

- CR Condado. 1,414 hectares, and a maximum annual volume of 6,379,574.26 m<sup>3</sup>/year by means of 544 catchments, complemented by 118 storage infrastructures.
- Matalagrana. 211 hectares of crops with a maximum annual volume of 951,637.50 m<sup>3</sup>/year.
- CR El Fresno. 814 hectares in SAR. In September 2018, the CHG granted it a water concession from the water transfer, which allowed for the replacement of 3.6 hm<sup>3</sup> of groundwater for 496 ha and the closure of 250 wells. In November 2020, the water rights were completed with the granting of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge to irrigate the 318 ha pending, which entailed the sealing of 170 more wells.

Since 2020, the CHG has been analysing satellite images of the area by remote sensing in order to locate greenhouses and detect their presence outside irrigable agricultural land, opening proceedings on all those detected.

All actions aimed at the subsidiary execution of restoration works on forest land in compliance with final court rulings have been completed, for a total amount of €854,685.

The program of measures accompanying the revision of the Hydrological Plan for the period 2022-2027, includes specific actions to avoid the impacts caused by the extraction of groundwater used to supply the tourist town of Matalascañas (Huelva), 2.75 Hm<sup>3</sup>:

- Change of location of boreholes of Matalascañas water supply to reduce its impact on the Doñana National Park.
- Transfer to Matalascañas from the Tinto DWTP in the H.D. Tinto, Odiel Piedras.

The first of these measures, to be implemented between 2022 and 2023, envisages the closure of the two wells closest to the lagoons of the national park. These cancelled wells would be replaced by two new water catchments about 150 m deep, to be built in the western part of the town, where the road to Mazagón (Huelva) starts. The project for the construction of the first borehole to the west of Matalascañas is currently being processed, and the CHG has expressly commissioned the public company Tragsatec, which is expected to be operational in 2023.

On the other hand, the drafting of the transfer project from the Tinto DWTP is being prepared, which would allow the elimination of all systematic groundwater abstractions that supply Matalascañas by using surface water. In addition, the reuse of reclaimed wastewater from the new Matalascañas WWTP for certain urban uses, such as irrigation of the golf course integrated into the urban center, is also proposed. The allocation of resources from the Huelva water ring, as well as the possible reuse of reclaimed wastewater for supplying Matalascañas, has already been considered in the new 2022-2027 hydrological plan of the Guadalquivir River Basin District.

Finally, the Framework of Actions for Doñana, promoted by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), aims to reverse the environmental degradation of this emblematic area and recover its ecological functioning.

It includes a range of short- and medium-term measures in essential areas such as water resource management, conservation and restoration of biodiversity in the environment, coastal management of the maritime-terrestrial public domain, socio-environmental recovery of the territory and improvement of knowledge. To undertake the actions of the Framework, the Ministry has allocated a budget of 356.3 million euros, of which 118 million (33%) are expected to be underway by 2023

**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;**

The Hydrographic Confederation of the Guadalquivir completed the processing of this proposed revision of the current hydrological plan and, following the favourable report of the Demarcation's Water Council, it was sent to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge on 20 April 2022, to continue its processing at the ministerial level. This new cycle incorporates various sections specific to Doñana, despite the fact that it is a basin of more than 5.7 million hectares in Andalusia.

The Guadalquivir hydrological plan is now completing its strategic environmental assessment process, in accordance with Law 21/2013, of December 9, on environmental assessment, and is expected to be finally approved by the Government at the end of 2022.

The documentation referring to the draft of the new revised Hydrological Plan currently being processed is available to the public, both through the websites of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge and the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation: [https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/agua/temas/planificacion-hidrologica/planificacion-hidrologica/PPHH\\_tercer\\_ciclo.aspx](https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/agua/temas/planificacion-hidrologica/planificacion-hidrologica/PPHH_tercer_ciclo.aspx)

<https://www.chguadalquivir.es/tercer-ciclo-guadalquivir>

This year 2022, as on previous occasions, extensive inspection campaigns have been carried out during the months of June and July to check the installation of meters and verify the readings in certain intakes located in the Doñana forest crown, orienting the sampling according to the registered volume and the municipal district.

On the other hand, the CHG carries out two inspection plans of crops under plastic every year, using spatial remote sensing techniques. Scenes are analysed in autumn, when the plastic is being placed on the greenhouses, and in spring, when the campaign is coming to an end. This information, once processed, is cross-referenced with other cartographic data on irrigation rights, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) declarations, location of ponds, etc.

The CHG and the Pablo de Olavide University (UPO) of Seville signed a collaboration agreement in 2020 with the aim of continuing to the research that has been carried out since 2015 on the hydrological processes that occur in Doñana. These works have led, among other results, to the development of a specific doctoral thesis on the subject, entitled: Surface water-groundwater interactions in sand dune ponds located in Doñana National Park, which was presented in 2019, giving rise to various publications.. In this new stage it is expected to be able to analyse the functioning and hydrological status of the peridune lagoons in the National Park and, if necessary, to propose the addition of new piezometers to the existing network to complete the necessary data in the study area.

Another package of measures included in the Hydrological Plan has included sanitation and purification actions in the area, as well as other measures linked to the increase of available water resources:

- Service for the drafting of the preliminary project for the enlargement and improvement of the Matalascañas WWTP, purification of the Doñana area. TM. Almonte (Huelva).
- Enlargement of the Matalascañas WWTP, Almonte, Huelva.
- Upstream infrastructures for the transfer of resources from the Tinto, Odiel and Piedras D.H. to the Guadalquivir DH (Corona de Doñana) in accordance with the Law of Transfer of 20 hm3/year.
- Study of the location of sources of chemical contamination in the Guadiamar river basin.
- Review of the pending actions of the DOÑANA 2005 project and derived actions.
- New study of alternatives that specifies and defines the actions to be completed in relation to the Guadiamar channel and its connection with the complete river basin. Specifically, it is a question of outlining what was called "Action No. 5: Recovery of the functionality of the Guadiamar channel".

The Program of measures exclusively for Doñana amounts to 255 million euros of investment to be executed in the third planning cycle.

**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 with respect to 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.
- Recovery plan for the Iberian imperial eagle.
- Recovery and conservation plan for necrophagous birds.
- Plan for the recovery and conservation of steppe birds,
- Plan for the recovery and conservation of wetland birds,
- 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. The latest census data available for 2021 indicate that the total population of this species in Doñana is 94 individuals, with 23 territorial females and 29 cubs.

Regarding the imperial eagle in 2022, 8 breeding pairs have been recorded, although due to the drought the breeding success has been low.

**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;**

On this issue, the commitment made previously to eliminate dredging from the planning is maintained, so there is no new developments in this regard and there are no initiatives related to this action.

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

**La actual planificación del Espacio Natural de Doñana está vigente desde septiembre de 2016 (Decreto 142/2016, de 2 de agosto, publicado en el Boletín Oficial de la Junta de Andalucía del 26 de septiembre de 2016).**

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;**

As a novelty to what was reported in 2021, it should be noted that through the CHG a project has been launched "REVIEW AND UPDATING OF THE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVES FOR THE DEFINITION OF ACTION NUMBER 5: RECOVERY OF THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE GUADAMAR CANAL" with an amount of more than 339,000 €.

**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 twinning agreement with the Camargue Regional Natural Park is in the process of renewal although it is expected to be concluded in 2023.

Contacts with the Danube Delta have not progressed during 2022.

**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 in 2022 increased to 134 employees and 106 professionals linked to different projects that support the management of the protected area. The investment in the National Park during 2021 after the accounting closure amounted to more than €15 million and is expected to reach similar figures in 2022.

**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 to the national park's 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 adopted at the 38th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, the certifications and designations that overlap with the European Diploma of Doñana are the following:

World Heritage.

Ramsar Site

Biosphere Reserve.

Site of Community Importance.

Special Area 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**

