

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**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: **RISERVA NATURALE STATALE ISOLA DI MONTECRISTO**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:  
**1988 first award, 2024 last renewal-**

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: **Arma dei Carabinieri – Comando CC Tutela per la Biodiversità – Raggruppamento  
CC Biodiversità**

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<https://rgpbio.it/>**

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: **Reparto Carabinieri per la Biodiversità di Follonica**

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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.

N/A **No Condition where attached to the renewal**

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. explore, with the help of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission, the status of the "Montecristo Goat", the needs for its preservation and if its in situ conservation is needed, the ways and means of its integration and conservation within the island's ecosystems;

**once 31 December 2019, the extension to the LIFE+ Project "Resto con Life" 13NAT/IT/000471 ended. During 2024, the actions envisaged by the "After LIFE Conservation Plan (2020-2025)" continued. Pending approval of the Management Plan for the Montecristo Goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*), the objective of conserving the Ircina population continues to be pursued, including through ex situ conservation in an enclosure created in another nature reserve managed by the undersigned Reparto CC Biodiversità of Follonica, and at the same time reducing the impacts of browsing on vegetation through a reduction in the population. In the year 2024, in the ex situ conservation area, 3 individuals (adults) transferred from the Island of Montecristo and 8 young individuals born in the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (three births) after the transfer of the adult individuals are preserved. The transfer of 3 male goats currently hosted by the Fondazione Bioparco Roma is to be defined.**

2. continue the monitoring of the island's flora, fauna and vegetation units, and evaluate the management activities that are necessary for the conservation of species and the restoration of native vegetation;

**the conservation site of native plant material of the site called "former garden" used for educational and outreach activities has been maintained and integrated. Seedlings from the collection of propagation material on the island and produced at the Centro Nazionale Biodiversità Forestale in Pieve S. Stefano have been planted in the fenced reforestation areas. In October/November, new propagation material was collected from key plant species present on the island in priority habitats, with particular reference to *Quercus ilex*. Periodic maintenance activities on the fences excluding goat grazing have continued. Research activities have begun on habitat 8230 "siliceous rocks with pioneer vegetation of the sedo schlerathon" and habitat 3170 "temporary Mediterranean ponds". The first data collected from the research on the dating of centuries-old *Quercus ilex* individuals present on the island have been processed. Periodic monitoring is carried out in relation to the eradication of invasive alien plant species and the status of populations of native species of natural or artificial origin (introduced as part of habitat restoration actions) and some eradication interventions of sporadic individuals of *Ailanthus altissima* and *Agave americana*, invasive alien species, are carried out.**

3. continue ecological surveillance of the island in order to detect undesirable alien species early enough to ensure their eradication;

**the monitoring of invasive alien species continues constantly, intervening on the eradication of the specimens detected. The flows of migratory fauna are kept under constant observation with particular attention to the nesting species and the *Puffinus yelkouan*. The substantial success of nesting is confirmed due to the eradication of the rat in previous years. Biosecurity measures are constantly implemented. In continuity with previous years, research activities have been conducted to ascertain the presence of bats on the island and allow the identification of the species.**

4. complete the remote surveillance system as far as necessary and feasible in order to be able to detect and prohibit any illegal activities on and around the island;  
***maintenance work was carried out on the video surveillance system created in collaboration with the Parco Nazionale of Arcipelago Toscano, which allows for constant remote control of the main sites on the island. The system, implemented by other video cameras aimed at osprey nests (Pandion haliaetus) in past years, allows for constant monitoring of this species.***

5. explore any sensible arrangements for visitors as a possible alternative to the existing quota of 1,000 per year, including possible improvements to awareness-raising and educational activities targeting the public visiting the island;  
***once 30 August 2024, the agreement between the Comando Carabinieri Tutela Biodiversità and Parco Nazionale Arcipelago Toscano was renewed, for a period of three years (2024–2026), which allowed the organization of visitor use to be maintained through the formation of visiting groups of up to 75 people for a total of 2,000 visitors per year, of which approximately 275 were reserved for students. During excursions along the identified paths, the groups, after being welcomed by military personnel at the recently renovated Info Point, were accompanied by National Park guides.***

6. ensure that the resources are secured in a sustainable way to maintain the management of the reserve and to further develop its long-term management plan;  
***the authority responsible for the reserve management (Reparto Carabinieri Biodiversità di Follonica) is going on with the setup of the naturalistic management plan of the 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.

***Surveillance of the Reserve in the period April/October (period in which permits for visits and access with private boats are issued) is carried out by two units of military personnel organized in 15 shifts of fifteen days. In the remaining period, the custody service was activated with the use of Worker personnel always in fortnightly shifts. During the year 2024, 5 workers were hired on a fixed-term basis. This allowed numerous work shifts to be carried out, with an increase in the management and maintenance activities of the structures.***

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.

***New educational panels have been created and displayed in the Info Point structure and the collections at the Naturalistic Museum have been implemented by creating new exhibitions. The collaboration with the Soprintendenza of Archeologia, Belle Arti and Paesaggio of Pisa continues for the display of archaeological finds at the Info Point and the Naturalistic Museum, the renovation project of the archaeological site called “Grotta del Santo” has been defined.***

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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