

**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)¹*

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: **ESPAÑA**

Name of the area: **PARQUE NACIONAL DEL TEIDE (TEIDE NATIONAL PARK)**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: **1989, renewed in 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 y 2019**

Central authority concerned:

Name: **CONSEJERÍA DE TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA, LUCHA CONTRA EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO Y PLANIFICACIÓN TERRITORIAL DEL GOBIERNO DE CANARIAS (VICECONSEJERÍA DE LUCHA CONTRA EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO)**

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: **CABILDO INSULAR DE TENERIFE (Consejería Insular del Área del Medio Natural y Seguridad)**

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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.

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. Undertake further research on the ecology and genetics of endangered and vulnerable species of the National Park's fauna and flora so as to assist in their conservation in a rapidly changing climate.

An ecological study has been carried out on the behaviour of the high mountain scrub habitat to find out the effects of herbivory and how climate change affects the conservation of the plant community and the dominant species – especially retama del Teide or white broom (*Spartocytisus supranubius*)-. This study, led by the staff of the national park, shows that a worrying decline is occurring in the scrublands of the hottest part of the park, where climate change is most pronounced. In any case, the effect of herbivory is still very serious, and a recent study carried out this year shows that rabbits have increased in density compared to their populations several decades ago, possibly as a result of warming.

A genetic and ecological study has also been conducted on the endangered species *Helianthemum juliae*. And dendrochronological studies are underway on the species *Juniperus cedrus*, seeking to reconstruct the population dynamics of this plant over the last few centuries.

Finally, a new species of Teide violet has been discovered, different from the already known *Viola cheiranthifoliae*, and has been named *Viola guaxarensis*. It inhabits a very specific area of the national park, and its population is low, such that, according to the IUCN, the species is considered a new threatened taxon in the flora of the Teide National Park.

Martín-Esquivel, J.L., Marrero-Gómez, M., Cubas, J. et al. Climate warming and introduced herbivores disrupt alpine plant community of an oceanic island (Tenerife, Canary Islands). *Plant Ecol* 221, 1117–1131 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11258-020-01066-5>

Rafael G Albaladejo, Sara Martín-Hernanz, J Alfredo Reyes-Betancort, Arnaldo Santos-Guerra, María Olangua-Corral, Abelardo Aparicio, Reconstruction of the spatio-temporal diversification and ecological niche evolution of *Helianthemum* (Cistaceae) in the Canary Islands using genotyping-by-sequencing data, *Annals of Botany*, , mcaa090, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcaa090>

Marrero-Gómez, M. V. Martín-Esquivel, J. L. M., Docito-Díaz, J. R. D., & Suarez-Izquierdo, M. (2020). *Viola guaxarensis* (Violaceae): a new *Viola* from Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. *Willdenowia*, 50(1), 13-21. <https://doi.org/10.3372/wi.50.50102>.

2. Establish (and annually update) a register of all non-native species which occur within the National Park, and either continue, enhance or commence control measures so as to ensure that these non-native species who became invasive have a minimal effect on the park's native flora and fauna.

The staff of the Teide National Park, and especially those who regularly work in the natural environment, keenly monitor and provide early warnings when they detect the arrival of new non-native taxa. In this way, as soon as an "unusual" species is observed, the technical team of the national park are immediately notified, and they supervise and correctly identify the discovery. There is, therefore, an updated list of all the flora present within the protected natural area, to which all the native and non-native species that encroach on its limits are constantly added.

Thus, in the last six years 17 new arrivals have been detected, although no new taxa have been observed in 2020 apart from those already recorded in previous years.

In addition, an on-line platform is being prepared for mobile devices to facilitate the transfer of information and real-time updating of the aforementioned inventory.

Each new addition of a taxon to the inventory entails a risk assessment based on its invasive potential, and if necessary, the new population is immediately eradicated. Moreover, for those species that are considered invasive and that have become widespread, control campaigns to remove the plant by hand are carried out annually during the spring and before fruiting begins – especially of the taxa that are considered to be more aggressive, in particular, *Lactuca serriola*, *Bromus tectorum* and *Reseda luteola*.

3. Prepare and implement an action plan for beekeeping within the National Park which aims to reduce the impact of honey bees on both the native flora and the native species of pollinators; and undertake research on the guild of native pollinators to determine its species composition and the conservation status (endemic to the Canary Islands, endemic to Tenerife, native, and whether endangered or vulnerable) of the component species.

Several studies have been commissioned on the impact of bees on native pollinators in the national park. One of these was the subject of a final master's thesis at the University of La Laguna, under the direction of Professor Carlos Ruiz Carreira. Studies are also being conducted on how the presence of domestic bees can affect seed germination and the productivity of retama (white broom), thanks to a collaboration agreement with the University of La Laguna.

Pérez Pérez, D. 2020. Efecto multiescala de *Apis mellifera* en la comunidad de polinizadores y plantas del Parque nacional del Teide (Multiscale effect of *Apis mellifera* on the community of pollinators and plants of the Teide National Park). Final master's thesis at the University of La Laguna, Sciency Faculty, Biology Section.

4. Maintain and expand (as appropriate) the targeted programmes of monitoring the climate and both the biological and geological resources of the National Park.

The national park's ecological monitoring programme is maintained as in previous years but a process of digitalisation and construction of a technological platform for monitoring flower phenology has been initiated, so as to optimise the participation of all staff working in the park.

The network of weather stations has been expanded through the introduction of mobile micro-stations located in areas of the national park where more detailed information is required, such as the cold air lake that runs through the Siete Cañadas sector. A weather interpolation programme is also being developed to enable a month-by-month assessment of climate change progression at a spatial resolution of 100 m².

5. Actions in the Management Plan for the National Park (PRUG) which have either not been undertaken or have not been completed should be identified and included within the new PRUG.

In the process of drafting the new PRUG, adapted to the regulations in force and the challenges presented by the space, an assessment of the current PRUG was carried out to identify the actions for which results were satisfactory, in order to systematise and standardise them in the new version, and which actions were not completed, as well as the reasons for such failings, in order to establish new strategies to eliminate or minimise them.

The detected failings are directly related to the lack of powers on the part of the managing authority to deal with them, as they depend on external factors not within the remit of the plan.

The new version of the PRUG takes the logical framework approach, taking into account the analysis of the current PRUG and identifying the problems and direct and indirect causes. In this way, actions for which the managing authority or the plan itself has no powers will not be undertaken.

6. Ensure that the new PRUG both contains appropriate management indicators and targets and supports the European Diploma for Protected Areas; management must inform the Council of Europe when the new PRUG has been completed and formally adopted by the Canary Islands Government.

Taking into account the applicable regulations and the recommendations of the European Diploma, the new PRUG has taken into consideration the development of general and specific objectives by area (protection and conservation of resources, public and social use, infrastructure, research, coordination and relationship with the environment, monitoring, evaluation and control).

This last block of objectives includes the adoption of the adaptive management approach, with systems for evaluating results that will make it possible to learn from what has been done and to fine-tune the conservation objectives in a dynamic manner.

The new PRUG will have a system of indicators that will enable information on the progress of the actions to be obtained quickly and easily. The indicators will be simple and objectively quantifiable.

Each year the managing authority will draw up a report that will include the monitoring of compliance with the actions established in the PRUG, based on the corresponding indicators, which will require an interpretation of the results to assess whether the provisions of the PRUG have been carried out in an efficient and effective manner.

7. Demolish all building (and other non-natural structures) within the National Park which are no longer in use; and restore these areas and their surrounds to as natural a condition as is possible.

Demolition of the houses of El Sanatorio (The Sanatorium). On 10 November 2020, the Tenerife Island Council approved the “fair value” expropriation of the property and rights of “Area 2” of houses of El Sanatorio. With this ruling, all the expropriation proceedings of the four existing buildings in the area are finally settled, and the final step in the execution of the demolition works can be taken. For this reason, the Teide National Park Management has submitted a project called “Demolition of the houses of El Sanatorio and restoration of the area” for consideration in the new annual budget, and it is included in the 2021 National Park budget, with a financial allocation of EUR 194,244.00.

Demolition of the Public Works hut and Mountaineers lodge. On 20 June 2020, work began on the project “Demolition of the public works hut and mountaineers lodge and restoration of the area”, by the public enterprise GESPLAN, with a budget of EUR 150,095.56 and a duration of 4 months. During this time all the planned work has been undertaken to demolish the building and completely erase its mark on the landscape of this setting.

This was initially accomplished by removing the fibre cement from the roof of the building and decontaminating the asbestos and managing the hazardous waste. Subsequently, the trees planted to shade the plot were removed to allow access for heavy machinery and to make way for demolition work on the building. The associated infrastructure, such as the cesspool in the house, was also removed and finally the area was cleaned and cleared of debris. The demolition work also affected the perimeter stone wall of the plot at the roadside, which was later reconstructed, and existing vehicle access was removed.

Once the demolition had been completed, the restoration work began, which consisted mainly of modifying the altered profiles of the terrain to naturalise it in the surroundings and creating a drainage ditch to channel runoff water to the existing culvert under the road.

The restoration work concluded with the planting and watering throughout the affected area of species typical of mountain scrubland from the nurseries of the national park which were protected with biodegradable protectors.

Work was completed in October 2020.

With this action, a building considered incompatible with the purposes of the Teide National Park has been removed and with it one of the most essential, and long sought after, milestones in the management of this space has been achieved, fulfilling one of the objectives set out in the national park’s Master Plan for Use and Management (PRUG – Plan Rector de Uso y Gestión).

8. Prepare and begin to implement guidelines for public use and mobility within the National Park within one year of the new PRUG being adopted.

Independently of the process of drafting and approving a new PRUG in the future, work has been undertaken over the last few months as part of the plan to “define the system of mobility and implementation of service areas at the access points to the Teide National Park”, in accordance with current and future needs, and to consider and study different proposals.

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 recent months, there have been no modifications to regulations at state or regional level that directly and significantly affect the national park, beyond resolutions and notices on specific, one-off procedures and activities (mouflon control campaign, rabbit control campaign...).

Day-to-day management of the Teide National Park has been delegated to the Tenerife Island Council (Environment and Safety Department).

Currently (end of 2020), the national park's staff comprises 10 permanent employees and 16 contract workers (one of the permanent employees retired a few weeks ago). In addition to these figures there are 49 public-sector workers and, in summer, during the firefighting campaign (3 months), another 44 public-sector workers, who support the work, tasks and services being carried out.

The budget allocated to Teide National Park for 2020 was as follows:

- Chapter 1, Staff: € 1,143,681.50
- Chapter 2, Current expenditure: € 2,848,800.25
- Chapter 6, Investments: € 2,842,085.75

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 change.

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.

For the fourth consecutive year, 2019 visitor numbers hit a new high: 4,443,628 people came to the national park that year. However, the estimated visitor numbers for 2020, on the basis of data available to date, is that it will be approximately one third of the previous year. The health and social crisis produced by the COVID-19 pandemic is having a very significant impact on visits and tourism in general on the island of Tenerife and by extension on the Teide National Park.

In October 2020, the Island Council began drafting the plan to eradicate mouflon from the island of Tenerife, which is expected to be ready by the end of 2021.

After analysing the information provided, a request was granted for the Teide National Park to be included in the Carbon Footprint, Carbon Offset and Carbon Dioxide Absorption Projects Register of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. Date of registration, 03-03-2020. It is the first national park in Spain to be included in this register, which seeks to combat climate change by reducing and offsetting the carbon footprint generated.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, work was carried out to protect and prepare the area around El Patriarca ("The Patriarch"), a specimen of *Juniperus cedrus ssp. cedrus* which is over 1,100 years old. A path was laid to enable access to the area without the need to walk cross-country, which would have an impact on the area. The tree was preserved by installing a perimeter fence and protective chains were installed to prevent walkers from leaving the path in specific areas that are more fragile due to the presence of vegetation, and specimens of *Juniperus cedrus* were planted.