

**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 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: **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 Y TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA)**

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Authority responsible for its management:

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

Address: **Calle Las Macetas s/n, Pabellón Insular Santiago Martín, 1ª Planta; 38108 San Cristóbal de La Laguna (Isla de Tenerife)**

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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.

Research into the effects of climate change on the high mountain scrub habitat has continued, linking herbivory and global warming and its consequences for high mountain vegetation. It has been found that several species typical of the pine forest are penetrating the national park, proof that the surrounding community of conifers is occupying part of the habitat of the retama del Teide or white broom (*Spartocytisus supranubius*).

Along these lines, the following articles have been published:

Renner, S. S., Otto, R., Martín-Esquivel, J. L., Marrero-Gómez, M. V., & Fernández-Palacios, J. M. Vegetation change on Mt. Teide, the Atlantic's highest volcano, inferred by incorporating the data underlying Humboldt's Tableau Physique des Iles Canaries. *Journal of Biogeography*.

Cubas, J., Martín-Esquivel, J. L., Marrero-Gómez, M., Díaz, J. R. D., Rodríguez, F., & González-Mancebo, J. M. (2022). Climate change causes rapid collapse of a keystone shrub from insular Alpine ecosystems. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 69, 126263.

Work has also continued on the dating of long-lived specimens of *Juniperus cedrus*, some of which are more than 1,400 years old. This has resulted in the publication of the following article:

Sangüesa-Barreda, G., García-Cervigón, A. I., García-Hidalgo, M., Rozas, V., Martín-Esquivel, J. L., Martín-Carbajal, J., Martínez, R & Olano, J. M. (2022). Vertical cliffs harbor millennia-old junipers in the Canary Islands. *Ecology*, 103(4), e3633.

In addition, the final degree thesis by Celine I. García Rodríguez, entitled "Ecofisiología de las violetas del Teide" (Ecophysiology of the Teide violet (*Viola cheiranthifolia*)), was presented at the University of La Laguna.

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.

An IT platform has been designed to update the chorological data on the distribution of the flora in the national park, as a complement to the biodiversity inventories, and with special attention to species such as rosalillo de cumbre (*Pterocephalus lasiospermus*) which, although native, is becoming invasive.

At the same time, the flora of the summit of El Pico is being analysed, in view of the increase in altitude at which they grow due to climate change, especially of some non-native species such as *Sagina procumbens*.

Finally, it should be noted that in November 2022 a budget allocation of €732,481 was approved for drawing up an inventory of the flora and invertebrate fauna of Teide National Park, to be carried out between 2022 and 2025. This study will undoubtedly provide valuable information on both native and non-native flora and fauna.

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.

Following completion of the project developed by the University of La Laguna on the impact of beehives on the flowering of retama del Teide, there is nothing new to add in this respect except that work continues on incorporating a range of measures into the future Master Plan for Use and Management to limit the number of beehives in accordance with the findings of scientific studies, and to promote yearly set-aside in different sectors.

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

Progress continues to be made in climate monitoring programmes, particularly in the development of computer applications that assess the degree of warming as accurately as possible over the entire area of the national park.

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.

Administrative procedures continue with regard to the drafting and approval of a new Master Plan for Use and Management of the Teide National Park by the competent Administration (the Government of the Canary Islands). Once again, it should be noted that it includes the actions that were recommended in the appraisal for the renewal of the European Diploma.

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.

The new Master Plan for Use and Management includes a set of indicators on conservation, public use, etc., in accordance with the recommendations received.

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.

Work began on the “Demolition of the houses of El Sanatorio (the sanatorium) and restoration of the area” project in November 2021, and in 2022, following the dismantling and decontamination of all the roofs of the four buildings in the Sanatorium area, the complete demolition by mechanical and manual means of all the structures.

The resulting waste was cleared up and landscape restoration work was undertaken in the four affected areas and their surroundings.

To encourage the natural regeneration of vegetation, the compacted soil was broken up, eliminating all traces of human occupation.

The process was concluded with the planting of species native to the area from the national park nurseries (mainly retama (*Spartocytisus supranubius*), codeso (*Adenocarpus viscosus*) and alhelí del Teide (*Erysimum scoparium*)).

Work was completed on 29 April 2022.

The demolition of the houses of El Sanatorio and the demolition last year of the Mountaineers Lodge mean that the objective set out in this recommendation has been fully achieved.

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.

Work continues on the project to “develop a mobility system and set up service areas at the access points to the Teide National Park” with a view to future implementation.

In this respect, the following should be noted:

- a) Development of the Project of Island Interest to implement a network of service areas in the Teide National Park has been completed and comprises the following documents:
- Project Report
 - Regulations
 - Annex: Boundaries of the Teide National Park at the Portillo Alto site.
 - Annex: Economic feasibility of the Project of Island Interest
 - Annex: Identification and study of the properties included in the service areas and assessment methodology.
 - Annex: Details of the specific cases in the Portillo Alto site for drawing up the land expropriation plans
 - Development plans
 - Preliminary plans for the service areas of Chío (municipality of Guía de Isora), Vilaflor (municipality of Vilaflor de Chasna) and Portillo Alto (municipality of La Orotava).
 - Strategic environmental document
- b) A report on the adaptation of existing car parks to the new mobility system was drawn up.
- c) As a complement to the Study on mobility and carrying capacity of Teide National Park prepared in 2020, a report on the assessment and proposals for access and mobility in Teide National Park was carried out by TRANSyT, a company affiliated with the Polytechnic University of Madrid.
- d) Several meetings were held with the Roads and Mobility services of the Tenerife Island Council to deal with aspects relating to service areas and the sustainable mobility system, after which the corresponding reports were issued. Several coordination meetings were also held with the Spatial Planning and Historical Heritage services, as well as with the town councils of the three municipalities concerned (Vilaflor, Guía de Isora and La Orotava).

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.

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, etc).

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

At present, the staff of the national park comprises 10 permanent employees and 14 contract workers. In addition to these figures there are 65 public-sector workers and, in summer, during the firefighting campaign (3 months), another 36 public-sector workers, who support the work, tasks and services being carried out.

The budget allocated to Teide National Park for 2022 is as follows:

- Chapter 1, Staff: € 1,169,491.61
- Chapter 2, Current expenditure: € 2,986,595.96
- Chapter 6, Investments: € 2,647,394.99

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.

One of the important milestones reached during this period was the completion of work on the Cañada Blanca Visitor Centre, together with a museum facility. The centre was opened on 3 June 2022. Both the centre and the exhibition were designed with universal accessibility criteria in mind and following the criteria of the Teide National Park Master Plan for Use and Management regarding visitor centres and public use.

The Cañada Blanca Visitor Centre focuses on the relationship between humans and the mountains of Tenerife, and thus completes the thematic programme available to visitors. The facility, with more than 800 m² of exhibition space, takes visitors on a journey from prehistoric to modern times, with a space dedicated to modern research and science in the national park. For this purpose, it uses different interpretation formats and media, such as information panels, images and high-quality audiovisual productions, computer applications, models, etc. Of particular note is the recreation of an archaeological site and the recreation of a starry night sky. It also has a large auditorium offering high-quality audiovisual content.

Another outstanding feature is the PV solar power system that has been installed at the Cañada Blanca Visitor Centre. This innovative and self-sufficient system of photovoltaic panels, inverters and batteries eliminates the need for generators and fossil fuels and demonstrates a commitment to renewable energies and reducing the carbon footprint.

After a year of very low visitor numbers (just over 2 million in 2020) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the number of visitors began to rise, although they were still some way off the figure of over 4 million per year reached in the years 2016 to 2019. Specifically, in 2021, 3,096,147 people visited the Teide National Park and made use of its resources.

It is known that there are several specimens of *Juniperus cedrus* that are over 1,000 years old in the national park, not only the specimen known as El Patriarca. One of them is 1,480 years old.
