

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1  
on the revised regulations for the Euroean 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 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: Italy

Name of the area: Parco Regionale della Maremma

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: 9 years from renewal, in 2011.

**Central authority concerned:**

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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.  
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.

**To give importance to the points of view of the Scientific Council:**

At the moment the Scientific Council works constantly to balance the necessity to protect the biodiversity and the landscape of the area, and the necessity of a balanced socio-economic development.

It attends in every situation where the Park has to take action about the management of specific areas (forest management, wild fauna management, research plans, and actions against the coastal erosion). In all these cases it's always possible to work together with full harmony, with the Scientific Council.

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. Develop, in collaboration with the local authorities concerned, an approach to the management of the Ombrone by river basin, pursuant to the EU Water Framework Directive, with a view to attaining good ecological status for the watercourse within the meaning of that directive:** we are working to verify the ecological condition of the Ombrone river final flow and the surrounding habitat; we are going on with the monitoring about overall the geological type. The project about the contract of the Ombrone river, with all the local authorities, at the moment has been stopped. The leader of this project is Consorzio di Bonifica Toscana Sud and we hope it's going to restart soon.

**2. Finalize, within a maximum of two years, the extension of the Park to include the marine environment under conditions to be decided in agreement with local players.**

No change from last year.

**3. Designate the Trappola (Ombrone Delta) as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetland.**

No change from last year. Already included.

**4. Considerably increase human resources in the Park responsible for field inspections and ensure a level of funding consistent with the increasing needs of optimum management of the diploma-holding area:**

No change about the level of funding.

**5. Step up technical support for local enterprises involved in developing integrated agro-environmental activities and promoting local products and services.**

- CETS: European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The Park is certified CETS.

- We constantly organise meetings with the local enterprises (BB, agritourism, restaurants, rent apartments etc.) to update them about the Park events, CETS, Park trademark, news and other. Because of the Covid all the meetings were held on platform online.

- Park trademark about quality: at the moment 31 companies are registered.

**6. Develop action to promote the protection and enhancement of the Park's anthropological heritage.**

No change.

**7. Prepare a plan for the management of the wolf population.**

There are 3 reproductive groups: we are monitoring them and genetically examine them.

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.

The Park has started the process of drafting the new Integrated Plan, as required by Regional Law 30/2015. It has entrusted a group of experts with the drafting of a cognitive framework on the prevailing aspects of the protected area and has identified a scientific coordinator. It has also started the programme of participation meetings with stakeholders

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.

The rules to combat Covid 19 have not allowed us to organize many initiatives this year and the presence of visitors was limited until 26 April 2021, because our region was in the yellow zone with limited travel possibilities. In this period we have organized many activities on social networks.

The Talamone Aquarium and Visitor Center have been closed and cannot yet be open to the public use. Nevertheless, during the period in which it was possible to open up to fruition again, many activities were organized. The result has been a great success about the number of visitors. The number of visitors from the 1st January to the 31 October 2021 is 54.075 along the itineraries, but if we considered also the bikers and beach we have had about 400.000 visitors.

1. We have organized several guided trekking, canoe and mountain bike tours in the Park area during the tourist season.

2. We participated from 18 to 22 August 2020 to the "Festambiente", the environmental Festival of Legambiente, inside a stand dedicated to parks; we have organized didactic laboratories for children on the protection of sea turtles.

3. The Park is inside the Tuscany net cetacean mammals and sea turtles observatory.

4. By an Interreg Project Italy France Maritime (ecoSTRIM) we have worked to make the protected area more accessible to people with disabilities. The website has been renewed, making it usable even by visually impaired people. We have also created new tactile panels equipped with Qr-code to allow visually impaired people to use the A6 itinerary already usable by disabled people. A similar panel was also made on the beach of Marina di Alberese.

5. The Park has the authorization of the Ministry of the Environment for the recovery of sea turtles and for the monitoring of nesting and manages the Talamone sea turtle Rescue Center. We have a drone to monitor the Loggerhead Sea Turtle nesting areas. The drone is used by the ranger corps; moreover, the monitoring was carried out along the beaches of the Park, also on foot with the group of volunteers Amici del Parco.

6. The Park has organized a campaign for the protection of the Kentish plover nesting, in collaboration with the COT (Tuscan Ornithological Center). The group of volunteers Amici del Parco participated in the monitoring along the beaches of Marina di Alberese and Principina. Panels have been created to provide information on the correct use of the beaches for the protection of the Frattino and other species present.

7. We go on with the thematic Photograph Competition on line, named "Le stagioni nel Parco".

9. Every year, in October, we organise the "Festa del Parco". In this edition the itineraries have been made free for all visitors and two guided visits have been organized.

10. With the contribution of the Rotary Club, new panels were created with information on the protected area in Marina di Alberese e Principina.

11. During the autumn and winter events were organized with the guides on the itineraries.

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

Forests negatively affected by drought

6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes  
Forests have been adversely affected by drought and pine forest areas have been subject to pest attacks. Monitoring by entomological experts has been carried out to define recovery activities which are in progress

6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

1-The annual monitoring of migratory aquatic birdlife carried out each winter by the Tuscan ornithological group has shown an increase over the years in both the number and species that come to the protected area to spend the winter.

2-The Maremma Park is a crucial area for the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) in Tuscany. In particular, in recent years, it has been one of the three areas where this species has regularly reproduced. The number of breeding pairs of Kentish plover in the Park has varied in recent years between 3 and 6, but the number of nests has been as high as 10. The special conditions in the Park,

with a wide availability of wetlands, in summer favours the formation of gatherings of Kentish plovers that have finished breeding and must face the important period of plumage moulting.

3-The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) had been extinct as a breeder in Italy since 1969 (last nest in Sardinia) and it was only thanks to a 2006 project, promoted by the Maremma Regional Park in collaboration with the Corsica Regional Park, that it began nesting again in Italy in the Maremma Park in 2011. Since then, the Park has continued the project and extended it to other Tuscan and national protected areas. There are 50 chicks born in Italy from 2001 to 2020. In 2021, 3 eggs were laid in the Maremma Park, but they did not hatch.

4- There are 3 wolf breeding groups in the protected area that are continuously monitored for numbers and genetic characteristics

## **7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context**

### **7.1. Cultural heritage**

In the territory of the Park, numerous testimonies of human settlements dating back to prehistoric times have been found prehistory; the earliest evidence of human presence dates back 50,000 years (Middle Palaeolithic) to Neanderthal man (*Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*). In the past, the Uccellina hills represented a boundary zone between different cultural areas: in prehistoric times were delimited by geographical divisions such as rivers and mountains, but in the ancient period they were defined as a border area from the areas of influence of important cities such as Roselle and Vulci. With regard to the Roman presence, the sites discovered within the protected area, consisting of a Roman sanctuary dedicated to Diana Umbronensis and a production district found along the bend in the River Ombrone, play an important role.

Evidence of the medieval period is provided by the Abbey of San Rabano and the watchtowers along the coast, built during the period of pirate raids. In the protected area there are also still some engineering works built to reclaim the marshy area, characteristic of the whole Maremma.

#### **7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage**

Following the 2017 drought events, some evidence from the medieval period has emerged, such as the original road to the Abbey of San Rabano and the remains of a Romanesque church.

### **7.2. Socio-economic context**

The priority sector of the park is agriculture, the prevailing cultivation model is sustainable agriculture, which links the activation of environmentally friendly actions to the characteristics of the land, even if with economic results. Most of the farms in the park have added tourism to their agricultural activities and almost all of them are also agritourisms.

#### **7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context**

No Changes

## **8. Education and scientific interest**

### **8.1. Visitors – Information policy**

The Park gives great attention to information policies for visitors to the protected area, and many tools have been activated: the website, which is constantly updated and on which a widget button has been created to respond to requests for information through a messaging system; a periodic newsletter; the main social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube); activation of WhatsApp broadcast lists. As part of the CETS project, two satisfaction questionnaires were carried out for visitors and economic operators in the protected area and the territory.

During the lockdown period for the Covid 19 pandemic, various video and visual materials were produced to keep attention on the Maremma Park even when it was not possible to visit it, published on social networks and the website.

#### **8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)**

The information and reception service is carried out by the staff working at the Park Visitor Centre and operates every day throughout the year, except for a closure on Christmas Day. For the last 3 years, an information and ticket purchase point has also been open in Marina di Alberese during the summer. The Park's brochures and maps have been renewed over the years with updates of new itineraries and new ways of using them. A map with all the itineraries and information on the main centres of interest was also drawn up in 2021. The Park's website was renewed for the first time in 2015 and again in 2021 to make it accessible also to blind people and an App with all the itineraries has been created.

#### **8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)**

Visitor flows have steadily increased over the past nine years, with a decline in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions. The 2021 tourist season showed a major upturn with more than 400,000 admissions between routes and beaches: a 30% increase compared to 2019 and a doubling compared to last summer.

8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

Guided tours and events are organized during the summer period, according to a calendar that is publicized through the park's website, a brochure and through social networks. Events and guided tours are also carried out during the autumn and winter periods. Before the restrictions for Covid 19, visits for student groups and adult visitor groups were organized in spring. Initiatives were also made with the Health Authority for people adhering to programmes to stop smoking and for people with disabilities.

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.)

The Maremma Regional Park believes that scientific research is indispensable for an efficient and effective management of the environmental resources (natural, cultural and landscape) of the protected territory. For this purpose the Park promotes and organizes research that it considers of priority interest and encourages and hosts research proposed by third parties. All ongoing or completed researches are present in the space dedicated to scientific research that can be consulted on the web site at the link <https://parco-maremma.it/cosa-facciamo/ricerca-scientifica/>

8.2.2. Scientific publications

The Park has no scientific publications of its own, but appears in all publications relating to research carried out in the protected area

**9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)**

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

A new regional law on protected areas and biodiversity was issued in 2015

9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

No Changes

9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

No Changes

**10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)**

10.1. Improvements made

Work has been carried out to improve cycle and pedestrian routes; a rest area has been created for disabled people to use the beach at Marina di Alberese

10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna.

- Management plans have been drawn up for all SPAs in Natura 2000 sites;
- monitoring of the presence of pests in pine forest areas has been carried out
- A study was carried out on the effects of drought on forested areas.
- a study has been drawn up on the effects of ungulate grazing
- A study on acorn production has been drawn up.
- annual Wildlife Management Plan;
- monitoring of wolves for their numbers and genetics was carried out
- A study was conducted on the bats present in the protected area
- A study was carried out on the Sea jay (*Coracias garrulus*)
- annual monitoring of the nesting of the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
- annual monitoring for Sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nesting

10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

The park activates a surveillance system to prevent forest fires with the vigilance corps

10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

Routes, rest areas and accesses are subject to continuous maintenance; signage has been completely renewed and tactile panels for the blind person have been installed.

10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

The bird-watching hut at Bocca d'Ombrone has been completely restructured

10.1.5. Waste management

A structure for the differentiated collection of waste was built in Marina di Alberese; a structure for the supply of purified and sparkling drinking water has been built in Alberese

10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No action

10.2. Management

The current Chairman was appointed in 2012 and confirmed in 2016. Two different Board of Directors have been appointed since 2012. Currently the President and the Board are expiring and will have to be renewed. The Director has always been confirmed

10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

A reorganisation of the offices was carried out. The head of the technical sector has changed

10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

Two park rangers retired and only one was replaced

10.2.3. Internal policing measures

Regulations have been drafted in relation to the Anti-Corruption Act and an annual report is drawn up

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

None

**11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

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| Having the European Diploma for Protected Areas is an important certificate for the reputation of the protected area and has been useful in the Park's path to obtaining the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism |
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