



Aree protette
Alpi Marittime



COUNCIL CONSEIL
OF EUROPE DE L'EUROPE
Committee of Ministers
Comité des Ministres

ENTE GESTIONE AREE PROTETTE DELLE ALPI MARITTIME ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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

¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

ENTE GESTIONE AREE PROTETTE DELLE ALPI MARITTIME

Annual report for the year 2019

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: **ENTE GESTIONE AREE PROTETTE ALPI MARITTIME**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

Parco Alpi Marittime was awarded the European Diploma with Parc National du Mercantour in 1993. Parco Alpi Marittime had its Diploma renewed in 2008. The verifier's visit took place on 27 and 28 June 2017. The European Diploma was renewed in 2018.

Central authority concerned:

Name: **Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare**

Direzione generale per la Protezione della natura e del Mare

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: **Regione Piemonte**

Ente di gestione Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime

Address: **Piazza Regina Elena 30, 12010 Valdieri (CN)**

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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. secure an adequate annual budget and ensure a reasonable increase in the management and administration staff to be able to carry out all the necessary work related to maintenance, conservation and sustainable tourism;

The allocation of regional funds for ordinary management of the Parks authority amounted to € 490,000.00, for 2019, the same as in 2018. Personnel expenses were also set at 55 employees with a total expenditure of € 2,650,000.00. During the year 2019 we were authorized to fill 1 post of scientific collaborator. However, thanks to personnel management surpluses from previous years, it was possible to hire 7 seasonal workers (June-October), which allowed for a more far-reaching maintenance of the territory with particular reference to trails and signage. During 2019, following Regional elections, the Parks' Authority Administration changed. Attached is the deed of appointment of the new administration. At the time of writing, we have received confirmation that the regional allocation for the ordinary management of the Parks' Authority for the year 2020 will be increased to € 585,000.00.

*In 2019 the LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972 LIFE WOLFALPS EU project began. The Park Authority is the coordinating beneficiary. This project will implement actions aimed at fostering the coexistence between the wolf (*Canis lupus*) and mountain pasture activities in the Alpine environment. There are 20 Italian, French, Austrian and Slovenian partners participating and over 100 supporters. The study area is the whole Alpine area (a progress report of the project is attached).*

There has been progress with actions of several approved European projects to be concluded in autumn 2020 have continued during 2019:

INTERREG TRACES PROJECT

that has enhanced sites of particular archaeological importance over the transboundary area with actions to enhance, promote, and provide education and animation for the general public.

INTERREG LEMED-IBEX PROJECT,

*which provided for the monitoring of GPS collared animals (*Capra ibex*), in order to study their spatial behaviour and ethology.*

INTERREG CCLIMATT PROJECT

with research actions on alpine species particularly influenced by climate change and with awareness actions on climate change for the general public.

INTERREG JARDINALP PROJECT

with actions for the enhancement of Alpine botanical gardens.

In 2019 the actions of the Integrated Territorial Project "ALPMEDITER" continued, which consists of five sub-projects: COORDINATION, HERITAGE, INNOVATION, CLIMATE, MOBILITY. These have multiple actions which have been launched. The Park Authority is the implementer of different actions and the EGTC "Maritime Mercantour European Park" is leader of the project on Natural and Cultural Heritage.

All these projects, together with smaller ones are financed under the Rural Development Plan, and have allowed the Parks' Authority to carry out actions for the conservation of habitats and species.

In 2019 the activity of specific centres that Piedmont Region has identified at our institution continued:

PLANT BIODIVERSITY CENTRE GERMOPLASM BANK

The Centre has carried out the work related to the habitats and plant species foreseen in various projects. The management of the Alpine Botanical Stations and the Valderia Alpine Botanical Garden and the Phytoalimurgical Garden continued and we provided support to the Piedmont Region on the ALCOTRA PITEM BIODIVALP project. Seed harvesting continued for the germplasm bank also in agreement with Kew Gardens in London. The Centre's staff continued to work with the University of Virginia's research project on fungal diseases.

LARGE CARNIVORE CENTRE

The Centre has coordinated and implemented activities related to LIFE WOLFALPS EU AND LIFE WOLFALPS projects. During 2019 this last project was awarded the Natura Award by the European Commission. The Centre has supported the activities of Piedmont Region and all the Piedmont Protected Areas.

VULTURES AND BIRDS OF PREY CENTRE

Bearded vulture monitoring for the Piedmont area was carried out through the Network of Regional Observatories. A specific monitoring project was carried out on the griffon vulture.

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 the feasibility of officially recognising the two Maritime and Marguareis Nature Parks as one national park;

Since 2016 the two Parks, Alpi Marittime and Marguareis have been managed by the Alpi Marittime Protected Areas Management Authority. In the National Framework Law on Protected Areas the Alpi Marittime and Marguareis area is foreseen as a future National Park. During 2019 contacts were made with the Ministry of the Environment to assess the possibility of having a single National Park. There do not seem to be any technical obstacles to date and the big problem seems to be of a political nature and above all of economic resources of the Italian State. At the date of writing, it seems that by the end of 2020 the Italian Parliament may approve the National Park's institution.

2. explore the extent to which small, scattered reserves (Ciciu del Villar, Benevagienna, Crava Morozzo, Sorgenti del Belbo and Grotte di Bossea) which have very different characteristics, can be managed at a local level by municipal or provincial authorities;

These areas are at present still managed by the Parks' Authority. There were no changes this year. We are waiting for the possible change National Park to define the status of the Managed Reserves.

3. ascertain that the amendment of the Law L.R.19 29/06/2009 does not jeopardise any of the park conservation regulations;

Regional Law 19 of 29/06/2009 on the System of Protected Areas in Piedmont did not change during 2019. The Regulation on the use of the Protected Areas managed by the Authority remains in the process of being approved. During the year, the Authority approved the Management Plan of the SAC of the Alte Valli Pesio e Tanaro Park (Marguareis Park) and at the same time the Forest Management Plan. Approval of the Alpi Marittime Forestry Plan and the Management Plan for the Alpine pastures is currently underway, while the Management Plan of the SAC Alpi Marittime is being finalised. These Management Plans will make it possible to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of the Parks.

4. pursue the co-operation and the trans-boundary work with the Mercantour National Park and further explore the setting-up of an Alpi Marittime-Mercantour International Park, to be agreed between the authorities of Italy and France; continue working towards increasing integration.

The Parks continued their close and intensive cooperation during 2019. This collaboration was implemented through the work of the EGTC " Maritime Mercantour European Park ". The EGTC has the management of the NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE project within the "Alpimed" Integrated Territorial Project mentioned above. Collaboration always leads to tackling problems in a common way and planning is unified. A research project on " Chilopods " (terrestrial arthropods) was carried out in the Maritime and Mercantour Parks.

In relation to the Unesco World Heritage Site of the "Mediterranean Alps", contacts have been made with the Italian Ministry and with French and Monegasque partners to define a resubmission. Contacts have been made to evaluate the submission of a dossier for recognition as a "Geopark" and/or "Biosphere 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.

No changes have occurred since the date of the last Annual Report with regard to the areas covered by the European Diploma. It should be mentioned that since July 2018, the Piedmont Region has assigned to the Authority the management of several SACs, SCIs, SPAs in the Natura 2000 Network. An attached table summarises all the areas managed by the Authority.

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 boundaries since the last annual report.

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.

*We would like to submit to the Council of Europe a problem that we believe can be taken into consideration and supported at European Commission level:
Organisations that, like ours, work almost exclusively with funds from the European Commission and do not have large budgets behind them find themselves in difficulty when European programmes (ALCOTRA and others) provide for a large advance payment of expenses for the management of project actions in the face of European allocations that generally take place once the expenses have been settled and certified. Bodies such as ours, and in particular the EGTC "Marittime Mercantour European Park", which is intended to be the top facility for cross-border activities, is forced to incur considerable bank loans, which are not always possible. In many cases, the implementation of actions suffers. It would be preferable and a model could be suggested, especially applicable to EGTCs and cross-border bodies, whereby responsibility for coordinating projects would be assigned against specific agreements (along the lines of the management of LIFE projects) and against advance payments of expenses that would avoid the need for bank loans. European projects would be better implemented and coordinated, and executed more quickly. The above would be desirable for cross-border bodies operating in the Alpine environment, which have to implement the EUSALP strategy in areas that are particularly weak from an economic and social point of view.*

ATTACHMENTS:

- Nomination of the new Administration of the Management Authority
- Progress status LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972 LIFE WOLFALPS EU
- Table of SACs and SPAs in the Natura 2000 network managed by us