

**Résolution CM/ResDip(2022)4
concernant le renouvellement du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés octroyé au Parc national
du Gran Paradiso (Italie)**

*(adoptée par le Comité des Ministres le 13 juillet 2022,
lors de la 1440e réunion des Délégués des Ministres)¹*

Annexe 5 : Plan type pour les rapports annuels

Rapport annuel pour l'année 2025

Les rapports annuels doivent faire apparaître les modifications par rapport à l'année précédente, dans des termes dynamiques de gestion et de fonctionnement et ne doivent pas se limiter à présenter des données de base. Tout nouveau texte ou carte introduisant une modification dans l'état de la zone devra être joint au rapport annuel.

Etat : ITALY

Nom de la zone : GRAN PARDISO NATIONAL PARK

Année et nombre d'années depuis l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés : 2006-2016

Autorité centrale concernée :

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¹ Telle qu'amendée par la Résolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 le 2 juillet 2014, lors de la 1204e réunion des Délégués des Ministres.

1. Conditions : Lister ici toutes les conditions dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les conditions ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

N/A

2. Recommandations : Lister ici toutes les recommandations dont l'octroi ou le renouvellement du Diplôme européen a été assorti. Expliquer soit comment les recommandations ont été totalement mises en œuvre, soit les progrès dans leur mise en œuvre. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

1. finaliser les règles d'application du plan de gestion en 2022 et mettre en œuvre celui-ci;
After a long and complex process of drafting and discussion, also following the issuing by the supervising Ministry (Ministry of the Environment) of a 'format for the regulations of national parks', as well as the designation in 2020 of the Gran Paradiso National Park as the Managing Authority of the relevant Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Park Regulations were formally adopted by the Board of Directors of the Park on 31. 08.2022, and sent to the Ministry of the Environment to start the approval process, as required by the national framework law on protected areas (L. 394/1991). Approval of the Regulation is in fact the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment, after hearing the opinion of all the local authorities concerned and in agreement with the two Regions of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region.

2. suivre de près les projets de rénovation ou de construction d'installations hydroélectriques; préserver les cours d'eau naturels et atténuer l'impact des lignes électriques;
The Park's territory has historically been characterised by the presence of important infrastructures for the production of hydroelectric energy (artificial lakes contained by dams, underground and open-cast pipelines, pylons and high and extra-high voltage electricity transmission networks). Many of these infrastructures were planned and approved before the Park was established. Following the approval of the Park Plan, only limited water withdrawals for local energy supply needs can be authorised, and in any case only after successful completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure required by European legislation.

In this context, following the resubmission by CVA (Compagnia Valdostana Acque) of the Chavonne hydroelectric plant renovation project, modified following an initial negative opinion of the PNGP but still with heavy environmental impacts, especially in Valsavarenche, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure launched in 2024 by the Ministry of the Environment, during the first consultation, as the environmental authority concerned, the Park once again expressed a negative opinion on the project presented, inviting the project proponent to explore alternative project solutions that would limit the impact on the Park's territory.

At the beginning of summer 2024, some of the Park's valleys, in particular Val di Cogne and Valle Orco, were affected by a serious flooding event that caused heavy damage with substantial modifications to some of the watercourses within the protected area. A state of natural disaster was proclaimed at the national level for the affected areas. The local authorities, beneficiaries of the funds allocated by the central government for the restoration of the damaged areas, started urgent emergency restoration works, thanks to which they were also able to derogate from the national regulations on protected areas, according to which the Park Authority expresses its opinion on the sustainability of the projects in advance.

In 2025, environmental remediation and recovery works began in the Leuttaz-Prasupiaz grazing area in Valnontey, Cogne (AO). Furthermore, the environmental monitoring plan is currently being prepared for the pilot project concerning the application of ecological flow on the Orco stream (TO).

3. étudier avec les communes concernées des solutions pour réduire le trafic touristique sur les routes donnant accès à la partie supérieure du parc;

The reduction of motorised traffic at high altitudes within the Park has been an open issue for a long time, with particular reference to the Colle del Nivolet State Road 460, which in the summer period when it is open to traffic registers extremely high numbers of vehicle passages, especially at weekends. In the last 20 years, the Park has tried to promote the reduction of summer vehicular traffic, encouraging the use of public transport (financing the shuttle bus that reaches Colle del Nivolet and Rifugio Savoia, free of charge on weekdays) and laboriously seeking compromise solutions with the local authorities involved (the Metropolitan City of Turin, manager of the road, and the Municipalities of Ceresole Reale and Valsavarenche) : In order to limit traffic on the busiest days, the experimental 'A piedi tra le nuvole' (Walking in the Clouds) project was implemented until 2023, whereby on 8 Sundays in July and August, the road was closed in the middle hours of the day at Lake Serrù (2. 200 m asl), with a paid shuttle service from the car park to the end of the road. The Park Authority has always considered this to be a temporary solution that is unsatisfactory for the conservation purposes of the area and biodiversity, as well as being difficult to manage logistically, and therefore initiated further talks in 2023 with the actors involved, in order to find a definitive solution that would provide a greater guarantee for conservation purposes. Based on the results of monitoring the acoustic impact and biodiversity of vehicular

traffic conducted in 2024, the Park proposed to the local authorities involved, subject to the signing of a formal agreement, a project to regulate access to the Nivolet road (<https://www.pngp.it/nivolet>), which began in the summer of 2025 with its first year of experimentation. The regulation limits motor vehicle access to the Nivolet pass to a maximum of 350 vehicles per day, subject to online booking and payment of a Nivolet Card, at a cost of €10.00. At the same time, thanks to the incomes from the Nivolet card, which is configured as a “Service Card”, a free shuttle service to Nivolet has been guaranteed during the whole time of regulation. The results of the first year of experimentation and the continuation of biodiversity monitoring, also carried out in 2025, which are currently being analyzed, will be used to implement the regulations and services offered in the summer of 2026 and beyond.

4. suivre de près la gestion des pâturages en étroite coordination avec les autres instances compétentes (commune, etc.); établir une cartographie et une base de données permettant le suivi à moyen et à long terme de l'utilisation des pâturages et des charges en bétail;

As indicated in previous reports, in the last decades farming activities progressively reduced. Currently inside the GPNP there are very few professional breeders, mostly devoted to cattle breeding. Although the percentage of people employed in agriculture is very low (about 3,0% in 2022), the impact of domestic grazing is far from irrelevant : this is due to the fact that on the alpine pastures the transhumance of herds and flocks is important. This is the reason why the Park carried out research on the impact of domestic grazing on animal biodiversity that will be fundamental for the management of these activities in all the territories that belong to the Park or that the Park rents in order to preserve biological diversity

The monitoring of livestock grazing in the PNGP during the mountain pasture season is constantly carried out by the Park's Surveillance Corps, which do periodic quantitative surveys throughout the mountain pasture season in all the Park's sectors. This monitoring guarantees the collection of exhaustive data on pasture utilization. In the framework of the general advancement on data management and collection going on in the Park, it is now possible to collect this data directly on a mobile app, allowing a better management of the data and their conservation in a proper database.

Furthermore, regarding the measurement of environmental parameters, a network of fixed cameras has been implemented in specific stations to monitor the herbaceous phenology of the pastures, providing high-resolution data on the timing of vegetation growth and its response to climate variations.

In addition, to support the maintenance of sustainable agro-pastoral activities and improve animal welfare, the Park Authority has recently assigned, through a public call for expressions of interest, professional drinking troughs with float valves on a free loan basis to local farms operating within the protected area.

5. cesser de réduire le personnel (gardiens) et, si possible, pourvoir les postes vacants; poursuivre les investigations pour rapprocher le bureau principal du parc de la zone concernée;

Throughout 2025, the PNGP moved forward with its planned workforce expansion. Specifically, the recruitment of four new park rangers and a scientific service official was finalized. In addition to other duties, the latter continues to lead historical research on the Alpine ibex, as previously scheduled. Furthermore, an administrative assistant was hired to provide strategic support to the Surveillance Corp. This role focuses on administrative procedures, such as issuing overflight authorizations, managing sanction reports, and coordinating training activities.

However, 2025 was also marked by a significant natural turnover. Several long-standing staff members with over twenty years of experience retired, depriving the Park of key senior expertise. Notable departures included the Director, senior officials, and heads of critical departments, such as the Legal and Personnel offices.

This transition has resulted in a temporary but critical staffing shortage, which the Administration is currently addressing by outsourcing certain services. For the 2026–2027 period, the primary objective remains the replacement of personnel lost during 2024 and 2025, with plans to hire: 4 administrative officials; 2 administrative assistants; 3 park rangers.

Finally, regarding the regulatory framework, the 2025 Budget led to a restructuring of the Park's official staffing plan. The total headcount has been adjusted to 87 units, effectively resulting in the loss of one assistant park ranger position.

6. poursuivre les recherches sur la biodiversité, notamment celles relatives à l'abandon des pâturages aux niveaux alpin et subalpin; réunir l'ensemble des conclusions des travaux scientifiques dans une base de données accessible aux chercheurs et aux gestionnaires;

For 20 years, the Park has been carrying out a long-term monitoring of the biodiversity of key taxa in response to climate and environmental changes. Over the last 10 years, particular focus has been placed on the effects of grazing on pollinator communities and the implementation of active land management measures (cutting, targeted grazing, irrigation systems) to maintain the semi-natural habitats of the subalpine zone.

As part of the BIO.UP – Biodiversity project, funded by National Biodiversity Centre in the PNRR – Next Generation EU framework the GPNP developed the EcoDati portal (ecodati.pngp.it), a web platform dedicated to communicating scientific research, sharing data and environmental dissemination in the Park.

The main objective of the project was to bring science closer to people, transforming the enormous amount of data collected in over a century of research into awareness tools accessible to researchers, students and citizens.

Moreover, in 2025, the need for cross-border compatibility of protocols and easier access for researchers to data from managers led to the submission and acceptance of the Alcotra Cross-DBIO project between the PNGP and the PNV, which mainly aims to set up a shared tool to make the data (floristic and faunistic) from both parks available to the public and scientists.

7. poursuivre les comptages d'ongulés et d'oiseaux alpins en collaboration avec le Parc national de la Vanoise, en utilisant si possible la même méthodologie;

Collaboration in scientific research between GPNP and PNV is one of the basic aspects of the twinning project between the two protected areas and is a consolidated and growing reality.

In addition to constant exchanges between the Conseil Scientifique du PNV and the Scientific Service of GPNP, the two Parks collaborate in various research projects. Among the last ones we can mention the Interreg Alcotra Lemed Ibex project (ended, with GPNP and PNV as partners) and the Alpine Space AlpsLife project (still ongoing in which GPNP involved PNV as project observer). In 2025, PNV and PNGP submitted a common project to the Alcotra program that was financed. Cross-DBIO, the joint project between PNGP and PNV started in 2025 and aims at harmonising and sharing biodiversity data. In the framework of this project, a specific WP is working at the establishment of a common protocol for the collection and management of individual-based data (e.g., GPS survey of marked ungulates or galliforms).

Despite the methods for the ungulate counts between the two protected areas differ (block counts in GPNP and IPA/IPS in PNV), there are constant exchanges between the scientific services to share observations of marked animals that move between the two areas. In addition, personnel exchanges during captures are now well established and carried out every year since 2023 (2-3 days per year, 5-7 people) with the aim of sharing best practice and harmonize the data collection.

Concerning birds, in addition to the biodiversity project mentioned before (point 6) and the annual census of galliformes, the GPNP started an automatic monitoring project coordinated by the Ministry of Environment that involved all the national Park in Italy. When available, the results will be shared with the Vanoise Park in order to find possible common interests.

8. formaliser, dans la mesure des possibilités légales, le statut du comité scientifique du parc et le rendre opérationnel;

The Park's Scientific Committee was established and appointed by the Park's Board of Directors with Resolution No. 17 of 26/04/2022 and is now up and running. On 12/04/2024 a joint online working day of the PNGP Scientific Committee and that of the Vanoise National Park was held, during which a reciprocal update on the results of the main scientific research being carried out in the two twinned protected areas was held. A one-day meeting in the presence of the two scientific councils was also planned for July 2024, but was postponed to 2025 due to organisational problems.

In April 2025 management teams met at the headquarters of the Vanoise National Park to discuss the new terms of the partnership and the GPNP team participated to the meeting of Scientific Committee.

9. veiller à ce que le programme de recherche et les activités du parc national prennent en compte les effets du changement climatique sur les processus écologiques liés au maintien, sur le long terme, de l'intérêt européen exceptionnel de la zone diplômée; coordonner les recherches avec celles du Parc national de la Vanoise et intégrer les résultats aux plans de gestion respectifs;

As mentioned before (point 6) for 20 years, the Park has been carrying out a long-term monitoring of the biodiversity of different taxa (mainly invertebrates) in response to climate and environmental changes. Moreover, are going on long term studies on the ecology or life history of key species (ibex, marmot...) or taxa (alpine flora) that can be considered as "sentinels of changes".

Data collection and research on the effects of climate change on the ecological processes and environmental components that characterise the protected area has been going on for several years now in the GPNP. Doing this in a coordinated manner with other territorial realities of the Alps, and in particular with the PNV, is an important objective that the GPNP has been pursuing recently, with the adhesion to the ACLIMO project financed by the Interreg ALCOTRA programme and started in October 2023, which intends to deepen, together with all the project partners in the Alpine border area, the topic of water resources in the context of climate change. The incorporation of the results and conclusions of the research activities into concrete management actions in the Park's Management Plan is a complex process, first and foremost because of the complexity of the approval, and therefore amendment, process of the Plan itself. However, the process of constructing specific grazing plans has been initiated, at least for pastures owned or in any case directly managed by the Authority, which take into account the recommendations and good practices that emerged as a result of the Pastoralp and Gebiodiv projects. One of the strategic objectives identified by the Authority in the 2023-2025 Performance Plan within the strategic area Eco-system services and climate change monitoring/mitigation is that of monitoring and modelling the effects of climate change on mountain eco-systems, both with regard to the increase in temperatures and on the reduction of meteoric water supplies.

Under the framework of the ACLIMO project, it has been possible to carry out detailed studies on wetlands located within pastoral districts, leading to the proposal of active management interventions aimed at improving their conservation status. Some of these interventions are already scheduled for implementation in the coming period. This process is the result of a fruitful exchange between Italian and French partners, who shared their

respective expertise to suggest innovative approaches adapted to their local contexts, notably through the creation of a 'catalogue of best practices' for adaptation to water scarcity. Furthermore, these assessments and practical actions are supported by a joint cross-border modeling action, led by the Vanoise National Park. This activity focuses on modeling water availability from both precipitation and glacial melt, providing a high-level technical monitoring perspective that directly guides management choices and strategic interventions in response to climate change.

10. mieux faire connaître le Diplôme européen, utiliser son logo de façon plus large et promouvoir le dialogue entre les espaces diplômés. Veiller en particulier à poursuivre et à intensifier la coopération transfrontalière avec le Parc national voisin de la Vanoise. Profiter des anniversaires à venir (100 ans du parc du Gran Paradiso en 2022, 60 ans du parc de la Vanoise en 2023) pour faire la promotion du fruit de leur collaboration.

The anniversaries of the two parks were an opportunity to renew the close relationship that had previously existed. Management and staff met on several occasions for the launch and closing of the centenary of the Grand Paradis National Park in 2022 and 2023 and the anniversary of the Vanoise National Park. 2023 was also the occasion for the field teams (rangers) to meet around the emblematic species of the two parks: the Alpine ibex, during a trapping session in May 2023 in the Orgère valley (Haute Maurienne), an experience repeated in the spring of 2024. In May 2023, a delegation from the PNV took part in the award ceremony of the 'Photographing the Park' competition, in which the two parks have participated for many years. Finally, in October, a delegation from the Gran Paradiso National Park took part in the concluding seminar of the BIRDSKI project 'Verts une meilleure prise en compte de l'avifaune dans les domaines skiables', promoted by the PNV. As a result of these direct exchanges, the two parks are involved in two ALCOTRA projects 'ACLIMO' on climate and water issues, and 'BiodivTourAlps' on biodiversity and tourism, projects launched at the end of 2023 with a 'summit' already jointly planned by the two partner parks in 2026 for the public, elected representatives and all local stakeholders

The European Diploma logo features on a dedicated page of our website <https://www.pngp.it/ente-parco/riconoscimenti> and is included in our printed informational materials (brochures, the 'Voci del Parco' magazine, tourist maps, etc.)

On the occasion of the cross-border event '**Fête des Alpes**', organized by the Department of Savoie at Mont-Cenis in late August 2025, the two parks set up a **joint stand**, which drew a large and highly engaged Franco-Italian audience. During the exchanges with the Vanoise National Park, a discussion was initiated regarding joint communication between the two parks. Some actions have already been implemented but still require further clarification.

3. Gestion du site : Lister ici toute modification dans la gestion du site détenant le Diplôme européen, en ce qui concerne les environnements terrestre et aquatique (si applicable), et en ce qui concerne les agents et les ressources financières, depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

No changes to the European Diploma holding site management were recorded, in relation to terrestrial and aquatic environments. With regard to financial resources, in 2025 the GPNP received a contribution of € 6.094.000,00, the same amount as in 2024, a decrease compared to 2023.

However, it has been possible to ensure management costs, to maintain a high conservation level of the GPNP and to implement scientific research, thanks also to new financial resources from the EU following the approval and start-up of several new projects financed by various EU programmes. As far as staffing is concerned, please refer to the comments made in response to Recommendation No. 5.

4. Frontières : Détailler tout changement apporté aux frontières du site détenant le Diplôme européen depuis l'envoi du dernier rapport annuel au Conseil de l'Europe. S'il y a des changements, veuillez joindre une carte appropriée à ce rapport. Veuillez également indiquer toute difficulté, non encore résolue, que vous avez pu rencontrer.

At the time of this update, no changes to the boundaries of the protected area have been officially announced compared to the previous year. However, during 2025, on the initiative and proposal of the municipalities concerned, the Park's Authority approved a measure (Presidential Resolution No. 5 of March 10, 2025) proposing to extend the boundaries of the Park by a total of 8,463.13 hectares on the Piedmont side, including part of the territory of four new municipalities (Groscavallo, Ingria, Pont Canavese, and Sparone) and expanding the territory of a municipality already included (Ribordone). The proposal was sent to the Ministry of the Environment for the required approval process, which is still ongoing.

5. Autres informations : Lister ici toute autre information, concernant le site détenant le Diplôme européen, que vous estimez nécessaire de fournir au Conseil de l'Europe.

We would like to emphasize the importance of the rôle played by scientific research within the GPNP, in particular of the studies carried out over the long term in study areas with methodologies standardized and constant over time.

These long-term studies concern both vertebrate (Alpine ibex, Alpine chamois and Alpine marmot) and invertebrates species. The main purpose of this investigations is to measure the variations in behavioural ecology and life-history of a large number of tagged animals, and those in the altitudinal distribution of the invertebrate species induced by global warming.

The GPNP believes that the promotion of scientific research is one of the main goal of protected areas, together with Nature protection and conservation: the Park has to be seen as « open-air laboratory », that invites and motivates national and international research institutes to carry out long-term investigations to better understand the dynamics of environmental transformations occurring in the Alpine Arch.

The effective validity of these recherche actions is confirmed by numerous scientific publications that the Park has produced in the last twenty years (largely available on www.pngp.it).

In recent years, researches in the Park were focused in particular on the effects of climate changes, with projects focused on variations in animal biodiversity, landscape transformation and glaciers reduction. In all these research and monitoring actions, Park's and external researchers are actively supported by Park's rangers.

The GPNP is also responsible for the National Animal Biodiversity Monitoring Project, which is active since 2007 and involves the other three national Alpine protected areas and some Alpine regional Parks of Piedmont Region.