

**Résolution CM/ResDip(2008)1  
concernant le règlement révisé du Diplôme européen des espaces protégés**

*(adoptée par le Comité des Ministres le 20 février 2008,  
lors de la 1018e réunion des Délégués des Ministres)<sup>1</sup>*

**Annexe 5: Plan type pour les rapports annuels**

**Rapport annuel pour l'année 2023**

Country : ITALY

Site name : GRAN PARADISO NATIONAL PARK

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

**Autorité centrale concernée :**

Nom : **MASE**, Ministero Ambiente e Sicurezza Energetica, Direzione per la Conservazione della Natura e del Mare

Adresse: via Capitan Bavastro, 174 - 00154 Roma (I)

Tél : +39-06 57223433

+39-06 57223428

+39-06 57223450

Fax : Fax.+39 06 57223470

e-mail : [PNM-UDG@minambiente.it](mailto:PNM-UDG@minambiente.it)

www : [www.mase.gov.it](http://www.mase.gov.it)

**Autorité responsable de la gestion de la zone diplômée:**

Nom : Ente Parco Nazionale Gran Paradiso

Adresse : via Pio VII, 9 - 10135 – Torino (I)

Tel : Tel. 0039-(0)11-8606-211

Fax : 0039-(0)11-8121305

e-mail : [bruno.bassano@pngp.it](mailto:bruno.bassano@pngp.it) [segreteria@pngp.it](mailto:segreteria@pngp.it)

www : [www.pngp.it](http://www.pngp.it)

<sup>1</sup> 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:** *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. *Management plan:*

The management plan of the Gran Paradiso National Park (GPNP) is actually effective and applied. This plan contains the maps with the areas subjected to different protection constraints: these areas are now applied. The full application of the maximum protection areas (Areas "A"), in which even the grazing (by domestic herbivores) activities were forbidden, will start in 2024, upon expiry of the European contracts that finance grazing actions (PAC and PSR) of local farmers.

**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. *Ensure that funding is primarily provided by the state, regions and provinces, and adequately integrates other sources of funding:*

In 2023 the GPNP received a contribution of 8.622.000 euros from MASE, with a slight increase due to residual expenses linked to the realization of the last events of the centenary of the Park.

Other funding was supplied on specific projects from the Valle d'Aosta and Piedmont regions. European Union financed some projects in which the GPNP participated as part of Interreg (PITEM) and Life projects (GreyMarble and Resque Alpyr).

These funds are sufficient to cover management costs and therefore to maintain a high conservation level of the GPNP.

Most of the personnel expenses are due to the costs of the Park's rangers, who now represent over 60% of the Park's staff.

Some active conservation actions, also in 2023, have been implemented thanks to European Funds, while the actions financed by MASE and relating to the reduction of energy consumption and CO2 emissions are still being implemented.

2. *Provide the national park with adequate staff at the executive level to enable the director to focus on key tasks, including strategic:*

As a result of repeated retirements, PNGP staff in 2022 was reduced to 64 units, with an important reduction in the number of rangers. But in 2022-2023 the GPNP received permission to make new hires of park rangers (till now, 9 rangers). The selection was completed and now the staff of the Surveillance Service returned to acceptable levels for a good control of the protected area. New hires were also authorized to replace retiring staff.

Despite the hirings made, both supervisory and administrative staff are still far below what was expected, and this reduction forces employees to carry out additional activities.

For example, the new hires of rangers will not be sufficient to cover the full staff of the Surveillance Service, which provides for a density of 1 ranger per 1,000 ha, as envisaged by ministerial guidelines.

To ensure the full efficiency of the director's activity, an expansion of the workforce would be necessary, with the recruitment of an administrative director.

3. *Actively defend the role and the importance of the nature and landscape conservation inside the urbanization plans and management decisions:*

With the recent approval of the Park's management plan, management decisions are easier, as the interface with local administrations are precisely regulated.

Buildings dedicated to tourism are generally concentrated in the inhabited centres; some huts and a road at a high altitude involve flow concentrations in summer months that locally create some conservation problems.

The main problem is to limit the flow of motorized vehicles at high altitudes: the proposed solutions are to ban the use of these vehicles in limited summer periods and to encourage the use of electric vehicles. However, the meetings held during 2023 did not allow us to reach an agreement between the various administrations (municipalities, regions and private companies) regarding the closure of the road to vehicular traffic.

The current projects are aimed at reducing, during the summer season, the number of cars passing through the main road within the Park (Strada Statale 460, Colle del Nivolet), rather than completely closing it. Negotiations regarding the regulation of this road will resume in winter 2023/24.

4. *Integrate the values of forests as ecosystems in the development of forest management plans:*

During 2023 there were no changes in the management of forest resources.

The Park Plan identifies naturalistic silviculture as a management principle aimed at the conservation of forest habitats. The Park Plan also includes the Management Plan of the Site of Community Interest IT1201000 which provides conservation measures for all forest habitats and specific measures for forest habitats of Directive 92/43 / EEC. Finally, it should be emphasized that, in the Park Plan, important forest areas have been identified, in which active management is totally excluded, to allow the forest to follow an autonomous evolutionary dynamic.

With the financial contribution of the MITE-MASE, actions relating to the conservation of chestnut groves (EEC priority habitat) are implemented, in particular in the southern side of the Park.

The intervention sites have been identified and specialists were chosen to define the necessary conservation actions.

**5. *Pursuing the search for compatibility and synergies between farming and preservation of biological diversity:***

As indicated in previous reports, in the last 25 years, 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 the 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.

These studies have already highlighted the importance of two main variables: the abandonment of traditional grazing practices and climate change. Both of these actions involve changes in the presence and density of animal species, with a loss of biodiversity at the local level.

The GPNP, with the contribution of MASE funds, has activated monitoring actions of pollinating insects (bumbebees and butterflies) as indicators of anthropic impacts, both in terms of pollution (due to the use of pesticides: practically absent in the Park) and in terms of effects of domestic pasture management. Apart from domestic grazing, agricultural activities are practically absent in the Park.

**6. *Avoiding new water abstraction projects for electrical generation, except micro-centrals licensed by the National park:***

The territory of the Park is characterized by the presence of important water collection infrastructures (dams and complex and multiple collection sites) for energetic production. Most of these infrastructures were planned and approved before the establishment of the Park. After the approval of the Park Management Plan, only the small water withdrawals, only for local energetic purpose, can be authorized.

To minimize the consequences of water withdrawals, a careful monitoring is carried out by the Park and any other new project of dam building is banned by the Park.

During 2023, a project for the renewal of a catchment on the Savara stream was presented to the Park. This is a CVA (Compagnia Valdostana Acque) project that the Park had already blocked and rejected some years ago. The new project is being evaluated by the MASE offices.

If approved, the project could have repercussions on nature and landscape conservation.

**7. *Establishing a scientific advisory council to allow the scientific community to influence the Park management guidelines:***

The members of the Scientific advisory council were identified and approved by the Council of the Park and, to date, the Commission is effective and operational.

The first meeting between the scientific commissions of the two cross-border parks, Vanoise and Gran Paradiso National Park, is scheduled for spring 2024.

**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 to the European Diploma holding site management were recorded, in relation to terrestrial and aquatic environments. The same applies to financial contributions that are, till now, sufficient to achieve the Park's conservation objectives. As regards the Park staff, what was said at the time is repeated: the Public Administration in Italy suffers from a chronic shortage of personnel, which often leads to greater workloads for the people hired.

For better management of the protected area, it would be desirable not only to increase the number of rangers (for the active protection of the protected area) but also of administrative and technical personnel

(botanist, ecological, veterinary, etc.). However, requests to expand the workforce have so far remained unheard.

**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 border changes were made in the last year and no changes are planned for the next years.

**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 emphasize the importance of the role played by scientific research within the GPNP, in particular of the studies carried out over the long term in study areas and with methodologies that are always the same over time.

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

In the last 3 years, studies on the effects of Global warming have focused on the conservation *status* of pollinator species (mainly bumblebees and butterflies), as a consequence of anthropogenic action (domestic grazing) and the increase in average temperatures.

The GPNP believes that the promotion of scientific research is one of the main goal of a protected area, obviously after the Nature protection: the Park seen as an "open-air laboratory" that invites and motivates national (and non-national research institutes) to carry out long-term investigations to better understand the dynamics of environmental transformations present in the Alpine Arch.

The effective validity of these research actions is confirmed by the numerous scientific publications that this Park has produced in the last twenty years (largely available on [www.pngp.it](http://www.pngp.it)).

In recent years, park research were focused in particular on the effects of climate change, with projects on variations in animal biodiversity, landscape transformations and glaciers variations.

In these research and monitoring action, both Park and external researchers are actively supported by rangers.

The GPNP is always responsible for the National Animal Biodiversity Monitoring Project which has been active since 2007 and which involves the other three national Alpine protected areas, in addition to the alpine parks of the Piedmont Region.