

RESOLUTION ResDip (2008) 1

ON THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

APPENDIX 5

MODEL PLAN FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

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. They should not, without justification, exceed six pages. The report of the year preceding the one in which the validity of the European Diploma of Protected Areas is to be renewed should be more detailed. 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

Central authority concerned:

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Authority responsible for its management:

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I. General information

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

- 1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated.
No change.
- 1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetation cover; presumed causes.
No change.
- 1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds.
In summer 2011, in summer 2012 and in summer 2013 we have had the breeding of osprey, after many years of works. So we can assume that the project about the reintroduction of osprey has been a success and now we are working to include into the project the Elba island in Tuscany and Tavolara island in Sardinia.

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 2.1. Cultural heritage
 - 2.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
In according with the ForAccess Project, an European Italy-France Maritime Project, in collaboration with the Grosseto Province, we have taken out the fence of San Rabano abbey and contemporary we have installed a cameras system to control the area, all to offer a better enjoyment of the visit. We are working, more and more, to upgrade the territory in the way to offer a development to the local activities, in respecting the environment.
- 2.2. Socio-economic context
 - 2.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context
No change

3. Education and scientific interest

- 3.1. Visitors – Information policy
 - 3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
 - New map brochures with all itineraries.
 - New calendars with locations, animals and plants of the Park
 - We have created an application for I phone and android smart phone about the different locations of the park and the identification of animals and plants by the simple visitor and by the researcher, using a European Italy – France Maritime funding project.
 - The opening of new trekking itineraries (C4 and C5), new horseback itineraries, a new canoe itinerary and a new chariot itinerary in the area. Opening of a new part of the A7 – Foce del Fiume Ombrone itinerary and of a new connection way from the Services Centre in Marina di Alberese to the beach. All to promote and increase the tourist offering.
 - The park's website is currently updated.
 - About the environmental education there is a new didactic project 2013/2014 with relative brochures, about various subjects: prehistory, roman history, how to feel the environment, for the future marine Park, Maremma Park in general, biodiversity in the Mediterranean

“macchia”, environment energies, Ombrone river, Park animals, the sea, the beach and the dune ecological system, the roller’s project. All oriented towards the infant, primary and secondary schools. There’s a open didactic laboratory inside the Park.

- In 2013 the Maremma Park has organized, in collaboration with the Tuscany Region, a didactic holiday of a week (Estate nei Parchi), for students with didactic laboratories and trekking, canoe, bicycle etc. excursions.

3.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)

In line with the international crisis of the last years there’s been a decrease of the number of visitors from the 2007 to the 2010, with an increase in 2011 thank to the opening of the new ways of visit, to the new brochures and maps, to the new and daily update website and to the management of the Visitors Centres. At the 31th October 2013 the number of visitors is circa 33.708, distributed throughout the territory and the Orbetello Lagoon Aquarium. April, May, June, August and September are the months with the highest influx.

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

We have had the visit of important Italian television programs as “Serenio Variabile”, “Wild” and “Linea Blu”.

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

Find attached the update list of the scientific researches in progress.

3.2.2. Scientific publications

No change.

4. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

Adoption of the new Park Regulation where one of the most important point is the Annual Program for the management of wild ungulates.

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

No change.

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

No change.

5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

5.1. Improvements made

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

- There’s a project in accord with the animal associations about the possibility to sterilize wild boars to maintain the ecological balance in the territory. Still in progress.
- Project for the identification of total reserves of the Park to realize a control system.
- Annual Program for the management of wild ungulates.
- The hybrid wolf project about the check of wolves of the Park to understand if they are genetically pure or contaminated by dog’s genes. The project foresees the capture of animals, the blood test and then the reintroduction of pure elements. All thank to a European funding project. In progress.

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

The project which has been started at the end of the month of October 2010 against the coastal erosion for the protection of dunes, the pine wood and the marshes is the largest of its kind

undertaken by the local authorities, to protect the coastal areas and all the areas of environmental relevance characterizing the sea front.

After a phase of monitoring we have an excellent result about the rehabilitation of the wetland areas. We have a partial rescue of the pine wood too. On the 4th November 2013 the final phase has begun; we are building the sea “brushes”, we will finish in March 2013. In the future we consider to monitor the situation, every five years, to evaluate the effects of the erosion on the coast line, the Flora, Fauna and the ecosystems.

- 5.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - Opening of two new itineraries (C4 and C5) in Collecchio area. Opening of a new part of the A7 – Foce del Fiume Ombrone itinerary. Opening of a new connection way from the Services Centre in Marina di Alberese to the beach. Opening of new horseback itineraries, a new canoe itinerary and a new chariot itinerary.
 - For the third year we have, during the winter, the “shuttle bus on call” service, to visit the Maremma Park. The shuttle bus is used only if there are people who want to visit the Park. That is a way to economize and to respect the environment.
- 5.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
No change.
- 5.1.5. Waste management
Building of the ecological station for the separate collection of rubbish in Marina di Alberese.
Evaluation of the use of biogas systems by the farms in the territory.
- 5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
No change.
- 5.2. Management
- 5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
No change.
- 5.2.2. Wardens’ department: changes made
No change.
- 5.2.3. Internal policing measures
No change.
- 5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action
No change.

II. Influence of the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

The European Diploma represents the best business card for the Park. More than any other recognized certification, the European diploma denotes quality in environmental management and conservation of areas, and it is considered to be the most credible certification in this field.

III. Conditions and/or recommendations for award or renewal

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

We have realized and we are realizing a sequence of actions concerning the nature conservation and the socio-economical develop of the area:

- The project which has been started at the end of the month of October 2010 against the coastal erosion for the protection of dunes, the pine wood and the marshes is the largest of its kind undertaken by the local authorities, to protect the coastal areas and all the areas of environmental relevance characterizing the sea front.

After a phase of monitoring we have an excellent result about the rehabilitation of the wetland areas. We have a partial rescue of the pine wood too. On the 4th November 2013 the final phase has begun, we are building the sea “brushes”, we will finish in March 2013. In the future we consider to monitor the situation, every five years, to evaluate the effects of the erosion on the coast line, the Flora, Fauna and the ecosystems.

- The “sustainable mobility” project experimented during 2007 and repurposed in the summer 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 is an excellent managerial model aimed to encourage people to use free public transport rather than private cars. This project, combined with the cycle path from Alberese to Marina di Alberese and the automatic system of the parking area, represents a low environmental impact system of access to the beach and an innovative sustainable model of great importance for a protected area. For the last three summers the Park has done a big sacrifice, because there wasn’t any financing from the Region, a symbolic price of 1,00 and 1,50 euro for the bus ticket has been asked to visitors.
It’s the third winter we have the “shuttle bus on call” service to visit the Maremma Park. The shuttle bus is used only if there are people who want to visit the Park. That is a way to economize and to respect the environment
- The opening of two new itineraries in Collecchio area (C4 and C5), opening of a new part of the A7 – Foce del Fiume Ombrone itinerary and the opening of a new connection way from the Services Centre in Marina di Alberese to the beach. Opening of new horseback itineraries, a new canoe itinerary and a new chariot itinerary in the area. The taking out of the fence of San Rabano abbey and contemporary the installation of a cameras system to control the area, all to offer a better enjoyment of the visit.
All to promote and increase the tourist offering. This is very important to increase the economic condition of the different companies in the territory which work with the tourists.
- The success about the reintroduction of osprey and the project to include Elba island in Tuscany and Tavolara island in Sardinia.
- The hybrid wolf project about the check of wolves of the Park to understand if they are genetically pure or contaminated by dog’s genes. The project foresees the capture of animals, the blood test and then the reintroduction of pure elements. All thank to a European funding project.
- We have created an application for I phone and android smart phone about the different locations of the Park and the identification of animals and plants of the Park by the simple visitor and by the researcher, using a European Italy – France Maritime funding project.
- The Park’s Festival, organized each year, represents an important tourist project about trekking and cultural events in different parks in Tuscany, to celebrate the institution of the first Park in Europe. It has been organized in the Maremma Park the last week of May 2013 with a lot of activities: canoe, trekking, horseback, bicycle excursions, tastings and folk show. The result has been a great success about the number of visitors. About the Maritime Walking Festival (old Walking Festival), for this year the Park has taken part only organizing some guided itineraries.
- “Estate nei Parchi” didactic project organized in collaboration with the Tuscany Region: a didactic holiday of a week, for students, with didactic laboratories and trekking, canoe, bicycle etc. excursions.
- Building of the ecological station for the separate collection of rubbish in Marina di Alberese. It’s a very important project, overall for the collection of rubbish during the summer, when there’s a lot of tourists.

We can assume that the Park works daily to improve and to develop this protected area, which represents one of the most important parks in Tuscany and the main protected area in the Provincia of Grosseto. Therefore it represents an important instrument for the economic and sustainable development of the territory in general, ever in according to protect the environment.