

**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*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2018

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: Portugal

Name of the area: Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:
awarded since 2014; 4 years since the award.

Central authority concerned:

Name: Governo Regional da Madeira / Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais

Address: Rua Dr. Pestana Júnior, nº6 – 5º

Tel: (+351) 291 220 200

Fax: (+351) 291 225 112

e-mail: gabinete.sra@madeira.gov.pt

www: www.madeira.gov.pt/sra

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza, IP-RAM

Address: Quinta Vila Passos, Rua Alferes Veiga Pestana n15, 9054-505 Funchal, Portugal

Tel: (+351) 291 740 060

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www: <https://ifcn.madeira.gov.pt/>

¹ 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.

1. that The Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Desertas Islands and to unequivocally support the Regional Government of Madeira in all matters concerning the nature reserve:

The legal status of the Reserve has not been changed and there are no perspectives that such changes will occur, even considering a far future.

2. that the responsible regional authority updates the management plan of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve by the end of 2016: a. taking into consideration the enlargement of the strictly protected area; improving conservation efforts in terms of personnel, logistics and budget necessary for the proper management of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve:

No changes occurred. The responsible regional authority updated the management plan of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve (for details refer to: https://issuu.com/institutodasflorestaseconservacaoda/docs/pogid_completo), officially published by the President of the Madeira Regional Government in the official journal of Madeira Autonomous Region (for details refer to: JORAM, I Série, nº 86, Resolução nº 304/2017, de 15 de maio - https://ifcn.madeira.gov.pt/images/Doc_Artigos/POG/ISerie08617pogidpogis.pdf)

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. take all necessary precautions to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve: Stringent quarantine measures are rigorously implemented to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve. Visiting boats are forbidden to pass any ropes to land and all the food and equipment of the site management staff, or other visitors, are transported in sealed containers. Additionally, during the summer, when the number of visits to the island increases, a cordon of tubes with rodenticide is placed around the only official anchoring place of the island and these are inspected regularly.

2. improve the existing monitoring system for the fauna and flora populations of the Desertas: the flora and fauna conservation status is improving due to the success of the main actions of the project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195 (2013-2017, extended until 2019) (details given in <https://liferecovernatura.madeira.gov.pt/>). The main actions of this project, involves an intensive monitoring on both flora and fauna and an evaluation of the regeneration of the natural habitats.

3. analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna on Bugio, following the total eradication of alien species: during 2018, local and foreign scientists developed various research projects on Bugio. Qualitative and quantitative data is being obtained every year and reports are being produced accordingly.

4. increase the efforts to combat soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio: monitoring of the main actions of the project LIFE SOS Freira do Bugio – Urgent actions for the recovery of *Pterodroma feae* and its habitat LIFE06 NAT/PT/000184, which was developed between 2006 and 2010, has been maintained up to present, involving habitat restoration. There is a constant effort to combat soil erosion, considered one of the priority duties of the nature wardens of the Reserve.

5. eradicate the goat population from Deserta Grande or at least keep the population very low and subject to a strict monitoring scheme: the main actions of the project LIFE RECOVER NATURA - Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195 (2013-2017, extended until 2019) (details given in <https://liferecovernatura.madeira.gov.pt/>), involves an evaluation of population densities and distribution

of goats; a significant reduction in the goat population and establishing a monitoring scheme that allows the evaluation of the success of the management measures implemented to control the goat population.

6. **promote the training of nature guides to accompany tourists in this area:** visitors are met by the Nature Wardens, who accompany them along the informative circuit and then to the reception centre. In the case of maritime-tourist visitors, this guided tour is made by the staff of each company; whose employees have received specific training provided by the site management staff. The site management has also signed a protocol with the Regional Delegation of the National Trade Union of Tourist Activity, Translators and Interpreters, under which these professionals receive specific information that results in a better quality of information provided at the location.
7. **investigate if the increasing colony of yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis atlantis*) on Ilhéu Chão is having a negative impact on the breeding seabird populations on Deserta Grande and Bugio:** although the yellow-legged gull (Atlantic form) *Larus michahellis atlantis* should not be considered an alien species, there is a constant effort to prevent their breeding on the islands (Ilhéu Chão, Deserta Grande and Bugio). Due to the remoteness of Desertas Islands and to their characteristics this is an easy and forward task.

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.

Changes in legislation or regulations: Legislation and regulations were relevantly improved: approval of the internal regulation on human activities at Desertas Islands Nature Reserve ((for details refer to: JORAM, I Série, nº 147, Portaria nº370/2018, de 10 de setembro - https://ifcn.madeira.gov.pt/images/Doc_Artigos/Legislacao/AreasProtegidas/selvagens/Port370_371DesrtSelvg.pdf

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 changes occurred.

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.

During 2018, the Reserve had the official visit of the Regional Secretary for the Environment and Natural Resources and Representatives.

All the events and lectures addressed to the public in general and target groups, as well as the website, facebook campaigns and new production of illustrated material, namely informative panels, used to raise awareness about the importance of the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve, were reinforced with the European Diploma logo.