

**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)<sup>1</sup>*

**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: SPAIN

Name of the area: DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK

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

Renewal 2010 – years since the renewal 8.

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA. CONSEJERÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ORDENACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO. DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE GESTIÓN DEL MEDIO NATURAL Y ESPACIOS PROTEGIDOS.

Address: Casa Sundheim. Avda. Manuel Siurot, 50. 41071 – Sevilla

Tel: + 34 955 00 34 00

Fax:

e-mail: [dggmnep.secretaria.cmaot@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:dggmnep.secretaria.cmaot@juntadeandalucia.es)

www:

**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: ESPACIO NATURAL DE DOÑANA

Address: Centro Administrativo El Acebuche . Ctra. Almonte matalascañas, SN

Tel: +34 959 43 96 25

Fax:

e-mail: [director.en.donana.cmaot@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:director.en.donana.cmaot@juntadeandalucia.es)

www: <http://www.cma.junta-andalucia.es/medioambiente/>

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<sup>1</sup> 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. **the Spanish authorities should continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Port of Sevilla development projects have no significant environmental impact on the Doñana ecosystems. Any decision should be conditioned by the results of a complementary study to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report;**

The project has not been authorised or executed. In view of the conclusions of the Scientific Commission, appointed for the purpose of evaluating the project, the foundations of the Supreme Court Judgment, the positioning of the World Heritage Committee, as well as the negative evaluation of the body of participation of the Doñana Natural Area and the protected area management body, the project has not been authorised and will not be authorised.

This decision has been officially transferred clearly to different international bodies, including the World Heritage Committee and the Ramsar Committee and the Council of Europe in previous annual reports on the European Doñana Diploma.

2. **the Andalusian Government, responsible for the management of the national park and also for water management, should ensure the high quality of water entering the national park and eliminate the illegal extraction of groundwater; in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, it should monitor the status of the aquifer underlying the national park and surrounding lands, the extent of groundwater extraction and the water quality;**

The Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation presents a specific annual report, the aim of which is to quantitatively analyse and interpret the piezometric information available throughout the corresponding water year. For this, an indicator with delimited values between 1 and 0 is used and implemented for sectors defined on the basis of hydrogeological criteria, regional distribution of the abstractions and the location of the points in the current control network. The values obtained are analysed within the framework of a period of study consecutively including all years from the 1993/1994 cycle

The groundwater body historically named Almonte-Marismas 01.51 is subdivided in the new Hydrological Plan for the demarcation of Guadalquivir, published by Royal Decree 1/2016 based on hydrogeological and management criteria in the five most homogeneous sub-bodies in terms of their state, allowing to focus on the application of the programme of measures.

The conclusions of these past 5 years in specific reports on the state of the water bodies surrounding Doñana have allowed for compartmentalisation, especially in the state of water bodies in three major categories:

- An area with a piezometric state consistent with or greater than the level of rainfall, and without significant downward trends. It is situated on a continuous strip that incorporates the coast, the dunes and fixed sands and the contact ecotone with the marshland, as well as the largest part of the contained aquifer and the La Rocina stream. This area includes practically all the National Park land and World Heritage site.
- An area with a piezometric state slightly lower than expected rainfall or with a significant downward trend of 95% or close to that. It includes the areas to the North and the North Headwater in Doñana in the free section of the detritic aquifer and the confined section of the Villamanrique aquifer. The areas are located outside of the Doñana National Park property.
- An area with a piezometric state significantly lower than expected rainfall or with a significant downward trend of 99% formed by a south-west-north-east direction range with a width between 5 and 10 km bordering on the National Park limits between the Cortijo del Alamillo and El Rocío (excluding the La Rocina stream) and continues from there until Villamanrique de la Condesa. There are two large cones of piezometric depression relating to the dimensions measured in 1995, one situated to the north of El Rocío and the other to the south of Villamanrique. Both cones are located outside of the Doñana National Park property.

This situation, with circumstantial variations according to annual precipitation, appears to have stabilised in the past five years after years of continuous decline thanks to different operations that have been implemented around water management (irrigation planning, hydrological planning, water policies, irrigation modernisation, acquisition of estates and water rights, transfers, replacing abstractions from the aquifer with surface water inputs, etc.

The “**Special Irrigation Plan**” (SIP) is being implemented in a serious, coordinated, gradual and calibrated manner in accordance with the planned schedule. The legal protection of the plan has been reinforced in the light of available court resources. **46 catchments have been shut down, raising the total capped wells since 2015 to 315** when added to those already reported to the Committee. These closings correspond to

the substitution of catchments and to implementations at the conclusion of legal proceedings. The scheduled **Extraction Plan** was carried out and a considerable effort was made to adjust the planning details, with countless tasks performed to allow for the provision of legal protection and the setting of priorities for action. As a result of this along with an intense inspection effort, a total of **1831 inspections** were carried out in 2017 and 2018, with 1605 of these involving water resources and 226 focused on forestry. As a result, there were **842 denunciations**, of which 730 were related to water and 112 to forests. The culmination of all these actions represents another significant advance in completing the planned objectives.

**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. all efforts should be made to restore the good ecological state of the river at the level of its catchment (river basin or water basin), within the meaning of the Water Framework Directive; all appropriate measures should be taken in order to make water use and other activities, especially agricultural activities, in this catchment (basin) compatible with this aim;**

The frame of reference for the achievement of this recommendation is the Hydrological Plan of the Guadalquivir corresponding to the Second Planning Cycle (2015-2021), prepared in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

According to the last follow-up report of the 2nd cycle of Hydrological Planning of the Guadalquivir basin of the 395 MASp, 263 river-type masses maintain the state / ecological potential with respect to the 2nd cycle, 61 have suffered a deterioration of the state / ecological potential and 71 have improved the state / ecological potential.

**2. a specific emergency plan for the Doñana National Park should be prepared and a map of natural risks should be drawn up;**

The Natural Area has a Self-protection Plan against episodes of pollution and is included as a priority area in the plan against forest fires in Andalusia: the INFOCA Plan

There have been no changes compared to the previous year's report. However, the effort required for the work of restoring the Las Peñuelas fire suffered by an area of the Natural Park, annexed to the Doñana National Park, has impeded the design of a coordination document capable of integrating the sectorial emergency plans in the natural area (fires, oil spills, etc.)

**3. the implementation of the action plans for the conservation of the flagship species, in particular the Iberian lynx and the Imperial eagle, should be actively pursued; new action plans for other threatened species should be drawn up if needed;**

As stated in the previous report, different conservation plans for the most emblematic species of Doñana continue to be developed:

- Recovery plan for the Iberian lynx.
- Recovery plan for the Iberian imperial eagle.
- Recovery and conservation plan for necrophagous birds.
- The steppe recovery and conservation plan for the steppes.
- The Plan for the recovery and conservation of wetland birds.
- The Plan for the recovery and conservation of aquatic invertebrates and fish.

- The Coastal Dunes and Cliffs Plan.

The LIFE Conhabit project, whose objective is to promote the improvement and conservation of the priority habitats of the Directive 92/43 / CEE present in Sites of Community Importance (SCI) in the Andalusian coast, has continued its development.

The results of these plans regarding the Iberian lynx and the imperial eagle are the following:

**Iberian lynx:**

Although the data referring to the population of Doñana-Aljarafe, corresponding to the year 2018 is still provisional, since the census has not yet completely come to an end at the time of drafting this report, the graph shows its stabilisation at a fork between 75 and 90 individuals and with more than 20 territorial females. Current data, since the last report, emphasises the recovery of the population following the consecutive declines of 2014, 2015 and 2016, and once again it is approaching 90 specimens. It should be

noted that in 2018 there has been a new release of Iberian lynx from Sierra Morena, to genetically boost the population in Doñana, as a way of contributing to its greater endurance.

**Imperial eagle:**

In the past two seasons it has been possible to retain 100% of the territories occupied by breeding pairs, by regenerating and rejuvenating the breeding pairs who occupied the best territories but which due to age were no longer able to reproduce. This fact is very important and offers greater guarantees for sustaining population figures.

The population remains stable and in a dynamic of relative growth, supported in part by the recovery dynamics developed over recent years at the state level.

**4. concerning the Port of Sevilla development projects, the Spanish authorities should avail itself of the best international scientific expertise and also take account of the relevant international conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Bern Convention, and work closely with the relevant international bodies, including the European Union and the European Environment Agency;**

As reported in the section corresponding to Condition 1, this project has been officially rejected by the Spanish state

**5. the updating of the management plan should be started in 2011;**

The new planning of the Doñana Natural Area is in force since September 2016 (Decree 142/2016, of August 2, published in the Official Gazette of the Junta de Andalucía of September 26, 2016). During 2018, sectoral management programmes related to Public Use, Beekeeping, Pineapple Harvesting and Research have been drafted, which must be approved by the beginning of 2019

**6. the extension of the Doñana 2005 Project to riparian vegetation, correcting erosion problems or extending its scope to adjacent areas of agricultural marsh, should be undertaken;**

The Measure Programme of the Guadalquivir Hydrological Plan, approved in January 2016, includes the development of the new Doñana 2021 project, which will favor the recovery of the masses associated with the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ES6150009 Doñana North and West. The aim of Doñana 2021 is to launch new hydrological restoration actions in the estuary, especially on the left bank of the Guadalquivir, as well as to improve the knowledge and management of the water masses in the natural environment of Doñana.

These measures have not yet been implemented. Currently, work is being done on the definition and planning of feasible measures to set up a definitive project.

**7. the possibility of developing co-operation with other European Diploma sites which are deltas, such as the Camargue National Reserve (France) or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania), should be explored.**

The Doñana Natural Area has signed a twinning agreement with the Regional Natural Park of the Camargue since 2008. Since then, a close relationship has been maintained between the two natural areas. In 2018, a meeting of the commission to monitor the agreement was held on March 23, 2018, in which the Director and Manager of the Natural Area, the Consul of France in Seville, Laure Bou, the Camargue park's technician, and Francisco ensuring liaison between the two territories and regular participant in the Commission, participated. Two main issues were addressed: 1. The joint development of a European sustainable tourism project, for its execution in both territories. 2: Participation in the florid meadow contest organised by the Camargue. The result of the contest has been the obtaining of a prize collected in the month of December by the Natural Area. During 2018, the visit of the School of Le Sambuc Alan Jhonson was also organised in May 2019, whose programme has been coordinated with the school of El Rocío.

As for the Danube Delta, the National Parks Autonomous Organization has been asked, as responsible for the international relations of the Spanish national parks, to assess the interest of signing a twinning that allows to strengthen the relations between both areas.

**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.

In terms of personnel, the figures are similar to previous years with a workforce of approximately 113 workers and a similar number of staff depending on projects that support the management of the protected area. The investment in the National Park during 2018 will remain at values similar to those of 2017, around 7 million Euros.

**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 in the boundaries of the national park

**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.

In response to the decision taken at the 38th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Berne Conventions, the certifications and designations that overlap with the Doñana European Diploma are as follows:

World Heritage. UNESCO  
Wetland of International Importance. Ramsar Site  
Biosphere Reserve. Man and the Biosphere Programme UNESCO.  
Sites of Community Importance.  
Special Areas of Conservation.  
Special Protection Area for Birds.  
IUCN Green List