



Aree protette  
**Alpi Marittime**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
Committee of Ministers  
Comité des Ministres

## **ENTE GESTIONE AREE PROTETTE DELLE ALPI MARITTIME ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**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>*

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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>

**ENTE GESTIONE AREE PROTETTE DELLE ALPI MARITTIME****Annual report for the year 2019**

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: **ITALY**

Name of the area: **ENTE GESTIONE AREE PROTETTE ALPI MARITTIME**

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

**Parco Alpi Marittime was awarded the European Diploma with Parc National du Mercantour in 1993. Parco Alpi Marittime had its Diploma renewed in 2008. The verifier's visit took place on 27 and 28 June 2017. The European Diploma was renewed in 2018.**

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: **Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare**  
**Direzione generale per la Protezione della natura e del Mare**

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: **Regione Piemonte**  
**Ente di gestione Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime**

Address: **Piazza Regina Elena 30, 12010 Valdieri (CN)**

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www: **www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it**

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. secure an adequate annual budget and ensure a reasonable increase in the management and administration staff to be able to carry out all the necessary work related to maintenance, conservation and sustainable tourism;

*In 2019 Piedmont Region cut the ordinary management budget of the Park Authority. 490,000.00 Euros were allocated, a cut of 55,000.00 Euros compared to the year 2018. Personnel expenses were set at 55 employees with a total expenditure of 2,650,000.00 Euros. In 2018 there was no increase in the number of staff on duty. However, thanks to staff management surpluses from previous years, it was possible to hire 6 seasonal workers (June-October), which allowed more extensive maintenance of the territory, in particular work on paths and signs. After the Regional elections this year, the Administration changed and by the end of December the Park Authority's President and Administration will change. It will be important to bring this lack of resources for ordinary management of Park activities to the attention of Piedmont Regional government. In view of the limited regional resources, the Park Authority, as coordinating beneficiary, has had a project approved under the LIFE Directive that will implement actions aimed at encouraging the coexistence between the wolf (*Canis lupus*) and pastoral activities in the Alpine environment. The project involves 19 Italian, French, Austrian and Slovenian partners and over 100 supporters. The study area is the entire Alpine area (approved project attached). In addition to this latest approved project, other European projects are underway that allow the Authority to carry out important actions on tourism and sustainable mobility, fauna, climate change and cultural aspects. During the year actions were carried out on projects as follows:*

*INTERREG TRACES PROJECT that has enhanced sites of particular archaeological importance over the transboundary area with actions to enhance, promote, and provide education and animation for the general public.*

*INTERREG LEMED-IBEX PROJECT, which provided for the monitoring of GPS collared animals (*Capra ibex*), in order to study their spatial behaviour and ethology.*

*INTERREG CCLIMATT PROJECT with research actions on alpine species particularly influenced by climate change and with awareness actions on climate change for the general public.*

*INTERREG JARDINALP PROJECT with actions for the enhancement of Alpine botanical gardens. 2019 also saw the launch of the Integrated Territorial Project "ALPMEDITER" which consists of five sub-projects: COORDINATION, HERITAGE, INNOVATION, CLIMATE, MOBILITY. Within these a number of actions are starting. The Park Authority is the implementer of several actions and the EGTC "Parco Europeo Marittimo Mercantour" is the leader of a project on Natural and Cultural Heritage.*

*All these projects, together with other smaller projects funded by the Rural Development Programmes, have allowed the Park Authority to carry out conservation actions for habitats and species.*

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. explore the feasibility of officially recognising the two Maritime and Marguareis Nature Parks as one national park;

*In 2019, the two Parks, Alpi Marittime and Marguareis, were managed by the 'Ente di gestione Aree Protette Alpi Marittime'. In the National Framework Law on Protected Areas, the Alpi Marittime - Marguareis area is listed to be a future National Park. By the end of the year, the Parks' Authority will have a new administration following elections in Piedmont that have changed the regional administration. It will be essential to establish strong contacts with the Ministry of the Environment to assess the possibility of establishing a single national park. It would seem that there are no technical obstacles to date and the principal problem seems to be of a political nature and in particular Italy's economic resources.*

2. explore the extent to which small, scattered reserves (Ciciu del Villar, Benevagienna, Crava Morozzo, Sorgenti del Belbo and Grotte di Bossea) which have very different characteristics, can be managed at a local level by municipal or provincial authorities;

***These areas are currently still managed by the Authority. There have been no developments this year. The new Parks' Authority Administration will have to take up this problem with Piedmont Regional Administration and the local municipalities, to set up local management.***

3. ascertain that the amendment of the Law L.R.19 29/06/2009 does not jeopardise any of the park conservation regulations;

***The regional law 19 of 29/06/2009 regarding Piedmont's Protected Areas System was not modified in 2019. The Regulation for the use of the Protected Areas managed by the Authority is awaiting approval. This year, the Park Authority approved the Management Plan of the SAC Parco Alte Valli Pesio e Tanaro (Parco Marguareis) and, at the same time, the Forestry Management Plan. The approval of the Alpi Marittime Forestry Plan and Alpine pasture management plan is underway, while the draft Management Plan of the Alpi Marittime SAC is nearing completion. These management plans will make it possible to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of the parks.***

4. pursue the co-operation and the trans-boundary work with the Mercantour National Park and further explore the setting-up of an Alpi Marittime-Mercantour International Park, to be agreed between the authorities of Italy and France; continue working towards increasing integration.

***The Parks continued their close cooperation throughout 2019. This collaboration has been implemented through the work of the " Maritime Mercantour European Park" EGTC. The EGTC manages the NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE project within the "Alpimed" Integrated Territorial Project, mentioned above. Our collaboration leads us to address problems in a common way and plan together. Two new projects have been submitted to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for approval, one for research on "Chilopods" (terrestrial arthropods) in Marittime and Mercantour Parks and one on the wolf (Canis lupus).***

***The work carried out in relation to the Dossier for the candidacy of the "Mediterranean Alps" as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is very important. The dossier, following observations by the IUCN, was withdrawn at an intermediate stage, before being examined by the UNESCO World Committee. The proposing Authorities preferred to withdraw the Dossier in order to avoid a rejection. The intention is to revise and integrate the Dossier in order to present it again.***

**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 regarding the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report. It should be noted that since July 2018 Piedmont Region has assigned the management of various SACs, SCIs and SPAs of the Natura 2000 Network to the Authority. An attached table summarises all the areas managed by the Authority***

**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 have been made to the boundaries since the last annual report.***

**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 2019, the European Commission awarded the LIFE WOLFALPS Project, which ended in 2019, with the Life Award for Nature. This important result demonstrates the management capacity of a small institution like ours. The final project report is attached.*

*We submit to the Council of Europe an issue that we believe could be taken into account and supported by the European Commission:*

*Bodies that, like ours, work almost exclusively with funds from the European Commission and do not have substantial budgets, find themselves in difficulty when European programmes (ALCOTRA and others) implicate a considerable advance payment of expenses for project actions, while European funds are generally transferred after expenditure has been cleared and certified. Bodies such as ours, and in particular the EGTC "Parco Europeo Marittimo Mercantour", which should be the prime instrument for transboundary activities, are forced to incur heavy bank loans, and this is not always possible. In many cases, this puts the implementation of actions in difficulty. It would be desirable and a model should be proposed, especially applicable to EGTCs and bodies at transboundary level, that assigns the responsibility for coordinating projects under specific agreements (on the model of the management of LIFE projects), and advances of expenditure that avoid the use of bank loans. The delivery and coordination of European project actions would improve, and their implementation speed up. This would be all the more desirable for transboundary bodies operating in the Alpine environment, confronted with the implementation of the EUSALP strategy in areas which are particularly weak from an economic and social point of view.*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Project LIFE18 Project NAT/IT/000972 LIFE WOLFALPS – Two part
- Project "ALPMEDITER"- COORD-INNOV-PATRIM-MOBIL-CLIMA
- Final project report LIFE WOLFALPS- After Life Plan-Layman Report