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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL HABITATS (CDPE)

Group of Specialists on Protected Areas  
5 - 7 February 1992

Application of  
the Maremma Nature Park  
(Italy)  
for the European Diploma)

EXPERT REPORT

by

Mr Pierre HUNKELER

The secretariat express its full agreement with the expert's report. In the appendix heres it proposes a draft resolution for the award of the Diploma to the Maremma Nature Park.

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MAREMMA NATURE PARK  
(Italy)  
ON-THE-SPOT APPRAISAL  
by  
Pierre HUNKELER  
(Switzerland)

1. Introduction

In a letter dated 17 November 1990 the Italian Ministry of the Environment presented the application of the Maremma Nature Park for the European Diploma.

At its 6th meeting, in April 1991, the CDPE approved the application and adopted the following terms of reference for the expert appointed to carry out the on-the-spot visit :

- verify that the protected area is in fact of the European interest ;
- examine the various administrative documents and regulations ensuring protection of the area ;
- study the area's management plan especially the operational aspects, and verify its conformity with the Diploma's requirement ;
- see whether the park's staffing and funding are adequate for ensuring proper management ;
- propose the category (A, B or C) in which the park should be placed if awarded the Diploma.

The on-the-spot appraisal took place from 17 to 19 July 1991. The expert was accompanied by Mr Hector Hacourt, representing the Secretariat.

During the visit we met the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the park's Administrative Council, the Chairman and members of the Scientific Committee, representatives of the municipalities involved, the Province of Grosseto and the region of Tuscany, and representatives of the relevant private associations for the conservation of nature and the environment.

Mr Alessandro Russi, from the Italian Ministry of the Environment, accompanied us throughout the visit. Mr Angelini, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, did us the honour of taking part in the last meeting.

The visit was most excellently organised by the park's Chairman, Mr Andrea Vellutini, the Director, Mr Elio Boschi, and their colleagues. We express our sincere gratitude to them for their availability and patient solicitude. We also thank all the many other people who did everything they could to make our visit both fruitful and agreeable.

This report reproduces in part the headings of the questionnaire on applications for the award of the European Diploma.

## 2. Body responsible for management

Office of the Maremma Natural Park (*Consorzio del Parco naturale della Maremma*).

Registered Headquarters: Palazzo della Provincia,

Piazza Dante Alighieri

58100 GROSSETTO

Administrative Headquarters: Aurelia Antica localita Pianacce, 5811 Albarese (GR).

### 3. Type of area

Regional nature park.

### 4. Geographical situation

The park is situated in the province of Grosseto in the Tuscany region. It overlaps the territory of three municipalities: Grosseto to the north, Magliano in Tuscany in the centre, and Orbetello to the south. It is in the shape of a large rectangle running along the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

### 5. Characteristics and scientific interest

#### 5.1 Geology and geomorphology

In the centre and to the south of the park lie the Uccellina hills, rising to a height of 417 m. To the north-west there is a large alluvial plain, with the mouth of the river Ombrone.

The geological series include Verrucano, with beds of Rhaetic cave limestone and solid infra-Lias limestone above.

The soils are slightly acid above the Verrucano and partly basic, especially above the Trias cave limestone, whereas the hill region presents the full range of alluvial, sandy, clay and muddy soils.

There is an interesting fossil dune zone between the hills and the river.

## 5.2 Hydrology

A few small streams, most of them seasonal, flow in the hills. The alluvial plain is marked by the Ombrone, a relatively large water-course, which becomes a torrent in the rainy season. Several drainage canals cross the plain, where a few sheets of water or ponds continue to exist even in summer.

## 5.3 Vegetation and flora

The hills are covered by forests and Mediterranean scrub. There are sclerophyll and mixed *Quercus ilex* forests, also groups of *Quercus pubescens* and *Fraxinus ornus* in cooler places.

The various types of scrub comprise sclerophyll and coastal scrub, with *Juniperus phoenicea*, thermophile scrub (*Erica arborea*), oleaster and *Euphorbietum dendroides* - the habitat of the dwarf palm tree *Chamaerops humilis*. The park has at least four kinds of Mediterranean scrubland.

The coastal vegetation is still well preserved, consisting on the one hand of vegetation typical of rocky coasts and on the other of fine examples of plants associated with dunes.

Marsh vegetation varies depending on the degree of humidity and salinity: reeds, groups of *Scirpus maritimus*, *Cladium mariscus*, *Juncus acutus*, *Juncus maritimus* and *Schoenus nigricans*. In saltier areas *Salicornia*, *Arthrocnemum* and *Halocnemum* associations thrive. On higher ground we find scrub associations with *Phyllyrea* and *Juniperus phoenicea* and forests of *Ulmus minor* and *Fraxinus oxycarpa*.

A very large pine forest was planted in the first half of the nineteenth century with *Pinus pinea*, and seaward, *Pinus pinaster*. The underbrush, generally well developed, varies depending on soil conditions (the tops of dunes, humid hollows, etc.).

At least some 30 plant associations are recognised. To these should be added areas which have been changed by man such as meadows, pastureland, olive groves, vineyards and various types of crops.

The flora comprises more than 500 species. In addition to the usual procession of Mediterranean plants, the park contains several plants endemic to the region or of special phytogeographical interest. Examples are *Limonium multifforme* (limited to the Tuscan coast), *Limonium etruscum* (only found in Maremma), *Silene Tyrrhenia* (endemic to the Tuscan archipelago), *Chamaerops humilis* (near its northernmost point), *Calluna vulgaris* (to the southernmost point), *Brassica incana* (very much dispersed), *Halocnemum strobilaceum* (known in North Africa and Asia, and at only two other places in Italy), and a series of species restricted to Tuscany or Central Italy.

#### 5.4 Fauna

Insects comprise several interesting species. Examples are coleoptera such as *Nanophyes transversus*, found only in the large Tyrrhenian Sea islands, and *Antaxia corsica maremmana*, an endemic local subspecies. Also found is the magnificent butterfly *Caraxes lasius*, in association with well-preserved scrub.

Birds are of more commonly known species. The local avifauna comprises the usual range of Mediterranean birds: *Coracias garrulus*, *Merops apiaster*, *Tichodroma muraria* and the hoopoe. Predatory birds are well represented, in particular the sparrowhawk, *Circaetus gallicus*, the osprey, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco subbuteo*, the kestrel, *Circus pyrgus* and *Circus aeruginosus*. There have been sightings of the *Falco eleonora*, which may nest in the nearby islands. Night predatory birds include the little owl, the tawny owl and *Otus scops*. The stone-curlew breeds in the park.

Waterfowl include a few resident species such as *Himantopus himantopus* and above all a number of migrants such as *Anser anser* (up to 100 individuals),



wigeon (2,500), the gadwall (70), teal (1,500), the shoveller (1,500), garganey (more than 3,000) and the black-tailed godwit (up to 700 a day).

Mammals include numerous wild boar, the symbol of the park. The local strain (*Sus scrofa majori*) is unfortunately no longer pure-blooded, following on the introduction in the past of boar from Central Europe. Imported deer (*Dama dama*) have bred extensively, and there is a population of roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).

The porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) is relatively frequent, wildcat (*Felix silvestris*) rare. There are also stone martens (*Martes foina*), *Martes martes*, badgers (*Meles meles*), dormice and hazelmice, likewise the myocastor, which has been introduced.

#### 5.5 Agriculture and stock-breeding

The north-west fringe of the park, starting from the foothills, and much of the alluvial plain, are given over to cultivation, with olive trees, vineyards, fruit-trees, cereals, sunflower and wild and cultivated grassland.

Domestic fauna consist of Maremma cows and horses specific to the region. Stock-breeding is mainly concentrated in the plain of Trappola. Cattle also graze in the pine forest, and seasonally in areas on the wooded hillsides.

#### 5.6 Human occupation and the cultural heritage

The earliest traces of human occupation go back to the Upper Palaeolithic, from which time onwards men lived regularly in the region. The Romans left vestiges (remains of the bridge over the Ombrone, a villa near Talamone). Later, Benedictine monks and later still Cistercian monks settled in the region. In the 12th century they built the remarkable abbey-church of San Rabano (formerly Santa Maria Alborense); this was abandoned towards 1500, but impressive ruins still remain (now being restored).

To counter the growing power of Florence, a special network of fortifications was built, and several existing towers were strengthened (Castel Marino, Colelungo, Cala di Forno). A total of some ten ruined towers are still clearly visible in the park and its immediate surroundings.

Only part of the cultivable land was planted up when, at the beginning of the 19th century, work began on an operation to develop the marshland of the Alberense region. In the mid-19th century the Grand-Ducal pine forest was planted, covering some 600 to 700 ha.

Improvements in living and farming conditions continued with the draining of the marshes, particularly in connection with a major drainage operation at the beginning of the 1950s. A large part of the humid zones of the Trappola has been left untouched.

#### 6. European interest justifying the application

European, and even international interest in the site stems from the following features of the Maremma Natural Park:

- Diversity and high quality of the environments

The park contains some complete series of Mediterranean vegetation, ranging from the driest areas on rock-faces to the salt-marshes. The flora is specially rich, and the fauna well diversified.

- The Mediterranean coastal park

Despite present urban and tourist expansion along the Mediterranean coast, the protection of some 20 km of coast virtually untouched, with a well-preserved hinterland, has made it possible to safeguard a remarkable specimen of this type of environment.

- Role as regards migration

The Trappola region, at the mouth of the Ombrone, is a very important area for the rest and wintering of waterfowl. In addition, the park as a whole is a point of passage for numerous migrant birds on their way to or from Africa. It is in fact situated on two major migration routes between Europe and Africa, one passing by the Tuscan coast and Sardinia and the other by the Tuscan coast, south Italy and Sicily.

- Protection of the cultural heritage

The very long history of human occupation of Maremma has left behind important vestiges such as the caves inhabited in prehistoric times and the ruins of historic monuments. The protection due to a natural park makes it possible to conserve this heritage in an intact environment.

- How to make protection and use compatible

Human use has influenced the natural environments of the Maremma park, and continues today with agriculture and stock-breeding. The search for a satisfactory balance between the pursuit of these activities and the safeguarding of the environment is specially worthwhile in a Mediterranean context. Here the park can provide good examples of solutions.

- A key element in a group of protected or shortly to be protected zones

Several high-quality sites are to be found in the region, either protected or in process of being protected. In the medium term, it is possible to establish a whole network of protected zones in the context of which the Maremma park will play a vital central role.

## 7. Land ownership

Ownership is of different kinds. The bulk of the park used to belong to the War Veterans' Fund, and has been taken over by the Tuscany region. The remainder is divided among a few very large private or municipal holdings and approximately a hundred small-holders.

The park has no plans to acquire land. It prefers to act through regulations, so far accepted without too much difficulty, or by direct agreement with the owners concerned.

#### 8. Protection system

The park was established by Tuscan regional law No. 65 of 5 June 1975, which lays down the main purposes of the park and its management procedures.

A territorial co-ordination plan drawn up by the park's Council defines in detail the zoning of the park and the activities authorised or prohibited in each zone. The plan entered into force in August 1977 after approval by the Tuscany region. It replaced the municipal land use plans for the entire area of the park.

These documents were supplemented by a number of regulations on a list of activities to be subjected gradually to stricter rules. These included:

- Regulations on circulation throughout the network of the forest zone and the marshland within the park, and on entry thereto.
- Regulations of 6 May 1982 on circulation on the park's roads.
- Regulations of 3 February 1983 on navigation on the internal public waterways within the Maremma Natural Park and on berthing near the mouth of the river Ombrone.
- Regulations of 21 September 1984 on the use of the forester's lodge in the park.
- Regulations of 29 November 1984 and 10 January 1985 on the agricultural and livestock management plan.

- Regulations on fishing for sport in the river Ombrone within the Maremma Natural Park.
- Forestry management plan.

## 9. Development and management plan

### 9.1 Zoning

The park is zoned as follows:

- Zone A, forestry and marshland

This zone comprises the Uccellina hills and much of the Ombrone delta. There is a general prohibition on all activities which might impair the environment. Grazing is restricted to cattle and horses, and regulated in detail. Felling must comply with the current management plan.

- Zone B, an agricultural zone subject to special regulations

This zone acts as a filter to protect zone A. Human activities which do not jeopardise the equilibrium of zone A are authorised. Agriculture is allowed to continue without any basic changes. Crop changes have to be authorised by the park, which is entitled to lay down the chemical products to be used and to limit or prohibit the use of pesticides which are specially harmful to the environment.

- Zone for park reception facilities

Priority is given to the use of existing buildings.

- Zones for scientific equipment

These are laid down by the Council, on proposal by the Scientific Committee.

- Access to the park

Access points are laid down and limited in number. The municipalities concerned are required to take these into account by providing the necessary car parks.

- Inhabited centres

The land use plans of the municipalities involved are required to take into account the close proximity of the park in the preparation of the town-planning projects for the built-up areas adjacent to the park (Alberese, Ripescia, Principina a Mare, Talamone, Fonteblanda, Montiano and Magliano).

- Agricultural zone outside the park

This zone covers some 10,000 ha. It is scheduled to remain agricultural. The park has to give its approval to any building permits. Buildings must be in keeping with the size of farms. Crops requiring a change in soil or the introduction of foreign species or cultivation systems will be prohibited. Fences and trees must be retained.

## 9.2 Responsible authorities

The highest authority is the park's Council. It consists of three representatives of the Tuscany region, three of each of the three municipalities concerned, and one from the War Veterans' Fund.

A Scientific Committee advises the park on matters within its sphere of competence. It comprises representatives of the universities of Florence, Sienna and Pisa, the Italian National Research Council and the Grossetto Provincial Council. Its members are appointed from lists of three candidates proposed by each of these bodies.

### 9.3 Staff

The Director is responsible for managing the park. He is helped by a technical officer, 3 administrative officers, 5 administrative assistants particularly concerned with the reception and information of the public, a head warden, who have policing powers, provide regular round-the-clock supervision. The information office is open every day throughout the year.

### 9.4 Budget

The annual budget exceeds 3.5 billion lire. The main funding source is the Tuscany region, but the Province of Grosseto and the municipalities of Grosseto, Magliano and Orbetello also contribute towards the expenses of the park.

They are furthermore various contributions in such forms as forestry measures and possibilities of State aid for the employment of jobless people.

The outline law on protected zones, now being discussed by the Senate, should provide scope for the government financing.

### 9.5 Park management

#### 9.5.1 Forests

Forestry management is based on a management plan which was subjected to a public inquiry and is binding on the landowners. It provides for integral protection zones, non-exploitation zones and controlled-intervention zones (conversion limited areas of coppice into forest with a view to cultivating various species of special interest or of use to the fauna, such as quercus and sorb).

In the pine-land, limited felling is carried on mainly to give seedlings access to light. A scientific study is under way with a view to ascertaining whether and, if so, how the natural regeneration of the stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) (whose seeds continue to be regularly harvested occurs.

Measures to prevent fires are particularly stringent in the hot season : remote controlled cameras, general surveillance at all times, and restrictions on access by the public. Thanks to these there has been no serious outbreak of fire since the establishment of the park.

#### 9.5.2 Fauna

The absence of large predators means that the population of ungulates is steadily expanding . To avoid damage to nearby crops, in particular by wild boar, much of zone A is bordered by a protective barrier.

There is a regular programme for the capture of boars; these are sold outside the park except for specimens which are closest to the local subspecies, which are set free. The present population is estimated at 400 to 600 individuals. The breeding rate is high, but so is the rate of natural loss due to the summer drought.

There are more than 1,000 deer, which are not yet subject to control measures but appear to put pressure on the roe-deer population.

Generally speaking, no signs have been observed so far of over-grazing or serious harm to vegetation by wild or domestic ungulates.

Hunting is forbidden, and poaching kept to reasonable limits. There is widespread hunting in the peripheral zone, which might eventually have an adverse effect on the park fauna.

Amateur fishing is allowed along the sea coast and in the Ombrone ; permits are issued in limited numbers for certain days and periods. Bar is much



sought after, and illicit night fishing calls for regular vigilance by the wardens.

### 9.5.3 Agriculture and stock-breeding

The agricultural and stock-breeding management plan drawn up in the early 1980s reviews agricultural activities in the Park. It is in effect a summary of agricultural practices in normal holding.

More advanced studies are under way (biological agriculture, contracts with producers for high-quality products).

Large areas are already cultivated with the minimum amount of added substances. For example, the fields of cereals on the right bank of the Ombrone, downstream, are already cultivated without either fertilisers or herbicides.

Stock-breeding is restricted to cows and horses, and the preservation of local breeds of cows and horses is encouraged.

The Maremma cow is very typical. It finds sufficient grazing in forest undergrowth and marshland.

### 9.5.4 Tourism

Care is taken in opening the park to visitors. The number of tourists is limited, as also the authorised itineraries, the number of people admitted and visitors' days, especially in summer. The greatest pressure is on Marina di Alberese, with peak periods of some 1,200 people a day who come to enjoy the beach rather than the park.

#### 9.5.5 Information and education

Information takes various forms: publication of the guides to the park, specially laid-out itineraries and conducted tours. Education consists mainly of visits by schoolchildren and five-day training courses in a park lodge.

#### 9.5.6 Scientific research

The park has commissioned or encouraged a whole series of research studies to provide information essential for the running of the park, such as studies on various species of mammals, the Mediterranean forest, the relationship between the forest and game, and the reproduction of the stone pine.

The park continues to encourage research on subjects of direct concern to management. Other more basic research is also authorised by the park on the advice of its Scientific Committee.

#### 9.5.7 The cultural heritage

The park is continuing its efforts to enhance the cultural heritage through its publications and guided tours and by encouraging the restoration of the relevant monuments.

### 10. outstanding problems

The following subjects were deemed to merit special attention in the future:

#### 10.1 Pollution

The Grosseto sewage plant operates very unsatisfactorily. Its outlet empties into the Fosso Razzo canal, which joins the Ombrone after crossing the north-west part of the park. The water leaving the sewage plant is of very poor

quality. To this can probably be added other sources of pollution in the San Isodoro region, all seriously impairing the quality of the water in the canal.

#### 10.2 Erosion of the shore

The shore throughout the area covered by the mouth of the Ombrone, as far up as Marina Alberese, has receded markedly in recent decades. Erosion may be due to over-excavation of building material in the upper reaches of the Ombrone. A study - which should be given a new impetus - is being carried out to determine as far as possible the probable causes of erosion and possible measures which might be taken to prevent the situation from deteriorating still further.

#### 10.3 Tourist pressures

The park has adopted very strict measures to limit the number of visitors and control their access. The system operates very well in respect of the visitors interested in the park's natural and historical wealth. There remains the problem of the use of the Marina di Alberese, which is first and foremost a public beach. Measures to restrict the number of vehicles to 400 a day, and the banning of access by night, already represent satisfactory progress. Nevertheless, approximately 1,000 to 1,200 visitors a day in the high season represent heavy pressures on the resources of the coast.

#### 10.4 Education and information

Stress should be laid on the efforts made to date by the park, particularly as regards publications and the organisation of conducted tours or stays in the park for schoolchildren. A programme of reception facilities is being drawn up, and deserves every encouragement. There appear to be worthwhile possibilities of extending the education and information programmes. Examples are information about the park at Marina di Alberese, or a back-up to the existing facilities at Talamone.

#### 10.5 Water management

The park is involved in several hydrological works such as drainage ditches and canals. The authorities are consulted in the event of serious problems of too much or too little water. The relation between quantitative and qualitative water management for agricultural requirements should be correlated with the positive and negative effects on the natural vegetation and wild fauna so as to propose possible adjustments which will reconcile the various interests.

#### 10.6 Agriculture

The agricultural zone of the park is viewed primarily as an effective filter which reduces the influence of the zones outside on the forest and marsh zones, particularly by preventing uncontrolled tourist development.

The agricultural and stock-breeding management plan drawn up in the early 1980s summarises good agricultural practices in a normal establishment situated outside a protected zone. The restrictions it imposes have a definite positive effect in limiting possible deviations and the use of chemicals which are specially harmful to the environment.

These restrictions are understandable for the peripheral zone, but are in our view inadequate for the park itself.

The park authorities are moreover fully aware of this, and have arranged for studies on the lines of more extensive agriculture. One firm is engaged in biological wine production; and near Trappola, several fields of cereals are cultivated without treatment or fertilisers.

These efforts should be encouraged on a still larger scale so as to ensure that the park's agricultural zone continues to act as a planned filter for environment-harmful activities while at the same time representing as interesting as possible a habitat for animal and plant species associated with

traditional agriculture. Implementation should not be too complicated, since the main agricultural establishment belongs to the Tuscany region.

#### 10.7 Scientific research

A large number of research programmes are being conducted in the park. Most of them concern specific problems, and it is rare for them to be integrated into more overall environmental approaches.

The introduction of a more general programme of applied ecology alongside projects designed to solve specific problems might yield valuable results for the management of the park.

#### 10.8 Protection of the coast

The logical consequence of a coastal park is the protection of at least some part of the inshore waters. This is all the more important for Maremma in that the sea-bed, particularly to the south-east, is relatively rich. However, protective measures concern neither the park's Council nor the region, but the government.

#### 10.9 Network of protected areas

The Maremma Nature Park is situated in a region full of sites of great natural and landscape interest. To the south lie Lake ~~Burano~~ and the Orbetello lagoons, which are partly protected. To the north, Diaccia Botrone - the Castiglione della Pescaia marsh - is a humid zone of international importance which admirably sets off the park. These two areas are the feeding or breeding grounds of *Circus aeruginosus* and *Ardea cinerea*. Measures to protect this area are under discussion. Seaward, a number of sites also merit special attention: these include the islands of Montecristo, Elba and Formichi.

The authorities of the maremma Park are aware of these developments and participate actively in some of them. It is to be hoped that the planned network of protected areas will be set up in the near future.

### 11. Conclusions

On the basis of this first on-the-spot appraisal the five questions contained in our terms of reference can be answered as follows:

- verify that the protected area is in fact of the European interest ;

The answer is yes, in view of the wealth and diversity of the natural environments concerned, the importance of the Trappola humid zone for waterfowl, and the cultural heritage which is protected by the park.

- examine the various administrative documents and regulations ensuring protection of the area ;

The protection of the park is satisfactorily ensured by the measures adopted by the region and applied by both the park authorities and those of the municipalities concerned.

- study the area's management plan especially the operational aspects, and verify its conformity with the Diploma's requirement ;

Generally speaking, the park is well managed. The restrictions on human uses which might harm the environment are clearly defined, except to a certain extent for the agricultural zone.

- see whether the park's staffing and funding are adequate for ensuring proper management ;

The basic operation of the park is reasonably well ensured in the context of the budget allocated and the staff employed, whose commitment deserves special attention.

- propose the category (A, B or C) in which the park should be placed if awarded the Diploma.

This is a regional nature park. The protective measures are not adequate to place it in category A, but go well beyond the requirements of category C. Obviously the appropriate category is B.

In conclusion, we propose that the European Diploma, category B, be awarded to the Maremma Nature Park.

## 12. Recommendations

The situation and quality of the Park can be improved in certain respects as specified in the recommendations below.

We are refraining from suggesting any conditions. These might be envisaged for agricultural management and for reducing pollution in Fosso Razzo. However, it is not possible to impose a complete overhaul of agricultural management in five years, and pollution abatement does not fall within the direct purview of the park authorities.

We therefore prefer to propose only recommendations, which are as follows:

- appropriate measures should be taken to reduce substantially the sources of pollution in Fosso Razzo, in particular from the outlet of the Grossetto sewage plant .
- the study of the causes of the erosion of the shore should be confirmed, as well as the search for possible remedies.

- A detailed assessment should be made of tourist pressures on nature at Marina di Alberese and that additional protective measures be adopted as necessary.
- The park's informational and educational activities should be continued and intensified, particularly in much-visited areas such as Marina di Alberese and Talamone.
- A study should be conducted of the effects of water management in the park and its surroundings on the natural assets of the park, and the necessary adjustments made.
- All necessary measures should be taken to ensure optimum compatibility between agricultural activities and the preservation of the richness and diversity of the park's flora and fauna, particularly by continuing and expanding the action already being conducted on these lines.
- The applied ecology aspects of scientific research in the park should be developed and co-ordinated.
- Encouragement should be given to the introduction of protective measures in respect of the park's coastline and inshore waters.
- Encouragement should also be given to the development of a network of protected areas in the region.



## APPENDIX

Draft resolution (92)...

ON THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

AWARDED TO THE MAREMMA NATURE PARK

(Italy)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma;

Having regard to the proposals of the Steering Committee for the Conservation and Management of the Environment and Natural Habitats (CDPE);

Having noted the agreement of the Italian Government

After having deliberated,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma to the Maremma Nature Park, category B, in accordance with the Regulations for European Diploma (Resolution (91)16);

Places the aforesaid Park under the patronage of the Council of Europe until..... 1997 ;

Addresses the following recommendation :

I. to the national authorities to the authorities of the Region of Tuscany :

1. that appropriate measures be taken to reduce substantially the sources of pollution in Fosso Razzo, particularly from the outlet of the Grossetto sewage plant.

2. that encouragement be given to the development of a network of protected areas in the region.

II. to the authorities responsible for managing the park :

3. that the study of the causes of the erosion of the shore be continued, as well as the search for possible remedies.

4. that the encouragement be given to the introduction of protective measures in respect of the park's coastline and inshore waters.

5. That the study be made of the effects of water management in the park and its surroundings on the natural assets of the park, and that the necessary adjustments be introduced.

6. that all necessary measures be taken to ensure optimum compatibility between agricultural activities and the preservation of the richness and diversity of the park's flora and fauna, particularly by continuing and expanding the action already being conducted on these lines.

7. that the applied ecology aspects of scientific research in the park be developed and co-ordinated.

8. that a detailed assessment be made of tourist pressures on nature at Marina di Alberese and that additional protective measures be adopted as necessary.

9. that the park's information and education activities be continued and intensified, particularly in much-visited areas such as Marina di Alberese and Talamone.