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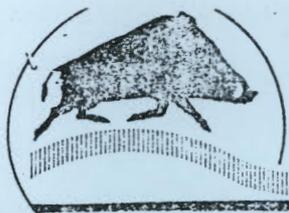
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Group of specialists on Protected Areas

MAREMMA NATURAL PARK  
(Italy)

Application for the European Diploma  
presented by the Italian Government

CONSORZIO DEL PARCO NATURALE DELLA MAREMMA  
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PARCO NATURALE DELLA MAREMMA

I. INFORMATIVE DETAILS ABOUT THE MAREMMA NATURAL PARK

The Maremma Natural Park was instituted by the Tuscany County with the law n°65 on June 5 th., 1975; it occupies an area of 9.800 hectares in the Province of Grosseto, that is the most southern of Tuscany.

Its territory is delimited by the Tyrrhenian Sea on the south-west; it has two different morphologic characteristics:

- a plain of alluvial kind, crossed by the last course of the Ombrone (the second river in Tuscany for length), in all the north-western part of the Park;
- the hilly grounds of the Uccellina "mountains" which reach m.417 above sea level (Poggio Lecci) in the central and southern parts and then lower towards East in a flat belt.

The plain areas of the Park along the river are agricultural with scattered settlements on the right side of it. On both sides near the mouth of the river there are boggy areas for about 800 hectares; it is a very interesting environment formed by fossil dunes, parallel to the coast line, and by depressions among them, which are seasonally flooded. There are also some sheets of water that endure the summer drought.

The lowest areas are covered by *Juncus acutus* and *maritimus*, *Phragmites australis*, *Tjpha angustifolia*, *Sarcocornia perennis* and *Limonium*.

On the consolidated dunes there are *Pinus pinea*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Juniperus oxycedrus*, *Juniperus macrocarpa* and *Juniperus phoenicea*, *Myrtus communis*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Phyllirea L.*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Erica multiflora* and other essences that are present in the tipic underbrush of the mediterranean wood.

Going to the central part of the Park between the hills and the sea we find the pinewood of about 700 hectares, that was planted to bonify the land during the last century. *Pinus pinea* are more than *Pinus pinaster* that are limited to the belt nearer the sea.

The pinewood has a very rich underbrush of Junipers, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Erica multiflora* and other shrubby mediterranean essences.

In this surface *Pinus pinea* is spontaneously renewed, so there are different aged trees and that is very important for the preservation of the pinewood through the years.

Another important aspect is the beach, where you can find a large variety of pioneering species of vegetation and dunes behind which there is a very interesting belt of *Juniperus*.

Finally the zone nearer the hills is occupied by grazing areas which are divided from the pinewood by a canal with water all year long and by a damp area covered by *Juncus acutus* and *Juncus maritimus*.

The central and southern parts of the Park, as already written, are occupied by a limestone ridge colled "Monti dell'Uccellina". This hilly part in the north has a plain covered by pastures, pineforest and beach between itself and the sea, and in its southern part it touches the sea with a high and eroded coast. The nature of these hills is mostly calcareous and only partly siliceous (conglomerate of Verrucano).

Hills are covered by mediterranean wood; there are many *Quercus ilex*, *Quercus pubescens*, *Quercus cerris*, *Quercus suber*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Ostrja carpinifolia*, *Sorbus domestica*, *Olea oleaster*, *Acer L.* and so on for the arboreal essences and *Erica arborea*, *scoparia*, *multiflora*, *Arbutus unedu*, *Phyllirea L.*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*,

*Cistus monspeliensis*, *incanus*, *salvifolia*, *Laurus nobilis*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Spartium Junceum*, *Calicotome villosa*, *Daphne sericea* and so on for the shrubby essences.

On the slope facing the sea it is very interesting the presence of *Chamaerops humilis*, *Euphorbia dendroides* and *Juniperus phoenicea*, typical species of the rocky vegetation.

From all these notices, even if shortly given, a first element emerges: the national valence of the environmental characteristics of this territory, where you do not find any human settlement for about 30 kilometres neither along the coast, nor on the hilly area covered by the wood.

The environment is particularly interesting for the life of a large number of wild species thanks to so different areas and their superimposition.

According to the census of the Park and the Natural History Museum of Livorno, many thousands of wild ducks (almost 10.000 yearly in the last three years) and several dozens of *Anser anser* (160 in 1989) annually winter in the boggy areas.

Besides these areas assure the nest-building of *Himantopus himantopus* and *Burhinus oedipnemus* and the rest to many species of migrant waders and birds that live along river banks and to predatory birds such as *Circus aeruginosus*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Circus pygargus* (nest builder).

The Tuscan archipelag is like a bridge toward Africa and for this reason the areas of mediterranean wood and the pineforest in front of it assure the rest to a large number of migrant birds during autumn and spring; then the temperate climate and the great richness of food resources support the wintering of many birds and the nest building of *Upupa epops*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Picus viridis*, *Tichodroma muraria*, *Otus scops*, *Streptopelia turtur*, *Falco peregrino*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Circaetus gallicus* and so on.

There are not many species of birds living here all year long: we can find only some kinds of crows (*Garrulus glandarius*, *Pica pica*, *Corvus corone cornix*, *Corvus monedula*), of night predatory birds (*Athene noctua*, *Tyto alba*, *Asio otus* and *Strix aluco*), *Phasianus colchicus* and some others. There are many kinds of mammals. The biggest ones are *Sus scrofa*, *Capreolus capreolus* and *Dama dama*; then we can find *Vulpes vulpes*, *Hystrix cristata* and *Mustela mustela*. *Felis silvestris* is unusual; there are also *Martes foina*, *Martes martes*, *Mustela putorius* and *Meles meles*.

*Lepus europaeus* and *Oryctolagus cuniculus* are scarce.

#### THE RUNNING OF THE PARK

The Maremma Natural Park was instituted by the Tuscany County as already written at the beginning. The law establishes that the running of the Park is the duty of the three Communes whose territory is included in it and of the Provincial Administration of Grosseto.

It fixes the aims the Park has to pursue that is "the defence of the natural, environmental, historical characteristics of Maremma for the social purpose of these values and the promotion of scientific research and the naturalistic didactics."

Even if established by a law, the Park remained a legal abstraction until the introduction of the proper deeds: such as the Territorial Plan of Coordination, plans for the running and codes.

#### THE TERRITORIAL PLAN OF COORDINATION

This plan is the first and basic one for its value to programme the territory and to pick out the strategy of the Park.

The Administration was urged by political requirements that wanted the Park quickly to take off in order to win the mistrust, the fears and the ostility that had aroused against it; so this plan was used as a deed to manage the Park.

It began to be written at the beginning of 1976 considering the local populations and their interests in the Park, and it ended in the autumn of the same year.

It began to be executive in August 1977, after the approvation of the Council of the Tuscany County.

This plan divides the territory of the Park and the area on the outside of it in four big zones for their naturalistic and environmental characteristics and then it shows the different human activities that are feasible there.

It establishes also that the Park is not a deed of tourist promotion; it is a cultural institution aimed to naturalistic didactics, to scientific research but also to the enjoyment and use of its resources.

The Park was not known by many people at that time, but it was fixed the maximum number of tourists that could visit the most delicate and interesting zones and the beach.

This plan finally establishes that the Park had to protect the territory and to develop the local people.

#### THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The law of the Park says that the Scientific Committee is an advisory and proposal body and that it is necessary to ask for its judgement for what is concerned with the running plans.

The Administration, on the other hand, has chosen to involve it in all the running of the Park.

It is really an important support to every decision of the Administration, which has made no mistakes.

So you can easily understand the importance that the Administration has given to the scientific research; research is allowed when it does not directly concern with the running of the Park with a passive behaviour and in an active way when it concerns directly with it; only in this last case the Administration wants the research and pays for it.

We have financed researches on *Hystrix cristata*, *Meles meles*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Sus scrofa*, *Dama dama*, *Capreolus capreolus*, *Felix silvester*, on sea erosion (to find the characteristics to justify the proposal for a sea park), on sea water (to value if aereosol can influence vegetation), on mediterranean wood, on the spontaneous renewing of *Pinus pinea*, on the influence of wild animals and their pasturing in the wood, on the management of the farms in the Park.

Other researches on *Larus argentatus*, predatory birds (nocturnal and diurnal), on micromammal, on tortoise, on reptiles, on insects, on *Garrulus glandarus* and other species of waders have been made in the Park without being financed.

There are many relationships between the Maremma Natural Park and many Italian and Foreign University (Aberdeen), with Scientific Association and with the Natural History Museums of Grosseto, Livorno, Verona, Milano together with the National Institute of Biology for Game and other ones.

### THE USE OF THE PARK

It was for a political requirement that we decided to open the Park for tourists, to minimize the hostility against it and to start with more favourable conditions.

The Park has organized the visits only after a precise observation and individuation of the most interesting routes, the maximum number of people daily accepted, the arrangement of signals and the choice of a proper rule. It was in 1978.

No more than 500 persons can daily walk along the four itineraries and it is possible to do it only three days a week; the other four days are only for school trips.

It is necessary to pay a ticket in order to visit the Park.

The Administration wanted to give a cultural aim to the visit and so a group of young people were prepared to work as guides in the trips into the Park.

At the same time two series of books, one popular and one scientific, were published. They are indispensable aids to study particular aspects of the Park.

Later, other five itineraries were added in some marginal areas.

In 1978 about 40.000 persons came to visit the Park, but only 17.000 walked along the routes where it is necessary to pay a ticket; in 1988 120.000 persons came and more than 51.000 paid the ticket.

the number of the persons along the beach increased (more than 1200 daily in 1981) it was necessary to limit it closing the road towards the sea by a computer that let only 400 cars pass.

### THE NATURALISTIC DIDACTICS

Students represent a good half of the visitors to the Park.

We have learnt that one day trips are not enough useful and that teachers are not often suitable to carry out a lesson of environment, so a series of five days trips for students have been organized using guest-quarters as centre.

The echo and the success of these "ecological weeks" were so big that the Tuscany County together with the Park and the school authorities introduced in its programmes the possibility to do five days trips, paying for them and trying to involve in this enterprise the other protected areas in Tuscany.

Besides giving hospitality to schools the Park organizes stages for teachers and gives them useful didactic materials; it is now working to enlarge its activity concerning this field, looking for a building suitable to contain at least 3 school trips, where to organize a permanent centre for environmental didactics, stages, seminars and so on.

All this work will be possible collecting the materials and information of the researches carried out in the Park.

### PLANS OF RUNNING

The Administration aimed to protect the environment and to stimulate the productive activities done in the Park and in the area immediately close to it, such as agriculture tourism and forestry activity.

#### a) Plan of forestry running.

Studies about the vegetation of the Park has allowed to arrange a very precise prospect to know the real conditions of the plants and so to adopt a plan where is shown which human activities can be done.

We can sintetize these rules in a simple way:

- 1) Areas where noone can go and nothing can be done; they are particularly developed zones of mediterranean wood only for scientific research.

- 2) Parts of the wood where every use is forbidden for the important vegetational level.
- 3) Areas where it is possible to do periodical cutting or changing from copse to long-trunked trees, always thinking of the landscape and the fauna.

Moreover the plan faces other problems such as the defence of *Quercus suber*, the minor roads, the fire-fighting organization.

This plan was accepted in 1983 and it has proved to be an impulse to the increasing of forestry activities and a deed through which it is possible to do transactions of environmental recovery.

b) Plan of agronomic-livestock running.

It was written in 1985 looking at the researches made by the farms inside the Park; this plan has two different characteristics: the first one is the indication of the limits where it is possible to build outbuildings to farms and the second one is the information on the ways to obtain a more rational agriculture (rules to plant and to rotate) and to reduce the impact of it on the environment.

The Administration together with the Tuscany County is making researches on biological agriculture and production of good products following the indications of the European Economic Community.

In this context the Administration has signed conventional agreements with the farmers that work inside the Park in order to obtain good products in exchange for a formal acknowledgement of the Administration itself that will make their sale easy.

The livestock aspect of this plan is particularly interesting because it establishes the rules for wild breeding of cattle and horses just to save the Maremmana breed, that is in danger of extinction.

c) Plan of receptive structures in the Park.

This plan has to be finished.

It aims to the recovery of a building near the Park to be used as hostel and centre of environmental didactics.

It aims also to build a refreshment room at Marina di Alberese opened during day time to be used by the students of schooltrips in autumn and spring and by tourists in summer; also a modest hotel is expected.

There are few receptive structures because the Park wants to help local people who have a licence to rent rooms (40 families in a village of 400 persons).

Only encouraging this kind of receptivity it will be possible to use the present structures to the utmost and so to increase the benefits that the Park produces with its own existence.

II. Informative detail about the binding obligations the Natural Park of Maremma has defined and about the relation between its instruments of territorial planning and the municipal and provincial ones.

The law that instituted the Park shows the territorial plan of coordination as the first accomplishment instrument of the Park itself. It is a deed aimed to the territorial planning that concerns the area of the Park and also all the outer territories that have a functional relation with the object of the maximum environmental safeguard. (The Park)

It contains a series of rules that establish the limits the following management choices have to act within.

The planning of the territorial plan of coordination uses plans of running that are means through which the Park guides particular human activities in the territory of the Park.

The plan of forestry running, become effective from six years, fixes six woody areas as a total preserve for scientific purposes; other areas where, for different reasons, forest uses are forbidden and the areas where uses are allowed but fixing the ways of actions and the condition for their consent. It fixes also the sanctions to transgressors.

The plan of agronomic-livestock running, become effective from five years, wants to give indications for a rational use of the agricultural productions about arrangements, rotations and agronomic techniques.

It fixes also the rules to build in the Park (only for agricultural aims) and shows how much pasturage is compatible with the environmental safeguard.

Other rules are introduced by regulations such as the one for the visit to the Park, for the use of the roads and the entering its territory, for the navigation on the river Ombrone, for the sporting fishing on it, just to make some particular activities compatible with the aim of safeguard.

About the relation between the planning instruments in the Park and the ones of other territorial institution it is enough to say:

- a) what the territorial plan of coordination precises in the area of the Park takes the place of the municipal town-planning instruments that will have to respect the territorial plan of coordination in the area outside the Park;
- b) in approval sitting of the provincial landscape plan, law n.431 of 08/08/85, the Tuscany County has appropriated the expectations of the territorial plan of coordination both for the area of the Park and the one outside it.
- c) The rules of the plan of agronomic-livestock running the building activity in its territory regulates with, take the place of the municipal building codes and the law of Tuscany County by which the building in agricultural zone is regulated.

\*\* We enclose a publication on the law that founded the Park, the territorial plan of coordination and the statute of the Union.

Conclusion

This Park, is a well known and significant example, at national and international level, of a coastal park, where efforts to concile conservation and development, along a typical Mediterranean coast, have been successful.

Landscape and Mediterranean vegetation is still relatively untouched; hunting in the park is strictly forbidden; fauna, flora and habitats are generally well kept; tourism is oriented and environmentally compatible (ie. trekking, birdwatching, etc.). Management is particulaly keen and efficient. The plan of the Park sates that the Maremma Park "is not a deed of tourist promotion; it is a cultural institution aiming at environmental education, scientific research and recreation.

Additional information concerning the area is available at the Secretariat:

1. copy of the Park Law, statute and regulation concerning the management plan
2. plan maps at 1:50.000 scale
3. photographic album including 20 colour prints (photocopies) illustrating the Park's main features.