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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

40th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2020

REPORT

**ON THE SPOT EXPERT APPRAISAL OF THE
PARCO REGIONALE GALLIPOLI COGNATO**

PICCOLE DOLOMITI LUCANE

(ITALY)

25-28 June 2019

*Document prepared
by Mr. Eladio Fernández-Galiano (Spain)*

The Government of Italy, in conformity with Article 3 of Resolution CM/Res/ Dipl (2008) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas, had presented in January 2019 an application for such a Diploma (doc T-PVS/DE (2019) 6). The Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, in its meeting of 5-6 March 2019, had found that the Park filled the criteria of exceptional European interest and declared the application admissible. The Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas decided at its meeting in 2019 that an on-the-spot appraisal be undertaken during 2019 to assess whether the EDPA should be awarded for a period of 5 years from 2020.

The visit took place from 25 to 28 June 2019 (3 ½ days excluding travelling).

Table of contents

1. The Remit	4
2. Introduction to the Gallipoli Cognato Regional Park	4
3. European Interest.....	4
4. Conservation Measures	5
4.1. Legal protection status.....	5
4.2. Boundaries, zoning and buffer zones.....	6
4.3. Supervision and warding	6
4.4. State of conservation of main species and habitats, effectiveness of regulations concerning threats	6
4.5. Land-use planning	6
4.6. International Protection	6
5. Management	6
5.1. Management Plan and institutional arrangements. Relations with other stakeholders	6
5.2. Capacities and Budget - Managing of water resources.....	7
5.3. Research and Monitoring.....	7
6. Uses and Socio-economic Activities	7
6.1. Forestry Agriculture and Grazing	7
6.2. Building, infrastructures and tourism (including car traffic and public access) - Human occupation ...	8
7. Connectivity of the Area	8
8. Conclusions	8
Annex 1	9
Annex 2	12
Annex 3	13

1. THE REMIT

The Council of Europe Secretariat asked me to carry out the on-the-spot appraisal to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Piccole Dolomiti Lucane) in Italy. The on-the-spot expert appraisal was aimed to confirm whether the conservation of biological, geological or landscape diversity is of exceptional European interest and can consequently motivate the award of the European Diploma. Following the regulation of the European Diploma on Protected Areas I was also asked to examine the management and protection system to give an opinion on whether the Park is managed in an exemplary way, including appropriate programmes of action for sustainable development. I was asked to visit the Park and meet relevant stakeholders. The Park management prepared a draft agenda for my visit that was approved by the Council of Europe Secretariat. I should like to express my gratitude the Director of the Park Dr Marco Delorenzo and Dr Angela Ciliberti and the many people I met, listed with the agenda in annex to this report.

I followed for my report and analysis the guidance included in the “Checklist for independent experts carrying out on-the-spot appraisals visits to protected areas in the framework of the European Diploma for Protected Areas” (doc T-PVS/DE (2018) 7). To avoid lengthening the report the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Piccole Dolomiti Lucane) is referred to in this report as “the Park”.

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE GALLIPOLI COGNATO REGIONAL PARK

The park is a wide territory covering 27,027 hectares of a rugged land in the South Apennines. It is mainly formed by a mosaic of landscapes, of which it is worth noting the superb forest of 4.159 ha formed by impressive turkey oak, two species of green oak (*Quercus ilex* and *Q. rotundifolia*) and a variety of other tree species. The forest is surrounded by species rich prairies and a fertile and productive agricultural land. The Park has a rough mountain relief encircled by quite arid zones typical of southern Italy. Its altitude varies from 200 to the 1.319 meters of Mount Impiso. It comprises the whole surface of five municipalities, including Castelmezzano and Pietrapertosa, - both established at the top of impressive stony jagged crests - and the villages of Accettura, Calciano and Oliveto Lucano. The area is crossed by two rivers Basento and Salandrela. These imposing mountains are known as the Lucanian Dolomite or “little Dolomite” to which they resemble superficially even if the geological stratum in the Park is very different from the Dolomites in the Trentino Alps. The mountains here were formed in the Middle Miocene (15 M years. ago) and they are mainly composed of sedimentary sandstones. Landscapes are of inspiring beauty and aesthetic value, particularly because of the contrast between forest, rock pinnacles, river gorges and agricultural land. The relief is the result of the composition of the sedimentary geological formations and the complex tectonic events experience by the South of the Italian Peninsula since the Miocene plus the erosion of the raised rocks.

The area first urban settlement (more like a castle village) is called Croccia Cognato, a site dated VI to IV centuries BC which was built by people of Oscan-Sammite origin called now Lucanians. They had construction techniques inherited from the Greeks who had populated a good part of Sicily and Southern Italy at the time. At the end of the Roman empire the area was invaded by barbarians and Arabs. All these cultures left their mark, so the Park hosts a very rich cultural heritage, including ruins of castles, places of archaeological and even Neolithic stone-culture “observatories”.

3. EUROPEAN INTEREST

The Park has European interest in a number of aspects, including its flora, fauna, geology and landscape as well as ethno-anthropological and archaeological interest.

The most remarkable habitat of exceptional conservation value is a forest of over 4.200 hectares that has been preserved - mostly as public property - for several centuries. The forest has been subject to a careful management, particularly since its declaration as Regional Park in December 1997. The Park contains four Natura 2000 sites (around a quarter of its surface) mostly forest of *Quercus cerris*, *Quercus pubescens*, *Quercus ilex*, with patches of *Quercus rotundifolia*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, and a rich variety of species, rich grassland and interesting riparian vegetation. The size and conservation status of this mosaic of habitats, which harmoniously integrates with agricultural land is remarkable.

While the area is, as a Mediterranean mountainous region, rich in flora (450 vascular plants and over 900 bryophytes, mushrooms and lichens) and contains a few endemics its more valuable feature is the variety of different natural and seminatural habitats and biodiversity rich farmland in a well-adjusted countryside. The area contains also a rich fauna typical of mosaic Mediterranean mountainous landscapes, including some exceptional features, such as a nesting pair of black stork *Ciconia nigra*. Three family groups of wolves *Canis lupus* are present in the Park, as well as the otter *Lutra lutra*, over 160 species of birds and some interesting herpetiles, including *Triturus italicus* and two rare species of salamander.

The geology is quite remarkable, including the impressive Lucanian Dolomites (fold and thrust belt of the Southern Apennines), the gorges of two rivers (Basento and Salandrella) and cemented sandstones that have been eroded after the rise of the Apennines in the Tertiary and other tectonic events, creating stone ridges in which human habitation and forests integrate. There are 8 Geosites in the Park and 6 in its close vicinity which speak for the variety and interest of the Park's geological heritage. The abrupt relief has created a very spectacular landscape, in particular around the villages of Castelmezzano and Pietrapertosa. These are regularly included in the list of "most beautiful villages of Italy" mainly because of the integration of ancient fortifications (the area has a complex history of invasions and resistance), well preserved medieval structure, ancient houses, the surrounding forest and the mountain ridges. The landscapes are so spectacular, colourful and diverse that only for this reason they would fit into the requirements of article 1 of the Regulations for the European Diploma. They are indeed of exceptional European interest for its landscape diversity.

In my opinion what is of most exceptional interest is not just its biodiversity, geology or landscapes taken separately but the smooth and harmonious integration of the three in a balanced scenery of great aesthetic value which includes also traditional agricultural landscapes, contributing all these to create a beautiful, productive and diverse countryside.

Culturally the area is also very rich in archaeological monuments of which I visited some. The area has been inhabited since the Neolithic and every culture that has passed has left its mark (among which the Greeks, the Romans, the Arabs, the crusaders, the Aragonese, etc.). The area is important for regional identity as it is considered the true heart of the land of the Lucanes, a group of people established in the South of the Apennines prior to the political unification of the Italian Peninsula by the Romans. Many Pre-Roman rituals remain, such as the traditional tree rituals and festivities linked to fertility (around May "il Maggio"), associated now to a Christian celebration (St Julian).

Given the high quality of the area from its geological, geomorphological, biological, landscape and cultural perspectives, it is to me clear that the Park is an area of exceptional European interest as required by Article 1 of the Regulations of the European Diploma on Protected Areas.

4. CONSERVATION MEASURES

I discussed with the managers a number of aspects, as required by the Checklist received from the Council of Europe Secretariat, as follows

4.1. Legal protection status

The Park is legally protected as from 1990 as a Regional Park, a legal figure that gives the management and forest inspection enough authority to regulate most aspects of management and, in cooperation with the villages, urban planning. There are inside the Park four Natura 2000 areas covering roughly 22% of the Park. Their control depends also on the park management. The main legal instrument derived from the legal status above is the Management Plan. The management plan had been approved by the Regional Commission a few weeks before my visit and was pending legal approval (a formality to happen soon, I was told). In the meeting I had with the Regional Minister for Environment he was formal: the management plan would have legal status before September 2019.

4.2. Boundaries, zoning and buffer zones

The Management Plan has clear boundaries, graded zoning (in which activities authorised planned seems to me appropriate and sufficient to ensure long-term conservation of the mosaic of habitats) and a Buffer zone (pre-park area) - very valuable in many relevant biodiversity aspects - that still lacked detailed regulation. When the Park was created it did not follow necessarily limits around valuable habitats but those of municipalities so that some areas of high value are actually in the pre-park.

4.3. Supervision and warding

Even if the staff of the Park is small (five people) the Park hosts enough wardens - 14 (from the former "Corpo Forestale dello Stato", now integrated in the Carabinieri). They work in close cooperation with the Park, so effective warding and respect of regulations is sufficiently ensured.

4.4. State of conservation of main species and habitats, effectiveness of regulations concerning threats

The state of conservation of the varied mosaic of habitats is good and sustainability is high. Most interesting habitats (in particular the forest) have some challenges because of past practices (in particular plantations with trees with similar age) but the Management Plans gives clear guidance and the high competence of the management is making a positive difference. Old mistakes (like planting of exotic conifers) are being corrected by selected gradual felling and other measures. There has been great effort with management of biodiversity rich pastures (with participation in a LIFE project).

4.5. Land-use planning

Planning is decided by the municipalities in agreement with Regional Authorities and cooperation with the Park management. No major problems have been detected as the Park is highly popular and appreciated as a unifier of the five municipalities, which agree with the concept of sustainable development practised and helps solve any problems. The area is losing inhabitants, but the economy is progressing thanks to sustainable tourism supported by the Park.

4.6. International Protection

In addition of the international protection received by the Natura 2000 areas, the Park has received the PEFC Certification and the UNI EN ISO 14 001:2015

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1. Management Plan and institutional arrangements. Relations with other stakeholders

I examined in detail the Management plan and discussed many of its aspects with the Director of the Park, the President of the Park's Board (a mayor of one of the villages), the Regional Minister for environment and the Scientific Committee. Concerning the administrative arrangement, it seemed to us satisfactory. There is a Board in which all the interests of the citizens, the regional government and the farming and livestock-raising community are represented, as well as the local environmental groups. The park counts also with a scientific committee mainly supported by scientists from close universities plus some technical staff working for the park or the Regional government. My impression was that all stakeholders were actively participating in meetings and cooperation and dialogue were the preferred working methods. All those I met supported the benefits the Park was bringing to the environment and sustainable development of the area.

The Management plan is sensible and well-balanced. It provides for a reasonable zoning in three categories, including a Reserve Zone (new buildings and expansion of existing buildings are forbidden, and no transformation of land is possible), a Protection Zone (where agropastoral and forestry activities and fishing and natural product collection continues following traditional use. Construction of strictly necessary infrastructure is allowed, as well as interventions by Park Authorities) and a Promotion Zone

(aimed to permit economic and social promotion activities compatible with the aims of the Park). Reserve Zones take roughly 1/3 of the surface of the Park, Promotion Zone less than 1% (mostly villages) and the rest is Protection Zone. The Buffer Area provided for by the management Plan is aimed to offer extra protection, particular in the forest areas. However, a regulation for the Buffer Zone has not been yet included or approved. The Management Plan has been formally approved by the Regional Government but is pending publication (apparently a formality) so it becomes legally binding.

5.2. Capacities and Budget - Managing of water resources

The budget of the Park is relatively small (around half a million euros, 450.000 € / yr. foreseen for 2020 from the Region's budget and around 50.000 of revenues for services) and its staff very small (five people).

These scarce human and financial resources are complemented by a very intensive activity of mobilising other resources, from LIFE funding, Regional Funds and other sources. Warding is not done directly by the Park but by the Carabinieri - located in the same complex as the Park office and thus well-coordinated with the Park authorities. Environmental education and other planned leisure activities are organised by a local cooperative but supported by the Park with space and facilities. The Park counts with pleasant if not very big premises, enough vehicles, and runs a small centre for recovery of wounded fauna. The Park is responsible for leisure zones (indeed very well managed) as well as for a number of water infrastructures (quite unusual in Italian division of competences). The result of this ecosystem of actors and projects in which the municipalities and other stakeholders take an important role is satisfactory, but this is only due to an extraordinary and active management with great experience and very good commitment to conservation. In my opinion the present arrangement is enough for what requires the award of European Diploma for Protected Areas but is clearly a vulnerability for the future as a less devoted or able staff or the absence of political support might affect the effectiveness of the management. A better institutional core funding would make the management more stable.

5.3. Research and Monitoring

While a scientific officer does the necessary monitoring for fauna, much of the monitoring for flora and fauna is carried out by several Universities (in Basilicata and elsewhere in Italy) that use the Park as a privilege area for their own research. There is also on-going research and much information on the geology of the area. The Park carries out its own research, with the support of other scientists, on invasive alien species and has done the last year two reintroductions of species that had been lost, the Italian hare *Lepus corsicanus* and the Italian roe deer *Capreolus capreolus italicus*. Other research is on-going on migration of the short-toed snake-eagle *Circaetus gallicus* with the University of Alicante (Spain). Special monitoring (with permanent cameras) is done to the nest of the black stork *Ciconia nigra*. The Park is also subject to research on sustainable development practice as its model of success of integration of natural values with economic development based on local production and sustainable tourism.

6. USES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

6.1. Forestry Agriculture and Grazing

The Park has a precise management rules for the forest (only 10% is managed by private owners, always following guidance by the Plan) in which the priority is the maintenance of its ecological values and naturalness. Plans are updated every ten years. Even if some unfortunate planting with non-indigenous conifers was done in the 1970s the idea is to progressively phase them out. Some felling of trees is going on - particularly in areas where the density of young trees is high. Overall it gives the impression of a well-preserved, healthy natural forest with predominance of different types of oaks but in which the presence of other native tree species is favoured. Even if I saw no signs of dead trees lying around, I was informed that broken branches were not removed. The forest is grazed in most parts by a local race of cow, the "Podolica". I saw no signs of overgrazing. Many species-rich pastures provide for extra feeding (often cut as hay for winter feeding). The whole Park counts with much of agricultural

land (around two thirds of its surface) exploited for a number of crops, including local varieties of wheat that provide bread and pasta of particular quality. Even if the population is aging in that part of Italy (even more than in cities) there are schemes to facilitate a certain rejuvenation of the farming community. Agriculture is not without challenges, such as the proliferation of wild boar. The Park gives permits to control the species and thus avoid damage to crops, using humane methods of capture. Apiculture is well developed, particularly in the village of Oliveto Lucano where many people benefit from the label of the Park to sell their honey.

6.2. Building, infrastructures and tourism (including car traffic and public access) - Human occupation

The Park holds five small villages experiencing a certain population decline. Urbanism is under strict control to avoid massification of tourism or losing the special character of the villages and countryside. Even if tourism has increased around 30 % in the last 10 years mainly due to a special attraction in which two cables permit people to “overfly” two of the valleys (Volo dell’Angello), the possible impact of this attraction to black stork is very small and the activity is subject to calendars that avoid interfering with flying young birds. The attraction created over 20 new jobs in the area. Threats are not great and tourism flow is carefully managed to avoid impacts on the natural values of the area. Most visitors stay in cities or walk in paths prepared for ecotourism. Cyclo-tourism and agro-tourism are being promoted by the Park. Some roads within the ark are not very good due to constant soil creeping in slopes, which slows cars and reduce their impact on fauna. In general, it can be said that a careful management in great coordination with municipalities is carried out. The approach to new building is very restrictive (3 new buildings in 25 years in Castelmezzano). The ark receives around 20.000 people a year, contributing much to the local economy, the valorisation of local products (too many to mention) while presenting some challenges to the villages (mainly because the abrupt relief and limited surface constrains parking of private cars and buses). Ten young people are hired during the high season as guides and help people to Park. Visitors are both “cultural visitors” from the region, Italy or abroad. There is also some “climbing and hiking tourism”. Most of hotels are small, with high seasonality (low occupation in winters outside weekends). Most of the area is open to the public and this has not created particular problems so far as people prefer to use special paths prepared for country walking and most of visitors are found in villages or the special areas for leisure prepared by the Park for environmental Education. (see below)

7. CONNECTIVITY OF THE AREA

The Basilicata Region counts, in addition to the Park, another Regional Park (Murgia Materana) and two National Parks (Pollino, Appennino Lucano). The Park is relatively distant from the other parks, without much of an intense connectivity, except for species which cover large distance in a varied landscape (such as wolf or many birds) except for Appennino Lucano National park which shares some borders with the interested Park and consequently it also shares some elements of the landscape and many species. The Park is however connected to some neighbouring Natura 2000 sites. The SAC Montepiano falls only partially within the current boundaries of the Park (but with the approval of the Management Plan the whole SAC Montepiano falls within the Park boundaries). In the boundaries of the Park, with a small part inside the present boundaries, is found the SAC-SPZ Valle Basento-Grassano Scalo which has its own management plan.

8. CONCLUSIONS

My conclusion is that the European Diploma for Protected Areas should be awarded with the conditions and recommendations proposed in Annex 2 to this report.

Annex 1

MAPS OF THE AREA

Protected areas

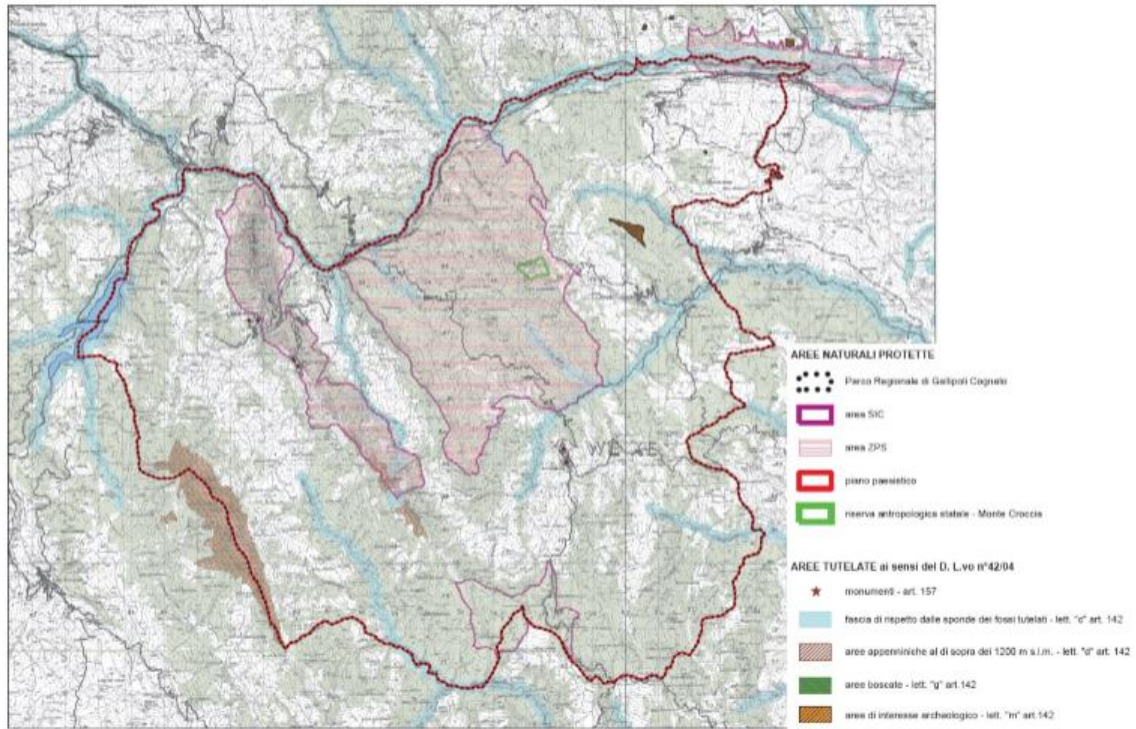
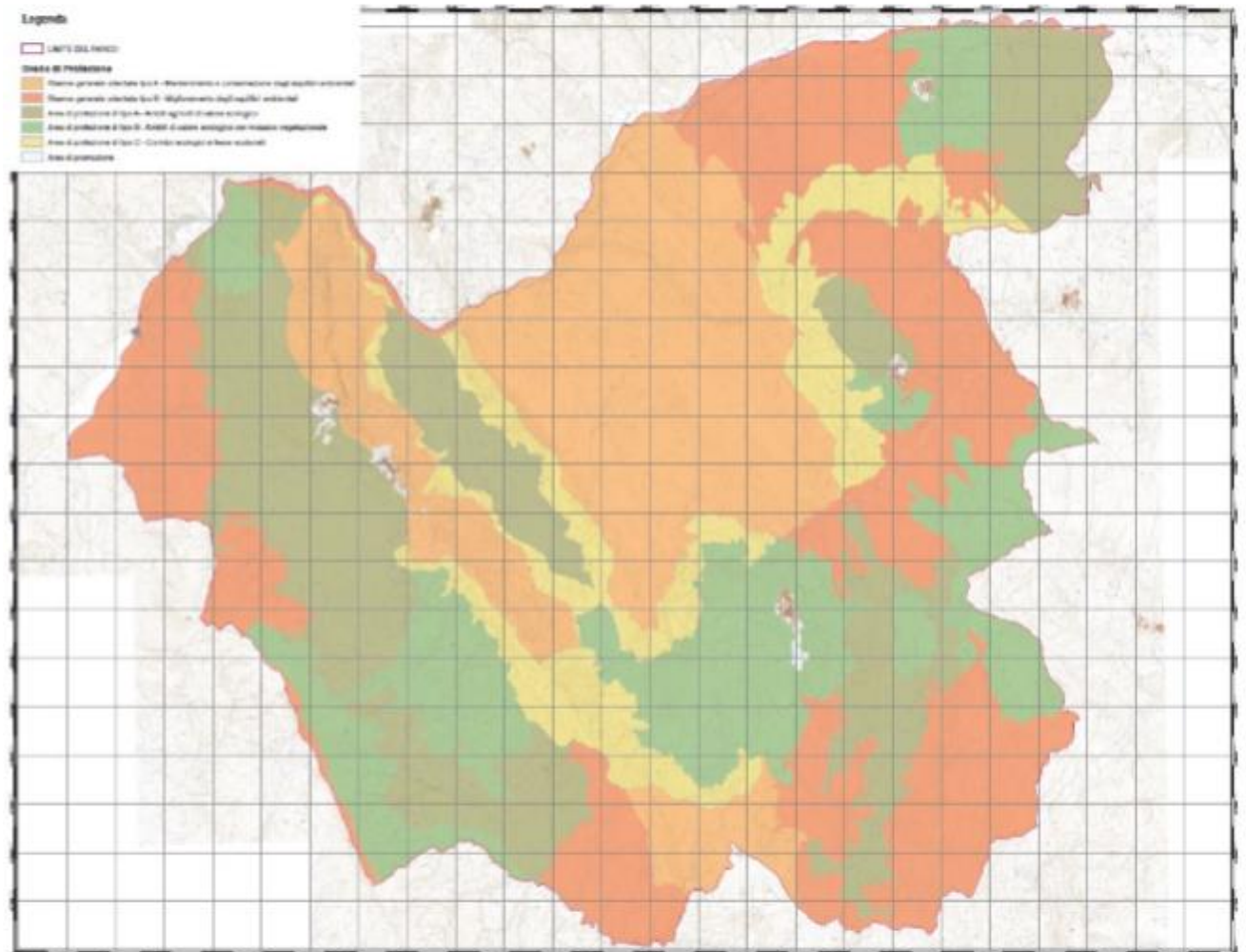


Image 3. Protected areas

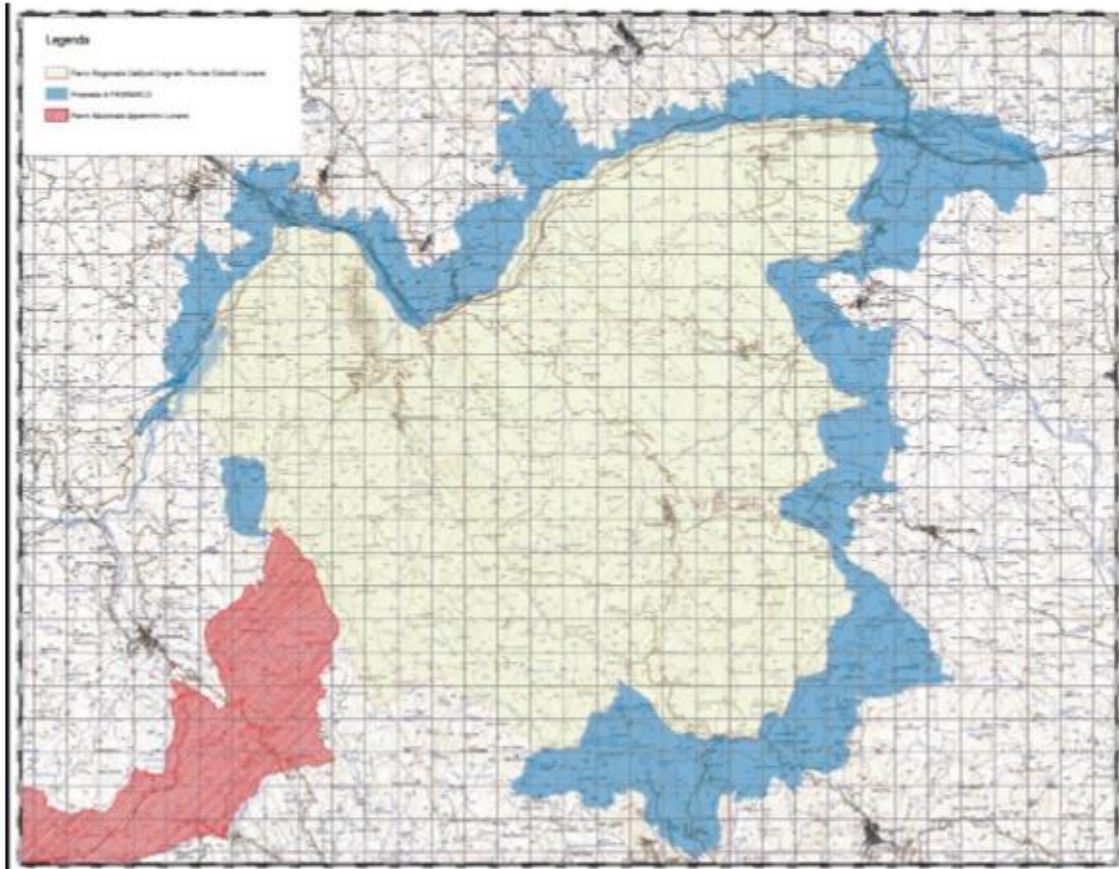
The plan shows the outline of the Park, and its zoning according to the Action Plan.

8. GENERAL MAP OF THE ZONES



Parco Regionale Gallipoli Cognato Piccole Dolomiti Lucane

Buffer areas



Annex 2

THE 2 CONDITIONS AND 6 RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

The following conditions and recommendations are proposed by the expert. My analysis was based on the candidature and from the on-the-spot visit.

Precondition. At the time of the visit in June 2019 the Management Plan of the Park had been approved by the regional government but the corresponding legal instrument (apparently a formality) had not yet been published. For the Management Plan to be legally binding this formality has to be finalised. The existence of a legally binding Management Plan was planned for September. The EDPA should not be awarded without this formality.

Conditions

1. The Regional authorities should ensure by 2022 a substantial increase of the budget presently allocated directly to the Park to enable enough means for a stable management and a long-term consolidation of what seems now a very efficient but vulnerable structure.
2. The regulations for the pre-park area are to be adopted by the Regional government before the expiration of the first five year of the Diploma (2025)

Recommendations

1. To enhance the present management of the forest towards a greater natural character, with more diversity of ages of trees as at present parts of the forest in the Park are formed by trees of the similar age. It would also be advisable to leave on the ground - without removal - some trees that may have died as a result of wind or other natural or biological processes so as to favour saproxylic fauna.
2. To enhance the control of non-indigenous trees, in particular conifers planted during the 1970s and to re-forestate with indigenous trees the - relatively small - areas affected.
3. To enhance the repopulation of the Park with new releases of the Italian hare *Lepus corsicanus*. The numbers of animals so far introduced does not ensure a long-term viability of a population due to inbreeding depression.
4. To monitor closely the effects of the introduction of the roe deer *Capreolus capreolus italicus* in the Park, particularly on the forest. The low density of its only possible predators - with the exception of man - the wolf, might lead to an explosion in numbers to be avoided.
5. Consider including in the Park areas of high biological importance - particularly forest - that were left out of the Park when its limits were defined by the limits of the municipalities, in particular the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Bosco di Montepiano.
6. Consider carrying out studies on the effects of climate change on the flora and fauna of the Park.

Annex 3

ON-THE-SPOT EXPERT APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Welcome in Naples by Dr Marco Delorenzo, and Dr Angela Ciliberti

Tuesday 25 June 2019

- 08:30 Castelmezzano Visit to the remains of the Castle Themes: LANDSCAPE / GEOLOGY Specialist support: Dott. Tommaso Santochirico / Guide of the Park
- 12:00 Arrival in Pietrapertosa and COFFEE BREAK at GV9 Bistrot
- 12:30 Departure by car to TRAIL 709 MOUNT IMPISO GRASSLAND AND ORCHIDS FLOWERING Themes: FLORA/HABITAT/LIFE PROGRAM Specialist support: Dott. Tommaso Santochirico / Prof. Alessandro Travaglini (University of Roma Tor Vergata)
- 15:30 Return to PIETRAPERTEOSA and short visit to the town Themes: HISTORICAL CENTERS Specialist support: Dott. Tommaso Santochirico / Guide of the Park
- 17:00 Pietrapertosa Town Council hall STAKEHOLDERS MEETING (Federparchi, Guides of the Park, Environmental NGOs Legambiente Basilicata and Movimento Azzurro, Farmers Associations CIA Agricoltori and Coldiretti, Tourism Entrepreneurs Associations API Associazione Piccole Imprese and Legacoop Turismo)

Wednesday 26 June 2019

- 08:30 Transfer to the PARK HEADQUARTERS (Loc. Palazzo - Accettura) 09:00 Arrival to the Park Visit of: ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESERVE OF MONTE CROCCIA Themes: ARCHEOLOGY / GEOSITES Specialist support: Carabinieri Forestali per la Biodiversità / Prof. Bentivenga (University of Basilicata)
- 12:30 VISIT OF THE PARK STRUCTURES a) PIAN DI GILIO (Fallow Deer and Italian Hare natural oasis) b) BLACK STORK DOCUMENTATION CENTRE c) BOTANIC GARDEN d) ECO-MUSEUM e) LUCANIA ADVENTURE PARK f) FIELD VISIT TO THE MANAGED WOODED AREA
- Themes: FAUNA/FLORA/HABITAT/PLANNING Specialist support: Dott. Tommaso Santochirico / Dott. Mallia / Dott. Pizzichillo / Dott. Ventura
- 17:30 SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY MEETING Prof. Alessandro Travaglini – Biology Department University of Roma Tor Vergata Prof. Severino Romano – Agrarian and Forestry Department University of Basilicata Dott. Egidio Mallia – Veterinary Office Parco Gallipoli Cognato Prof. Mario Bentivenga – Geology Department University of Basilicata

Thursday 27 June 2019

- 08:30 Transfer from Castelmezzano to Accettura 09:30 Arrival in Accettura, the “Town of the May Feast” Visit to the town Themes: CULTURAL HERITAGE / HISTORY Specialist support: Sac. Don Giuseppe Filardi - Pro Loco
- 11:00 REPRESENTATIVES OF MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES MEETING (Majors of the area, Province and Regional Representatives)
- 13:00 LUNCH at Ristorante di Fiore
- 15:00 Transfer and visit to the town of Oliveto Lucano

Friday 18 June 2109

- 09:30 Arrival in Calciano –and visit of the Town
- Along the way to Calciano: - Visit of the Trophic site of the Black Stork - Crossing of the pre-park areas Themes: PLANNING – THE PLAN FOR THE PARK Specialist support: Dott. Tommaso Santochirico
- 13:00 LUNCH in Calciano Scalo

List of people met (With my gratitude for their support and the useful information provided)

- Dr Marco Delorenzo, Director of the Park
- Dr Angela Ciliberti responsible for finances of the Park
- Ms Antonella Amico, animateur Volo dell' Angelo
- Mr Michele Beneventi, Park guide
- Prof Alessandro Travaglini, Botanist University of Rome Tor Vergata
- Dr Tommaso Santochirico, geologist Park guide
- Mr Nicola Valluzzi, major of Castelmezzano
- Mr Rocco Trivigno, Vice chair of the Park Board
- Mr Rocco Chiriaco, President of NGO “Movimento Azzurro”
- Ms Philomena Canosa, Park guide
- Ms Maria Cavuoti, major of Pietrapertosa
- Mr Mario Atlante, President of the Park Board
- Ms Rosanna Santoro, representing Pietrapertosa in the Park Board
- Mr Antonio Bellarosa, environmental education
- Mr Matteo Paternostro, Park guide
- Dr Michele Cignarale, Volo dell' Angelo touristic Ltd
- Ms Angela Lombardi, major of carabinieri forestali – Regional Biodiversity Unit
- Prof. Mario Bentivenga, Geology Department University of Basilicata
- Dr Egidio Mallia, Veterinary officer of the Park
- Dr Roberta Labbate, officer of the Park
- Dr Graziano Pizzichillo, Forestry expert and responsible for the Forest Management Plan
- Dr Francesco Romano, Forestry expert
- Dr Gennaro Ventura, Agrarian and Forestry Department University of Basilicata
- Prof Severino Romano, head of Agrarian and Forestry Department University of Basilicata
- Dr Sebastiana Milito, Agrarian Faculty University of Basilicata
- Prof Francesco Ripullone, Professor Agrarian Faculty University of Basilicata
- Don Giuseppe Filardi, Parish Priest of St Nicholas Church (Accettura) , Cultural expert
- Mr Pietro Varvarito, staff of Municipality of Accettura
- Dr Vincenzo Fanuele, engineer specialist in sustainable development
- Ms Michela Distefano, cultural NGO Pro Loco
- Dr Gianni Rosa, Regional Minister of Environment
- Mr Carlo Gilio, staff from the Regional Department of the Environment
- Mr Alfonso Vespe, Major of Accettura
- Mr Mario Carbonella, Municipal councilor of Pietrapertosa
- Dr Antonio Romano, major of Oliveto Lucano
- Mrs Cinzia Rago, Azienda Agricola Rago, Oliveto Lucano
- Dr Arturo De Filippo, major of Calciano
- Mr Pancrazio Benevento, beekeeper, Azienda Agricola Benevento, Calciano