



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS



DG-II
IdA/TSM/vdc

Strasbourg, 21 April 2015

Subject: SCBD/MPO/AF/DA/fd/84165 - Contribution of the Bern Convention to the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2015

Dear Mr Ferreira de Souza Dias,

I am pleased to inform you that the Bern Convention will associate this year celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the [European Diploma for Protected Areas](#) (EDPA) to the International Day for Biological Diversity.

To mark EDPA's 50th Anniversary the Council of Europe - with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment of Italy and of the Tuscany Region, and in partnership with EUROPARC Federation - is organising a Workshop on "Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years". The Workshop will take place on 21-22 May at the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli (Italy), and is foreseen under the 2015 Programme of Activities of the Bern Convention.

The event brings together managers of European Protected Areas and experts to discuss the challenges that Protected Areas face in an interconnected world where technology and globalisation are changing people's perception of the natural environment.

The workshop will also serve to exchange experiences and ideas on issues such as:

- new information technologies, citizen science, and how to exploit these resources for sustainable conservation of areas of importance for biological diversity;
- how climate change, globalisation and invasive alien species will change the way in which conservation is carried-out;
- what is the new role of Protected Areas' managers, and examples of innovative management's techniques.

In this context, the European Diploma holding areas will play an increasingly important role as models for innovative conservation practices and sustainable development.

As you probably know, the European Diploma for Protected Areas is awarded by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to natural or semi-natural areas and landscapes of exceptional European interest for the conservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity. More than a mere recognition, the European Diploma for Protected Areas is also an important monitoring tool which demands an exemplary management of the area so awarded, also in light of the possible renewal of this prestigious international recognition.

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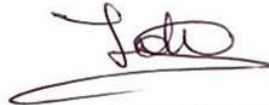
Mr Braulio FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre Building
393 St. Jacques Street, Suite 300
MONTREAL, Québec / Canada H2Y 1N9

To date, 73 protected areas in 28 European countries, both member and non-member states of the Council of Europe, have received the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

I would be grateful if you could include the above information on the special pages of the CBD website devoted to the celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity worldwide.

More information on our event can be found on the 50th Anniversary of the [European Diploma for Protected Areas webpage](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ivana d'Alessandro', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Ivana d'ALESSANDRO
Head of the Biodiversity Unit
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Directorate General II