



Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura

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Via Pastrengo 13, 10128 – Torino (Italy)

to the Deputy Director, Global Protected Areas Program, IUCN

Dr. Pedro Rosabal

Meeting to establish a renewed participation of Pro Natura Italy to the IUCN projects of common interest

Presentation

The “Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura” (FNPN) is one of the IUCN founder members of Fontainebleau, October 1948. FNPN is also associated to the “Bureau Européen de l’Environnement” (BEE). Our delegates sit also in consultant councils in public institutions and National Parks in Italy. The composition of the associations federated with us is various, providing a wide range of possible collaboration with the single sections of the federation.

Dear Deputy,

thank you very much for having accepted to meet our FNPN delegation on Monday 18th July 2016, which will be represented by Dr. Giovanni Luca Cardello and Dr. Francesco Lazzarotto, respectively president and vice-president of *Sempre Verde* (SV), a local section of Pro Natura based in Latina, just south of Rome. SV operates both at national and regional level with other Pro Natura sections. Both of the representatives are researchers, being Cardello postdoc in tectonics and geothermics at the University of Geneva and Lazzarotto with the National Institute of Astrophysics in Rome. In the upcoming meeting, we will be glad to get more details about projects of common interest in which FNPN may participate and/or eventually apply to for contributing to the actions of IUCN.

We may also canalize the forces of FNPN by putting the actions we normally do in the frame of IUCN projects.

We would like also to know more about:

- 1. Exchanging volunteers between organizations working with National Parks around the world and training facilities;**
- 2. Climate change: activities for mitigation, adaptation and circular economy development**
- 3. Water resources: environmental protection and democratic access**
- 4. Relationships between IUCN, United Nations of University and University of Geneva**

You can find more details on these points in the next pages as a base for a discussion.

With Best Regards,

Piero Belletti

Secretary General, Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura

Details of some of our initiatives and proposals

1. Exchanging volunteers between organizations working with National Parks around the world and training facilities

We would like to join an eventual program to exchange volunteers. We can guest volunteers from all over the world to help in the activities in National Parks where accommodation facilities will be provided. In the specific case of the Circeo National Park <http://www.parks.it/parco.nazionale.circeo/Eindex.php>, the Park direction asked to the local environmental organizations to collaborate in coastal dune protection and trace walking and cycling paths. The Park administration can provide a logistic support to IUCN volunteer work.

At international and national level, we would like to get involved into practical projects and studies dealing with integration between different protected natural areas of the parks and the urban most populated areas. This would fit the aim of the Italian national law on protected areas of 6 December 1991, n. 394, which plans the division of the territory according to the following described different degrees of decreasing protection: *integral reserves; general oriented reserves; areas dedicated to organic agriculture, cattle breeding, fishing and picking, handicraft; areas of economic and social promotion*. Unfortunately, some Italian National Parks, including the Circeo National Park, did not yet apply the above mentioned zonation.

For this reason, we would like to focus our further proposals on this issue by promoting: facilities for organic farming, cattle breeding and handicrafts, promotion of cycling and pedestrian mobility, upgrading and improvement of public transport even of low impact (electric, gas), sustainable tourism and organising cultural, sporting and recreational events. Most important, in synergy with local authorities we aim to the development of eco-sustainable and responsible tourism.

2. Climate change: activities for mitigation, adaptation and circular economy development

We ask for support of IUCN to candidate Latina (125'000 inhabitants) to the *Climathon World Event* on the 28th October <https://climathon.climate-kic.org/>. Our event proposal is titled "GOL - Green Opportunities in Latina". During this event, a synthetic strategic and planning document will be produced in order to identify strategies and action lines to address the issues about climate change and in which is foreseen the involvement and support of local main stakeholders: the municipality, public authorities, private companies, civil society and no-profit and volunteering associations. We care about the development of circular economy and we aim to emphasize it in the Climathon, where among other things, entrepreneurship can get in touch with students and candidates to produce green job opportunities.

We know that IUCN has a section devoted to this issue, so we would like to know if and how Pro Natura and its concerned local sections could cooperate and contribute on this issue within your programs.

3. Water resources: environmental protection and democratic access

Climate change, and market strategies make water a more and more valuable good in Mediterranean countries, where public and free access is not guaranteed. Although in 2011, Italian People voted in a national Referendum to maintain public management over water, the law is again on the way to be changed by the present-day Italian Government in favour of private investors. In the case this will happen, we would also want to make sure that private companies committed for the in-house supply of drinking water are not sellers of bottled drinking water at the same time, because we believe that they can not provide a good quality service as having opposite economic interests. **We ask your support to have training over this issue to bring to Italy the best practices for people well-being.**

We believe that respecting the electoral result is fundamental and that anyway hydrogeological strategic basins must be protected. This is functional to the survival of local populations. In order to protect the water supply of an area populated by some hundreds of thousands of people, as a local headquarter of Pro Natura, SV has identified two areas, which need protection and sustainable development in Central Italy: the Volsci Range (Monti Volsci) and the Peschiera water spring surroundings. The first is a major regional hydrogeological basin draining the 80% of the water precipitation, the second supplies great part of the metropolitan area of Rome water needs. Its protection is fundamental in our view because strategic sources occur next to urban and industrialized areas (e.g., <http://it.pentalocal.com/lazio/sezze/sorgente-delle-sardellane/>). Up to now a few protected areas have been instituted, whose area is way too small with respect to the size of the hydrogeological basin. They are mostly concentrated in the southern part of the Volsci Range and do not

collaborate to promote tourism and organic agriculture. As a result, there is a useless administrative fragmentation. To satisfy the need of a united park we aim to involve all the associations and public administrations interested in protecting the Volsci Range. Similarly, we would like to protect the springs of the Peschiera https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorgenti_del_fiume_Peschiera and nearby mountains. We ask your advice to proceed with a modern and functional proposal to unit the people interested in developing the institution project.

4. Relationships between IUCN, United Nations of University and University of Geneva

A bit aside from the other discussion points, we support the request of Prof. Lupi (University of Geneva) who is seeking for a non governmental partner for sharing courses dealing with renewable resources and in particular with Geothermics. These courses could be useful to develop this type of green energy supply elsewhere in the world. In this frame, training is a fundamental challenge that the University of Geneva can provide in collaboration with IUCN and United Nations University.