

Memorandum of Understanding for the Twinning

between the Management Bodies of

Torre Guaceto Natural Reserve and Marine Protected Area, Brindisi, Italy

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romania

Miramare Natural Marine Reserve, Gulf of Trieste, Italy

Supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territorial Protection

WHEREAS

The reference framework for joint actions includes the principles sanctioned by the following conventions:

- 1993 Rio Convention on Biodiversity, as well as the action plan issued by 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- the general action plan for protected areas established by the Fifth Durban Conference and ratified by the Seventh Conference among Parties of Kuala Lumpur Convention in 2004;
- the general objectives for 2010 established by the sixth EU environmental action plan ratified by the Council of Europe and aiming at stopping the planet's biodiversity loss rate;
- the general principles established by the Convention on Biological Diversity Guidelines (Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Montreal, 2004), aiming as a priority target at the conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services;

- the programme of work on protected areas adopted by the CBD (Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Montreal, 2004), aiming at the implementation of the WSSD Plan for a) the establishment of a representative system of marine protected areas by 2012, and b) the promotion and support for conservation of 'hot spot' initiatives and ecological networks;

- the general objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 for wetland conservation and wise use;

- the general actions considered by the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2002-2006, and in particular those included in 'Activity 3 – Marine and Coastal Ecosystems'.

Systemic policies concerning the Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal and marine protected areas should be envisaged in order to start coordinated conservation and environmentally sustainable plans to preserve the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

In compliance with the common institutional, cultural, environmental, conservational, promotional and communications goals

Torre Guaceto Natural Reserve and Marine Protected Area, represented by Eng Vincenzo Epifani, the President of the management body Consortium,

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, represented by Eng Paul Cononov the Governor of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration,

Miramare Natural Marine reserve, represented by Dr. Maurizio Spoto, the Director on behalf of the WWF Italian Association – management body of Miramare Marine Natural Reserve,

(herein referred as the Parties)

agree to stipulate this Memorandum of Understanding for the Twinning between the Parties.

ART. 1 *Scope*

The Management Bodies of Miramare Marine Natural Reserve and Torre Guaceto Natural Reserve and Marine Protected Area, and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territorial Protection shall jointly plan targeted actions aiming at strengthen conservation of natural heritage by increasing the involvement of local communities, reinforcing the focus on sustainability of tourism and other fruition activities and implementing programmes in the following areas:

- research activities applied to the conservation of the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine and coastal environment;
- environmental education and dissemination of scientific results concerning the marine and coastal environment;
- sustainable and environmental tourism;
- quality labels for protected areas;
- environmentally sustainable and responsible fishing techniques;
- assessment of the efficacy and effectiveness of protected area management;
- development of biophysical, socio-economical and governance indicators for management efficiency evaluations in marine and coastal protected areas;
- promotion of environmental certifications such as EMAS II, ISO 14001 and ecolabel;
- development of processes;
- development of systemic policies aiming at creating an environmental network of coastal and marine protected areas at the international level;
- promotion of case studies for the environmentally sustainable development of the Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal band and of the adjacent marine area;
- sharing of all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices, both at the local and international level;
- development of specific plans for the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world;

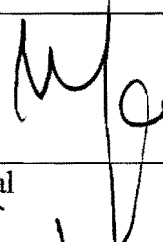

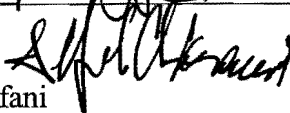
any actions which might be undertaken in the framework of the principles stated in the preamble.

ART. 2 Collaboration criteria

The Parties to this Memorandum shall draft an yearly action plan for all the projects to be implemented in compliance with the scope of this Memorandum. Such projects shall be considered as an integral part of this Memorandum in the next years.

One of the Parties shall be in charge of coordinating the actions to be undertaken.

The Parties to this agreement shall remain independent as regards the possibility to obtain financing from other sources or other economic systems for the implementation of the actions foreseen by this Memorandum of Understanding.

Supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territorial Protection	Minister of Environment and Territorial Protection On.le Altero Matteoli 
For the WWF Italian Association – Italy for Nature Onlus as Management Body of Miramare Natural Marine Reserve	Director of Miramare Natural Marine Reserve Dr Maurizio Spoto 
For the Consortium for the Management of Torre Guaceto Natural Reserve and Marine Protected Area	President of the Consortium  Eng Vincenzo Epifani
For the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority	The Governor, Eng Paul Cononov 