

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)1
on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas
to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 July 2014
at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution Res(65)6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 24 March 2014;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal), recognising the European significance of the area which harbours a large number of endemic, threatened, and/or vulnerable species of flora and fauna and has unique and remarkable landscapes;

Places the aforesaid area under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 1 July 2019;

Attaches the following two conditions to the award:

1. that the Portuguese Government continues to take the necessary steps to preserve the current islands status of the Desertas Islands and to unequivocally support the Regional Government of Madeira in all matters concerning the nature reserve;
2. that the responsible regional authority updates the management plan of the Desertas Nature Reserve by the end of 2016:
 - a. taking into consideration the enlargement of the strictly protected area;
 - b. improving conservation efforts in terms of personnel, logistics and budget necessary for the proper management of the Desertas Nature Reserve;

Attaches the following seven recommendations to the award:

1. take all necessary precautions to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced to the reserve;
2. improve the existing monitoring system for the fauna and flora populations of the Desertas;
3. analyse and publish studies carried out on the flora and fauna on Bugio, following the total eradication of alien species;
4. increase the efforts to combat soil erosion on the plateau surface of Bugio;
5. eradicate the goat population from Deserta Grande or at least to keep the population very low and subject to a strict monitoring scheme;
6. promote the training of nature guides to accompany tourists in this area;
7. investigate if the increasing colony of yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis atlantis*) on Ilhéu Chão is having a negative impact on the breeding seabird populations on Deserta Grande and Bugio.