

SCOPE & DEFINITIONS

This Chapter establishes criteria for required plans and programs needed to ensure proper protection, enhancement, and management of natural resources and any species (flora or fauna) declared endangered or threatened by either the United States or Italian governments.

Conservation – Planned management, use, and protection; continued benefit for present and future generations; and prevention of exploitation, destruction, and/or neglect of natural resources. Conservation includes the necessary measures to be adopted for maintaining or restoring the natural habitats and any wild fauna and flora species at a favorable status of conservation.

Conservation Status of Species – The sum of influences acting on the species of concern that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within the EU territory. The conservation status of species is considered favorable when:

- The trend of the population of species shows continuity
- The natural distribution area of species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis

Italian Protected Species – Any species of flora or fauna listed or designated by Italy, because the species continued existence is, or is likely to be, threatened and is therefore subject to special protection from destruction or adverse modification of associated habitat.

Management Plan – A document describing natural resources, their quantity, condition, and actions to ensure their conservation and good stewardship.

Natural Habitat – Terrestrial or aquatic zones that may be identified on the basis of their geographic, abiotic and biotic, totally natural, or seminatural characteristics.

Natural Habitat of Interest for the European Community – Any natural habitat included in the Ministry of Environment’s Service for the Protection of Natural Resources list titled “Natural Habitat Types of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation” that:

- Is at risk to disappear within their natural distribution area
- Has a reduced distribution area following a regression or because their distribution area is intrinsically restricted
- Exhibits typical characteristics of one (or more) of these five biogeographical regions: Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Macaronesic, and Mediterranean

Natural Resource – All living and inanimate materials supplied by nature that are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, scientific, or other value; any physical, geological, geomorphological, or biological formation that has relevant natural and environmental value.

Natural Resources Management – Action taken to protect, manipulate, or alter natural resources in harmony to meet present and future human needs.

Priority Natural Habitat – The natural habitat for which the EU has a special responsibility due to the importance of its natural distribution area and that is at risk of disappearing. These habitats are marked with an asterisk (*) in the Ministry of the Environment’s list of “Natural Habitat Types of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation”.

Significant Land or Water Areas – Land or water area that is normally 500 or more acres outside the cantonment area; areas of smaller size are included if they have natural resources that are especially vulnerable to disturbance.

Site of Community Importance – A site (defined as a geographically defined area whose extent is clearly delineated) which, in the biogeographical region (or regions) to which it belongs, contributes significantly to the maintenance or restoration at a favorable conservation status of a natural habitat or of a species and may also contribute significantly to the coherence of the EU ecological network denominated “Natura 2000” and/or contributes significantly to the maintenance of biological diversity within the biogeographic region (or regions) considered. For animal species ranging over wide areas, Sites of Community Importance shall correspond to the places within the natural range of such species that present the physical or biological factors essential to their life and reproduction.

Species of Interest for the European Community – Species within the EU that are:

- Endangered (except those species whose natural range is marginal in that territory and which are not endangered or vulnerable in the western paleoarctic region)
- Vulnerable (i.e., believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating)
- Rare (i.e., with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable, but are at risk; the species are located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range)
- Endemic and requiring particular attention by reason of the specific nature of their habitat and/or the potential impact of their exploitation on their habitat and/or the potential impact of their exploitation on their conservation status)

Such species are included in the Ministry of Environment’s “Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation” and “Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest in Need of Strict

Protection” and “Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest Whose Taking in the Wild and Exploitation may be Subject to Management Measures”.

Status of Conservation of a Natural Habitat – Any factor that affects or may change the natural distribution, structure, and functions of a natural habitat, as well as the long-term survival of its typical species. The status of conservation of a natural habitat is considered “favorable” when:

- Its natural distribution area is stable or increasing
- Its structure and specific functions are unchanging
- The status of conservation of its typical species is favorable

Threatened and Endangered Species – Any species of flora or fauna, listed in Table 13.1 or included in the Ministry of Environment’s list of “Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Area of Conservation” and “Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest in need of Strict Protection”.

Zone of Special Conservation (ZSC) – A natural area that is geographically defined and has a delimited surface (including terrestrial or aquatic zones with geographic, abiotic and biotic, natural or seminatural (natural habitat) characteristics) that contributes to:

- The satisfactory conservation or restoration of at least one of the natural habitats included in the Ministry of Environment’s list of “Natural Habitat Types of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation”, or of at least one of the species of wild flora and fauna included in the Ministry of the Environment’s list of “Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation”.
- The conservation of the bio-diversity in the Palearctic region through the protection of the Alpine, Apenninic, and Mediterranean environments.

Zone of Special Protection (ZSP) – A territory that has a geographic location and an extension appropriate for the conservation, similar to a ZSC.

CRITERIA

C13.1 PROTECTION OF SPECIES & HABITATS

Installations that have land and water areas shall take reasonable steps to protect and enhance known endangered or threatened species and Italian protected species and their habitat.

An assessment of potential impacts will be completed for proposed projects located in or likely to have a significant effect on a Zone of Special Protection or Site of Community Importance (see C13.2). The assessment of potential impacts will be submitted to the Italian Base Commander to obtain approval from the Italian Ministry of Environment's Service for the Protection of Natural Resources prior to construction of the project. Projects with negative assessments may still be approved if determined to be in the overriding public interest, providing that compensatory measures are taken to protect the Zone of Special Protection, Site of Community Importance, and Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest.

The following activities are prohibited for Animal Species of Community Interest (see C13.2):

- The capture or killing of the species in its natural habitat
- The disturbance of the species during its reproductive cycle, hibernation, or migration
- The destruction or collection of eggs or nests
- The damage or destruction of the sites used for reproduction or rest

The following activities are prohibited for Plant Species of Community Interest (see C13.2):

- To pick up, collect, uproot, or destroy any specimen of the plant species
- To possess, transport, or trade any specimen of the plant species

Authorization is required for construction or renovation projects within a National park, Regional nature park, nature reserve, or protected marine area. The request for authorization will be submitted to the Italian Base Commander (see Chapter 1) who may, in turn, submit the request to the Park Authority (Ente Parco). An environmental impact analysis may be requested as part of the authorization process.

In addition, the following activities are prohibited within the Maddalena National Park:

- Capturing, killing, or disturbing animal species
- Collection or destruction of threatened or endangered plant species
- Collection of fossils or mineral samples
- Introduction of species that are not compatible with the local fauna
- Access to areas during reproduction or nesting periods
- Creation of quarries, or off-road motor vehicle transit

Hunting is prohibited on military property.

C13.2 PROTECTED SPECIES & HABITATS LISTS

Installations shall maintain, or have access to, Table 13.1, OEBGD Table C13.T2, and a current list of Italian protected species and protected habitats.

The Italian lists (maintained by the Ministry of Environment's Service for the Protection of Natural Resources) are titled:

- Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation
- Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest in Need of Special Protection
- Zones of Special Protection
- Sites of Community Importance

Table 13.1 is included in this Chapter. OEBGD Table C13.T2 and the Italian lists are available from the Environmental Executive Agent whenever a current list is needed.

C13.3 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Installations with significant land or water areas shall, after coordination with the Italian Base Commander or similar appropriate Italian authorities, develop natural resources management plans.

C13.4 INITIATE SURVEYS & IMPLEMENT PLANS

Installations having natural resources management plans shall, after coordination with the Italian Base Commander or similar appropriate Italian authorities (for example, the Italian Ministry of Environment's Service for the Protection of Natural Resources), and if financially and otherwise practical, and in such a way that there is no net loss of mission capability:

- Initiate surveys for endangered or threatened species and Italian protected species identification, or support Italian-initiated surveys
- Implement natural resources management plans

C13.5 NOTIFICATION

The Italian Base Commander, or if there is no Italian Base Commander the U.S. Ambassador, will be notified (via the Component chain of command, who will also notify the Environmental Executive Agent) of the discovery of any endangered or threatened species and Italian protected species not previously known to be present on the installation.

C13.6 MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS

Installations shall maintain grounds to meet designated mission use and ensure harmony with the natural landscape and/or the adjacent Italian facilities where practical.

C13.7 PERSONNEL EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

Installations shall ensure that personnel performing natural resource functions have the requisite expertise in the management of their discipline (i.e., endangered or threatened species, Italian protected species, wetlands, soil stabilization). This may be in-house, contract, or through consultation with another agency. Government personnel directing such functions must have training in natural resources management.

C13.8 MAINTENANCE & PROTECTION OF HABITATS

Installations shall place emphasis on the maintenance and protection of habitats favorable to the reproduction and survival of indigenous plants, fish, and wildlife.

C13.9 CONSISTENCY WITH CURRENT PRINCIPLES

Land and vegetative management activities will be consistent with current conservation and land use principles (e.g., ecosystem protection, biodiversity conservation, and mission-integrated land use).

C13.10 PROTECTIVE COVER & EROSION CONTROL

Installations shall utilize protective vegetative cover or other standard soil erosion/sediment control practices to control dust, stabilize sites, and avoid silting of streams.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Authorization is required for construction or renovation projects within a National park, Regional nature park, nature reserve, or protected marine area. The request for authorization will be submitted to the Italian Base Commander (see Chapter 1) who may, in turn, submit it to the Park Authority (Ente Parco).
2. An assessment of potential impacts will be completed for proposed projects located in or likely to have a significant effect on a Zone of Special Protection or Site of Community Importance. The assessment of potential impacts will be submitted to the Italian Base Commander to obtain approval from the Italian Ministry of Environment's Service for the Protection of Natural Resources for approval prior to the construction of the project.

**Table 13-1
Selected European-Listed Endangered & Threatened Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	OCONUS Country of Listing
Mammals		
Bear, brown	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>	Italy
Chamois, Apennine	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra ornata</i>	Italy
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	Wherever found in the wild or in captivity
Ibex, Pyrenean	<i>Capra pyrenaica pyrenaica</i>	Spain
Lion, Asiatic	<i>Panthera leo persica</i>	Turkey
Lynx, Spanish	<i>Felis (=Lynx) pardina</i>	Spain
Urial	<i>Ovis musimon (=orientalis) ophion</i>	Cyprus
Birds		
Bullfinch, Sao Miguel (finch)	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula murina</i>	Eastern Atlantic Ocean-- Azores
Eagle, Spanish imperial	<i>Aquila heliaca adalberti</i>	Spain
Falcon, Eurasian peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus peregrinus</i>	Europe, Eurasia south to Africa and Mideast
Ibis, northern bald	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	Southern Europe
Pigeon, Azores wood	<i>Columba palumbus azorica</i>	East Atlantic Ocean Azores
Tern, roseate	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	Western Hemisphere
Reptiles		
Lizard, Hierro giant	<i>Gallotia simonyi simonyi</i>	Spain (Canary Islands)
Lizard, Ibiza wall	<i>Podarcis pityusensis</i>	Spain (Balearic Islands)
Turtle, green sea	<i>Chelonia mydas (incl. agassizi)</i>	Wherever found
Turtle, olive (=Pacific) ridley sea	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Wherever found
Fishes		
Ala Balik (trout)	<i>Salmo platycephalus</i>	Turkey
Cicek (minnow)	<i>Acanthorutilus handlirschi</i>	Turkey

Note: This table does not include a complete list of Italian-designated threatened and endangered species. It also does not include the lists of protected habitats. The following complete, current lists are maintained by the Ministry of Environment's Service for the Protection of Natural Resources:

- Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest Whose Conservation Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation
- Animal and Plant Species of Community Interest in Need of Special Protection
- Zones of Special Protection
- Sites of Community Importance

The Italian lists are available from the Environmental Executive Agent whenever a current list is needed.