

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW

1. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND NAME 258 CAPES GIROLATA AND PORTO, and SCANDOLA NATURE RESERVE
2. LOCATION: The Capes of Girolata and Porto are situated between latitudes 42° 25' N and 42° 14' E and longitudes 8° 37' E, in the Corsican region. The Scandola nature reserve is in the Osani commune.
3. NOMINATED BY: Ministry of the Environment, France
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - (i) Nomination form, maps and photos
 - (ii) Supplementary documentation (IUCN)
 - a) Consultations: Professor François Ramade; Francesco Framarin; and Cyrille de Klemm
 - b) Federation des parcs naturels de France 1982. Les parcs naturels régionales et la protection de la nature.
 - c) Ramade F. 1980. Survey of Mediterranean reserves; an IUCN Report.

5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

This proposed property, to be called "Scandola" for short, covers the most scenic part of Corsica. It includes both terrestrial and marine habitats, as well as both natural and cultural features. While this part of the Mediterranean has been densely populated over a period of thousands of years, the site is able to demonstrate the long relationship between man and the land. Of particular importance is the strictly protected Scandola Nature Reserve, including a 919 ha of land and 750 ha of marine habitat. The coastline is rugged, with inaccessible islets, grottos, and stacks. Several rare species of plants occur, as do a number of marine algae, including some not found elsewhere in France. This area provides an outstanding example of the maquis vegetation which is dominant throughout the Mediterranean region but is severely degraded in most areas. The site also conserves traditional agriculture and grazing activities which are of considerable interest.

6. INTEGRITY

The Scandola Nature Reserve is strictly protected, while the rest of the site is under the normal zoning controls of Parcs Naturels, serving as a buffer zone to Scandola; the entire area is under consideration for the European Diploma of the Council of Europe, part of the site is a Biosphere Reserve, and thus is linked with the international Biosphere Reserve network. A significant research programme is carried out, and there are a number of public information programmes. There is some concern about over-expansion of the tourist industry based on the natural attractions of the area.

7. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

The site is outstanding for Corsica, but rather representative of the rest of the Mediterranean. It is, however, exceptional in having a strictly protected

terrestrial and marine complex which should be of increasing important scientific interest as nature begins to recover. The removal of human pressure from part of this property represents an outstanding conservation achievement.

8. EVALUATION

This property provides dramatic geological landforms (criteria ii) and an extremely wealthy undersea life; it contains a range of terrestrial habitats, most of which have been altered by man; but some 900 ha are being strictly protected and being returned to a natural state. There are also some of the last ospreys of the Mediterranean as well other important birds such as peregrine falcons and bearded vultures (criteria iii).

9. RECOMMENDATION

Capes Girolata and Porto and Scandola Nature Reserve should be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

International Union for Conservation of
Nature and Natural Resources

15 April 1983 (revised 8 July 1983)

NAME Scandola Nature Reserve & Capes Girolata and Porto

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY V (Protected Landscape)

Proposed World Heritage Site (Criteria: ii, iii)

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 2.17.07 (Mediterranean Sclerophyll)

LEGAL PROTECTION The Scandola Nature Reserve is strictly protected (though fishing is allowed in some areas). The remaining area is under normal zoning controls of Parcs natural.

DATE ESTABLISHED Scandola Nature Reserve established under decree of 9 December 1975. Parc naturel regional de Corse established under decree of 12 May 1972. Since a law of 2 May 1930, updated by decree of 14 December 1976, no destruction or modification can be carried out in the area without authorisation from the Minister of the Environment. Girolata and Porto were classified as nature reserves in 1975 and 1976.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION Situated in the communes of d'Osani (Scandola Nature Reserve), Ota, Partinello, Piana and Serriera of South Corsica and commune Galleria of upper Corsica. Scandola Nature Reserve is within Parc naturel regional de Corse (150,000ha) which includes Girolata and Porto. 42°14'-25'N, 8°37'-approximately 9°E.

ALTITUDE No information

AREA Scandola Nature Reserve 919ha land and 750ha marine. Proposed World Heritage Site 12,000ha land and 4,200ha marine.

LAND TENURE Mainly communal ownership. Some sections of private and state ownership (including Scandola Nature Reserve, Cape Rosso and Caspin).

PHYSICAL FEATURES This area is part of a large geological complex of 30,000ha (including the massif of Cinto and the valley of Fango) which appears to have undergone two distinct cycles of volcanic activity in the Permian. Since then cycles of erosion and rejuvenation have been at work and there are high cliffs of red porphyry, rhyoliths and basaltic pillars, considerably eroded by wave action. Thus the area has a varied and rugged relief on marine and shore habitats. The jagged and sheer cliffs contain many grottos and are flanked by numerous stacks and almost inaccessible islets and coves such as Tuara. The combination of the red cliffs, some 900 metres high, sand beaches, headlands such as Cape Osani and the Peninsula of Elbo, and the transparent sea, make the area exceptionally beautiful. Some ancient metamorphic rocks occur but the geology is predominantly igneous.

VEGETATION In Scandola Nature Reserve the rare Armeria soleiroltii occurs on the cliffs and on the more gentle slopes typical Mediterranean maquis vegetation occurs with an Olea-Lentiscus association up to about 200m where the arborescent Euphorbia dendroides becomes more common. Oaks Quercus sp. succeed this in certain areas, sometimes degraded by fire or ancient pasturage. In the littoral zone, all the classic zones of marine algae for this part of the Mediterranean are represented and a number of species including of red algae occur which are not recorded elsewhere in France. Because of the highly transparent nature of the waters the sublittoral algae Posidonia oceanica is found over quite a large area.

NOTEWORTHY FAUNA Scandola Nature Reserve contains a rich pelagic, sedentary and migrant fauna including several dozen pairs of shag Phalacrocorax aristoteles of the rare subspecies desmaresti, some peregrine falcons Falco peregrinus (V), 12 pairs of osprey Pandion haliaetus, bearded vulture Gypaetus barbatus and Eleonora falcon Falco eleonora with Cory's shearwater Puffinus diomedea and Audouin's gull Larus audouinii (R) occurring in the littoral zone. The marine environment contains considerable numbers of spiny lobster and a wide range of littoral and sublittoral invertebrates and fish. The monk seal Monachus monachus once had a colony in this area but has now disappeared.

CULTURAL HERITAGE This area conserves traditional agriculture and grazing activities and contains complete systems of fortifications of architectural interest which are important as elements of Corsican cultural identity. There are also some Roman sites.

POPULATION There are several small villages or hamlets within the site. Since the turn of the century there has been a de-population movement except for villages along route Number 81. Many of the terraces surrounding the villages have also been abandoned.

ZONING Scandola Nature Reserve comprises a strictly controlled zone, buffered by Corsica Regional Nature Park, the Reserve being located in the heart of the maritime section of the Park. The marine area around Isle de Gargalo and Punta Palazzo would appear to get the strongest protection.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT Scandola Nature Reserve is strictly protected in order to return the area to its natural state, much of the surrounding area having been altered by man. Restoration of several cultural items is underway. In the Capo Rosso area, traditional agriculture is encouraged to preserve certain species which disappear when grazing animals are removed. Several measures are planned to organise tourism including controlled parking areas behind the beaches. A National Planning Directive in April 1979 established measures for management of nature and littoral areas and for the 5 communes around and within Girolta and Porto. A management plan (1972) exists for Parc naturel régional de Corse.

DISTURBANCES OR DEFICIENCIES In Scandola Nature Reserve severe overfishing of the spiny lobster has taken place with several tons per day being taken during each summer season. Before the creation of Scandola Reserve, agricultural and grazing activity damaged areas of the maquis but these areas are now recovering. Expanding tourism poses a threat to cultural and natural heritage.

TOURISM A number of public information programmes are being developed.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH A significant research programme in Scandola includes study of marine life particularly regarding evolution, and bird studies. Scandola has had a scientific committee since 1979 and local scientists work closely with colleagues from Marseille and Nice.

SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES No information

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

Bacar, H (1977). A survey of Existing and Potential Marine Parks and Reserves of the Mediterranean Region. IUCN/UNEP Report.

Direction de la Protection de la Nature. Fiche N, Scandola.

Fédération des Parcs naturels de France (1982). Les Parcs naturels de régionaux et la protection de la nature, Ministère de l'environnement.

Gryn-Ambroes, P. (1980). Preliminary Annotated Lists of Existing and Potentially Mediterranean Protected Areas. A UNEP/IUCN report. UNEP/19.20/INF.5.

Annex to World Heritage Nomination Form.

STAFF 1 ornithologist and 4 guards under the authority of the Parc naturel

BUDGET No information, though probably funded by the Parc naturel

LOCAL PARK OR RESERVE ADMINISTRATION M. Michel Leenhardt, Directeur de la Réserve naturelle de Scandola, Parc naturel régional de Corse, Rue Général Fiorella, BP 417, 20184 Ajaccio, Corsica; Capes: M. Dominique Poali, 18 boulevard Danielle Casanova 20000 Ajaccio, Corsica.

DATE 1982