

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, rhyolites 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

FRANCE-Cape Girolata/Scandola Nature Reserve

FRANCE - Corsica

NAME Scandola Nature Reserve & Capes Girolata and Porto

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY V (Protected Landscape)
X (World Heritage Site - Criteria: ii, iii)

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 2.17.07 (Mediterranean Sclerophyll)

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION Situated in the communes of d'Osani (Scandola Nature Reserve), Ota, Partinello, Piana and Serriera of South Corsica and Commune Galleria of Haut Corsica. Terrestrial limits are the section of coastline between Punta Muchillina and the mouth of the Forno stream (Cala Vecchia), the ravines of Forno and Canalette, the tour at Elbo and the coastline up to Punta Nera. 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

DATE AND HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT 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. Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983 and Scandola Nature Reserve was awarded the European Diploma in 1986.

AREA Scandola Nature Reserve 919ha land and 750ha marine. The World Heritage Site is 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).

ALTITUDE 0m-560m (Capu-Purcile)

PHYSICAL FEATURES The reserve is divided into two sectors: the Elpa Nera inlet (between Pointe Bianca and Pointe Validori) and the peninsula of Scandola bounded to the north by Pointe de Nera, towards the middle of the northernmost islet of Pointe Palazzo and the western tip of the islet of Garganellu and to the south by the islets adjacent to Pointe Muchillina. 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.

CLIMATE No information

VEGETATION In Scandola Nature Reserve the rare Armeria soleirolia 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 dendroidea 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 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.

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), 2/3 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. 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.

LOCAL HUMAN 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.

VISITORS AND VISITOR FACILITIES A number of public information programmes are being developed.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FACILITIES 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 (Faculty of Sciences) and Nice.

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. Spearfishing, SCUBA diving, angling, collecting marine life and dumping of waste are prohibited, but commercial fishing is permitted outside the reserve. Mooring is limited to 24 hours. The marine reserve is well sign-posted on land and kept under supervision

Infobase produced by WCMC, January 1992

daily in summer by the Regional Nature Parks qualified marine guides. 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. Hunting, camping, laying fires, collecting of plants and trees, destruction of nests and eggs and photography too close to animals are prohibited. 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 five communes around and within Girolata and Porto. A management plan (1972) exists for Parc naturel régional de Corse. 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, but covering only a small portion of the sea front. The marine area around Isle de Gargalo and Punta Palazzo would appear to get the strongest protection.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS In Scandola Nature Reserve severe overfishing of 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.

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

BUDGET No information, though probably funded by the Parc naturel

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION Directeur, Réserve naturelle de Scandola, Parc naturel régional de Corse, Palais Lantivy, 20188 Ajaccio

REFERENCES

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.

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UNEP/19.20/INF.5.

Supplément au "Courrier du Parc de la Corse"

Annex to World Heritage Nomination Form.

DATE 1982, updated May 1990

0825V

PATRIMOINE MONDIAL: CANDIDATURE

EXAMEN TECHNIQUE PAR L'UICN

1. NUMERO D'IDENTIFICATION ET NOM: 258 GOLFES DE GIROLATA ET DE PORTO ET RESERVE NATURELLE DE SCANDOLA
2. SITUATION GEOGRAPHIQUE: Les golfes de Girolata et de Porto sont situés entre 42°25' et 42°14' de latitude nord et 8°37' de longitude est dans la région de la Corse. La réserve naturelle de Scandola se trouve dans la commune d'Osani.
3. CANDIDATURE PROPOSEE PAR: Ministère de l'Environnement, France
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - (i) Formulaire de candidature, cartes et photographies
 - (ii) Documentation supplémentaire (UICN)
 - a) Consultants: François Ramade, Francesco Framarin et Cyrille de Klemm
 - b) Fédération des parcs naturels de France. 1982. Les parcs naturels régionaux et la protection de la nature
 - c) Ramade F. 1980. Etude des réserves méditerranéennes, rapport de l'UICN.

5. DESCRIPTION ET RESUME

Ce bien proposé pour inscription, que l'on appellera plus succinctement "Scandola", correspond à la région la plus pittoresque de la Corse. Il contient des habitats terrestres et marins ainsi que des éléments naturels et culturels. Bien que cette partie de la Méditerranée ait été fortement peuplée pendant des millénaires, cette réserve peut témoigner des relations harmonieuses que se sont longtemps établies entre l'homme et la terre. On notera l'importance particulière de la réserve naturelle de Scandola qui s'étend sur 919 ha de terre et 750 ha d'habitat marin et qui est strictement protégée. Le littoral est déchiqueté, avec des îlots, des grottes et de hauts rochers au large, inaccessibles. Elle abrite plusieurs espèces végétales rares ainsi qu'un certain nombre d'algues marines dont certaines n'existent nulle part ailleurs en France. Cette région constitue un exemple remarquable de maquis, végétation prédominante sur tout le pourtour de la Méditerranée, mais gravement détériorée dans la plupart des cas. Le site permet également de maintenir, en matière d'agriculture et de pâturage, des activités traditionnelles qui présentent un intérêt considérable.

6. INTEGRITE

La réserve naturelle de Scandola est strictement protégée tandis que le reste du site, soumis aux règlements de zonage habituellement appliqués par la Direction des Parcs naturels, sert de zone tampon à Scandola. Le site est actuellement proposé pour le Diplôme européen du Conseil de l'Europe, une partie du site est une réserve de la biosphère et se trouve ainsi reliée au réseau international des réserves de la biosphère. Un important programme de recherche est exécuté et l'on procède à un certain nombre d'évaluations des programmes d'information du public. Le développement excessif de l'industrie du tourisme qui repose sur les beautés naturelles de la région suscite une certaine inquiétude.

7. COMPARAISON AVEC D'AUTRES REGIONS

Remarquable pour la Corse, le site est toutefois assez typique des régions méditerranéennes. Il est cependant exceptionnel en ce sens qu'il abrite un ensemble terrestre et marin strictement protégé qui devrait avoir un intérêt croissant du point de vue scientifique à mesure qu'il revient à l'état naturel. Le fait de soustraire une partie de ce bien à l'emprise de l'homme représente une réalisation remarquable sur le plan de la conservation.

8. EVALUATION

Le relief est représentatif de processus géologiques impressionnants (critère ii) et la vie sous-marine est extrêmement riche. Le site contient une large gamme d'habitats terrestres dont la plupart ont été modifiés par l'homme. Toutefois, quelque 900 ha sont strictement protégés et rétablis dans leur état naturel. La zone abrite quelques-unes des dernières orfraies de la Méditerranée ainsi que d'autres oiseaux importants tels que le faucon pèlerin et le gypaète barbu (critère iii).

9. RECOMMANDATION

Les golfes de Girolata et de Porto ainsi que la réserve naturelle de Scandola devraient être inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

Union internationale pour la conservation
de la nature et de ses ressources

15 juin 1983

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MANAGEMENT CATEGORY V (Protected Landscape)

Proposed World Heritage Site (Criteria: ii, iii)

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SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES

No information

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

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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