



Director Arch. Fabio Vallarola  
Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano  
Casella Postale No. 34  
64025 Pineto (Te)  
ITALY

06 November 2014

Dear Director Arch. Fabio Vallarola,

**Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano  
Award of European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas**

Following the official verification in your protected area of the work under the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, I am pleased to inform you that the Evaluation Committee, at its recent meeting, examined carefully the thorough report which the appointed verifier prepared as a result of his visit to the area.

Decision and recommendations:

**It was unanimously agreed to award the Charter certificate to Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano for a five-year period from 2014 to 2019.**

The Evaluation Committee congratulates the first marine area to apply for the Charter on a positive and encouraging start. The strong forward drive provided by the President, Benigno D'Orazio, has been well implemented by an active and knowledgeable team, and community engagement has been enthusiastic as a result.

The Committee members are pleased to see the Charter being used so effectively for developing and boosting sustainable tourism and strengthening the identity and promotion of the area, consolidating the AMP Torre Cerrano in a European context, co-ordinating the promotion of the area with a coherent and respectful strategy. They also commend the innovative schemes, such as the award winning self-financing project involving the shoreline concessionaires in work to improve the condition and activities at beach level.

The Evaluation Committee was also impressed by the good co-operative working between the park and private sector but read with some concern about the conflict between the protected area and the fishery. Sustainable tourism can help alleviate conflict and show that conservation can also be good for business. We recommend continuing working with the clam fishermen to build bridges between the parties in dispute, possibly by suggesting ways in which they can directly benefit from working with sustainable tourism, i.e. selling produce to visitors, or offering boat/nature watching trips. (There are good examples of marine tourism in Italy to learn from.)

We draw your attention to the other recommendations the verifier makes in his report which the Committee endorses.



### The next five years

As you know, the award recognises an on-going process of sustainable tourism development in co-operation with a wide range of local partners and stakeholders. It is awarded for an initial period of five years.

Because the award is part of that on-going process, the Evaluation Committee particularly emphasises the need for networking with other protected areas over the next few years. This will be one of the aspects which verifiers evaluate at the time of the re-evaluation in 2019.

The Committee also strongly recommends the following:

- Please make sure that all the actions in the strategy and action plan are monitored on an annual basis.
- You need to ensure that the necessary funds for the re-evaluation in five years are included in your budget plans well before 2019, should you wish to continue as a Charter area.
- Towards the end of the current five-year period you will need to check that all the recommendations contained in the evaluation report have been considered and acted upon.

The Charter award ceremony when the Charter certificates will be handed over is scheduled to take place on 11th December 2014 in Brussels (BE). You are especially invited to be present to receive your award. The day will include a Charter networking event culminating in the awards.

Due to the security requirements of the Parliament, registration for the Charter awards will be essential.

For the moment - **Save the Date!** We will send you specific details of how to register very soon. We look forward to celebrate this achievement with you on 11th December in Brussels.

We should like to congratulate you once again on being awarded the Charter and hope that you will continue to work closely with other Charter areas.

With all good wishes for every success in your future activities,

Yours sincerely,

Ignace Schops  
President  
EUROPARC Federation