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15th October 2019

Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio

Award of European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Following the official verification in your protected areas 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 Charter areas.

Decision and recommendations:

It was unanimously agreed to award the Charter certificate to your protected area for a five-year period from 2019 to 2023.

The Evaluation Committee congratulates the Stelvio National Park, and its 3 managing authorities, on the successful Charter application and positive verification visit.

The Committee was positively impressed by the achievements, showing an overall good coordination mechanism, with the advantage of having greater proximities to other bodies involved in management aspects of the various areas included in the Charter. Nevertheless, there will always be a challenge for the coordination of the 3 managing authorities; therefore we recommend to pay particular attention to this aspect.

The committee was pleased about the 3 best practices identified by the verifier, relatively public transport/sustainable mobility, use of bikes and SPA/wellness activities, which could serve as examples for other European Protected Areas and many other Charter Parks. The committee



emphasizes the importance of the activity and continuity of the forum, which should be strengthened in the future.

The Committee suggests to keep attention and focus on the delivery of the action plan, which includes many actions. To this regard, the suggestion is to make sure to deliver what you can effectively, rather than trying to stretch too far.

Finally, 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 recognizes an on-going process of sustainable tourism development in cooperation 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 emphasizes 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 **2024**.

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 **2023**, 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.

Award Ceremony for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

This year's Charter Awards will be celebrated in the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) on 2nd December 2019 in rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels, from 14h to 18h, room JDE 52. You are especially invited to be present to receive your award. **Due to the security requirements, registration for the Charter Awards will be essential.**

To do this, please complete the information on the registration form for all who intend to be present at the Award Ceremony with this link, <https://forms.gle/YKuUSdi2TwsXR259>

We look forward to celebrate this achievement with you on 2nd 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 Sustainable Destinations across our European network.

With all good wishes and every success in your future activities.

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Yours sincerely,

Ignace Schops
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