Montserrat: nature and spirituality
1st Workshop of the Delos Initiative

IUCN Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas

Monastery of Montserrat – 23-26 November 2006
Catalonia, Spain

Thursday, 23 of November

Arrival around 16:00

17:00 Welcome and introductions of the participants
Presentation of the workshop goals and schedule
Short introduction about the facilities and logistics and visit to the Monastery facilities

18:45 Vespers

19:30 Welcome from the Prior of the Monastery and the President of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Montserrat Mountain

20:15 Dinner

Friday, 24 of November

09. Coffee

09:30 Opening of the workshop
Puri Canals, IUCN vice-president
Jordi Sargatal, director Fundació Territori i Paisatge - Caixa Catalunya
Jordi López, President, Steering Committee Natural Park Mountain of Montserrat
Ramon Ribera-Mariné, Prior of the Monastery
Francesc Baltasar, Minister of the Department for the Environment and Housing of Catalonia

10:00 Key-note speech by Jesús García-Varela: Nature and Spirituality.
Gonzalo Oviedo: Protected Areas and Sacred Natural Sites of Indigenous and Traditional People
Edwin Bernbaum: The experience of the Sacred Mountains Program
Santos Casado: Spiritual values in the history of protected areas of Spain

Discussion

Session title: The case study of Montserrat
11:30  Introduction to the case study of Montserrat. Guided visit to the Sant Joan old hermits area, with the Prior of the Monastery and the Director of the Natural Park.

13:30  Picnic near a hermit

15:30  The holy mountain of Montserrat

Presentations of:

Ramon Ribera-Mariné, Prior of the Monastery
Jordi Lopez, President, Executive Committee Board of Montserrat
Josep Altayó, manager of L’ARSA, public services of Montserrat
Xavier Ariño, Catalan Federation of Hiking and Climbing Clubs
Francesc Diego, Department of the Environment and Housing of Catalonia

17:00  Questions and answers

17:30 Coffee-break

17:45  Conclusions and recommendations- Josep M. Mallarach

18:30  End of the session

Saturday, 25 of November

Session title: Presentation of the case studies of the Delos Initiative

9:15  First session

1) Mount Athos, by Thymio Papayannis
2) Vanatori – Neamt Natural Park, by Sebastian Cataniou
3) Kii Mountain Range, by Makoto Motonaka

Questions and answers

10:15  Coffee-Break

10:45  Second session

4) Ukonvuori, by Matti Määta
5) Ajj / Ukonsaari , by Yryo Norokörpi
6) Smoky Mountains National Park, by Edwin Bernbaum

Questions and answers

12:00  Third session

7) El Rocío -Doñana protected areas, by Jordi Falgarona
8) Meteora, by Thymio Papayannis

Questions and answers
13:30  Lunch

Session title: Case studies and lessons learned

9) Holy Island of Arran, Scotland, by Isabel Soria
10) Contribution of sacred natural sites to nature conservation: The view of the WWF, by Liza Higgins-Zogib

16:00  Open discussion about the diagnoses, chaired by Thymio Papayannis

17:00  Coffee-Break

17:15  Open discussion about the recommendations, chaired by Edwin Bernbaum

18:30  End of the session.

Sunday, 26 of November

Session title: Conclusions and proposals for the Delos Initiative

9:15  Last open session by: Thymio Papayannis and Josep M. Mallarach
Contributions to the UNESCO-IUCN Guidelines on sacred natural sites
Proposals to develop further the Delos Initiative
Conclusions and outputs of the workshop

11:30  Coffee break and free time.

12:00  Salve Regina and Virolai (hymn of the Black Madonna) by the Escolania of Montserrat (one of the oldest boy chorus of Europe).

13:30  Farewell lunch.

Visit to the Les Agulles and Coll de la Massana areas, with Miquel Rafa, Fundació Territori i Paisatge. Trip back to Barcelona.

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Sponsors: Board of the Montserrat Mountain, Department for the Environment and Housing of Catalonia and Fundació Territori i Paisatge.

Collaborators: Monastery of Montserrat, IUCN, Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos, Silene Association, Fundación de Estudios Tradicionales, The Mountains Institute, Junta de Andalucía (RENPA), Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services - Finland.

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Web sites:
The Delos Initiative: www.med-ina.org/delos
Monastery of Montserrat: www.abadianmontserrat.net
Nature Park of the Mountain of Montserrat www.muntanyamontserrat.net/parc_natural_index.php
EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results of the First Workshop of The Delos Initiative are the following:

1. Conclusions about the key lessons learned from the case studies of the Pilot plan. They may be of at least three types: concerning the methodology, the diagnoses and the recommendations.

2. Proposals for the further development of The Delos Initiative, within the framework of the WCPA Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas. The may include suggestions for organizing the second workshop.

3. Contributions to the UNESCO-UICN Draft Guidelines on Natural Sacred Sites, bringing in the points of view of mainstream religions, and / or completing the existing text, which is related to indigenous or primal spiritual traditions.

4. Contributions to a short position paper prepared by Nigel Dudley, Chair of the Task Force on IUCN Protected Areas Categories, about the inclusion of the concept of sacred natural sites in all the IUCN categories for protected areas, to be presented in the WCPA summit of Seville, Spain, in March 2007.