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## WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

### NATIONAL PARK OF CILENTO (ITALY)

#### (MIXED CULTURAL-NATURAL NOMINATION)

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## 1. DOCUMENTATION

- (i) IUCN/WCMC Data Sheet (3 references).
- (ii) Additional Literature Consulted: Government of Italy.1997. **Liste du Patrimoine Mondial: Candidature du Parc National du Cilento avec les sites archeologiques de Paestum et Velia**. Ministero dell’Ambiente. 1998. **Parco Nazionale del Cilento e Vallo di Diano – Relazione Programmatica e di Indirizzo, 1998-2001**. UNESCO-MAB. 1997. **Nuove Riserve di Biosfera in Italia**.
- (iii) Consultations: 12 external reviewers.
- (iv) Field Visit: J. Marsh, April, 1998.

## 2. SUMMARY OF NATURAL VALUES

The site, comprising 181,041 ha. is located in central-southern Italy, in the Campania region, and Salerno Province. Of this total size 20 core zones make up 26,000ha (i.e. 14%) with the remainder being in the buffer zone (50,000ha) and transitional zone (105,000h) categories. Cilento is in the Mediterranean Sclerophyll biogeographical province. The area is characterised by mountains, valleys and coast. It is bounded on the north and east by the Vallo di Diano, and on the west and south by the coast and Tyrrhenian Sea. The relief results from the collision of tectonic plates, mountain building, and fluvial and marine erosion.

In the east and north are the highest mountains, composed of limestone with stratified dolomites. They include Mount Alburni (1742m), Mount Cocuzzo (1411m), Mount Motola (1700m), and Mount Cervati (1898m). This area is separated from the western region by several river valleys, notably that of the River Calore. In the western area, the highest massif is Mount Sacro or Gelbison (1705m), composed of limestone, quartz, sandstone, conglomerate and clay. To the west of Mount Sacro, across the valley of the River Alento, lies Mount Stella (1131m). To the south-east of Mount Sacro, across the valley of the River Mingado, lies Mount Bulgheria (1225m), composed of limestone. The coast, extending from the Gulf of Salerno in the north, to the Gulf of Policastro in the south, is characterised by a succession of cliffs, promontories, valleys and beaches. Karst features, include over 400 caves in the limestone mountains and caves and natural arches along the coast.

The area experiences a Mediterranean climate that varies with altitude. Capaccio receives 1268mm of precipitation annually, with most in December, and least in summer. On the higher peaks there is snow from November to March, and strong winds are common. The area is at a biogeographical intersection of different bioclimatic zones. Many species from northern, eastern and southern biogeographical areas have their extreme limits of distribution testifying past geological events and contacts between Central Europe, the Balkan Peninsula and Northern Africa. A total of 3200-3500 vascular plant species (a high density for Europe)

occur in the area. The present vegetation pattern depends especially on altitude. Along the Mediterranean coast the following species dominate: *Pinus halepensis*, *Ampelodesma mauritanicus*, *Cistus monspeliensis*, *Olea eupopaea*, *Ceratonia ciliaqua*, *Juniperus phoenicia*, and *Euphorbia dendroides*. Internal valleys along the Mediterranean coast are occupied by *Quercus ilex* associated with *Asplenium onopteris*, *Rubia pergerina*, *Asparagus acutifolius* and *Viburnum tinus*. Between 400m and 1000m, there is an area of *Sanninica lucana* occupied by *Quercus cerris*, *Quercus pubescens*, *Acer obtusatum*, *Ostryia carpinifolia*, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Carpinus betulus*, and *Alnus cordata*. Between 700m and 900m, the grazed areas are occupied by *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Asphodelus albus*. *Fagus sylvatica* occurs exclusively on the Sub-Atlantic zone between 1000m and 1800m. The highest area with limestone and karst plateaux features grasslands of *Sesleria tenuifolia*, especially on Mount Cervati. There are at least 110 endemic, and 35 rare floral species.

There are 252 bird species, of which 25 are rare, e.g. the white-backed woodpecker and black woodpecker. 37 mammal species are found, of which 18 are rare. Noteworthy are small populations of wolf, otter and bats. There are 17 species of reptiles of which one is rare. There are 11 amphibian species, of which 4 are rare.

### 3. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

The site has some similarities with the existing World Heritage site of Cape Girolata, Cape Porto, Scandola Natural Reserve and the Piano Calanches in Corsica (France). This site differs from Cilento in being primarily coastal, composed of granite, with spectacular rock formations, and different tree species than Cilento.

There are many other sites in the Mediterranean Sclerophyll Biogeographical Province. For example, Pollino National Park, 190,000ha., south of Cilento in Basilicata and Calabria, is a calcareous-dolomite massif of 2664m, shaped by glacial and karst processes. The vegetation varies from high-montane to Mediterranean coast, providing a high habitat diversity. In the high -montane belt, characterised by *Seslerion apenninae*, there is an important endemic, *Pinus leucodermis*, at its western limit, a relic of Pleistocene glaciations. In the montane belt, *Asyneumati-Fagetum* and *Abies alba* are common. In the coastal belt, *Quercus cerris* woods are contiguous to *Aquifolio-Fagetum*, while the sclerophyll shrublands of *Quercus ilex* have been partly replaced by coniferous afforestation. Pollino was included on a tentative list of potential World Heritage natural sites in Italy.

Etna Volcano, in Sicily, is one of the most active in the world, and the highest in Europe (3,350m). It has several vegetation belts, and numerous endemic species. It was also included on a tentative list of potential World Heritage sites for Italy, primarily for geological values.

Gargano National Park, 121,118ha., on the Adriatic Coast of Italy, lacks high mountain environments and their associated vegetation zones, so has less biodiversity than Cilento. Abruzzo National Park in central Italy features mountain environments and their associated species but lacks the lower elevation and coastal environments found in Cilento. Other comparable parks in the region are Circeo and Garano and many similarities can be drawn especially on the coastal features.

In conclusion, Cilento, together with Circeo and Gargano National Parks, is one of the three most valuable coastal areas in Italy. Its coastal component is much smaller, more disturbed and less diverse than that found in the World Heritage site at Girolata (Corsica). Cilento's main natural values are related to the range of habitat it protects from the sea up to the surrounding hills rising to 1,898m. Plant diversity in the area is thus high though less than in

other European World Heritage sites such as Mont Perdu. As a landscape, Cilento is typical of much of Italy and regions bordering the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic coasts.

#### **4. INTEGRITY**

Legislation was passed in by the Italian parliament in 1991 and 1992 that established boundaries and provided provisional protection of the area. In 1993, revised boundaries and rules for protection were approved. Legislation in 1995 approved the present boundaries (including 181,000 ha) and rules for protection. Landscape plans for inner Cilento and coastal Cilento were approved by decrees in 1996. There is thus a substantial legal basis for protecting the park environment, especially the core areas and coast. According to the information on the Cilento Biosphere Reserve (1997), the core areas of the park, of which there are about 20, comprise 26,000 ha., buffer zones adjacent to them, 50,000 ha, the remaining 105,000 ha being labelled a transition zone. A management plan is being prepared by a team of consultants. Meanwhile, a work plan for the years 1998-2001 is guiding financial allocations, research, planning and management activities. The Ministry of Environment has provided 28,000,000,000 lira to implement this plan, and additional funds are being obtained from international organisations.

A park director was appointed in 1996. Information provided by the National Park office indicates that in April 1998, " 71 people are employed full time, in addition to 70 other ones who take care of wildlife and the damage caused by the latter [i.e. to crops and forest plantations]. Moreover, there are 183 forest guards." An office is now operating in Vallo di Lucania and regional offices linked by computer are planned. Some park regulations, especially relating to illegal wood cutting and poaching, are currently being enforced by some rangers of the Corpo Forestale. Relations with local residents are reported to be "difficult" and are a major management issue.

Most of the mountain areas have been, or still are, subjected to grazing and management for wood products, but these activities are being reconsidered. There are numerous roads throughout the area, though some are closed to the public. The coast from Camerota to Sapri is well preserved, there being no road access, and development has been constrained. Ecotourism and environmental education activities are occurring here, and elsewhere in the park.

The park includes some 86 communities with a population of 237,000. Some 352 illegally constructed buildings have been found inside the park. The park boundaries are not ecologically viable, there being two indentations, orientated north-west and south-east, that almost cut the park in two. This resulted from objections by several communities to inclusion in the boundary first suggested in 1992.

#### **5. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

The area has numerous cultural heritage values. A survey conducted by the Salerno Department of Archeology and the University of Sienna identified 19 caves, including: Cala (whose stratigraphic features have been dated between 250,000 and 10,000 years BP.), Granato and Castelcivita. Various forms of hominids occurred there during the Paleolithic, including *Homo erectus*, Neanderthal, and *Homo sapiens*. Wall paintings from the Neolithic are found in the caves. There are also numerous historic towns, villages and buildings, such as the stone watchtowers along the coast.

The site has been recognised (1997) as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Twenty areas of the park, six of them coastal, have been proposed as ecological sites of European importance.

## **6. APPLICATION OF WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL CRITERIA**

Cilento has some important values that are clearly significant at the national scale and its botanical values are recognised as having European significance. The nomination document itself does not present a convincing case for its "outstanding universal value", however, and all external reviewers had strong hesitations in recommending Cilento as a natural World Heritage site. Many also felt that only a small portion of the site is in a natural state and that its numerous but small disaggregated core areas were not sufficient to ensure biological integrity. With extensive agricultural development, forestry, grazing and the presence of 237,000 residents, Cilento is much more a candidate as a "Cultural Landscape" than as a natural site. Certainly the Conditions of Integrity as spelled out in the Operational Guidelines are not met in terms of its boundaries and current management presence which has only recently been established.

Given the numerous archaeological and historic resources of the site it is clear that the predominant values of Cilento are cultural. Its natural values are nationally important and serve to supplement its cultural milieu.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION**

Cilento has been nominated as a mixed site. Its natural values are not considered to be of outstanding universal value and are much subordinate to its cultural ones, IUCN considers it is more appropriate to consider it under those criteria.

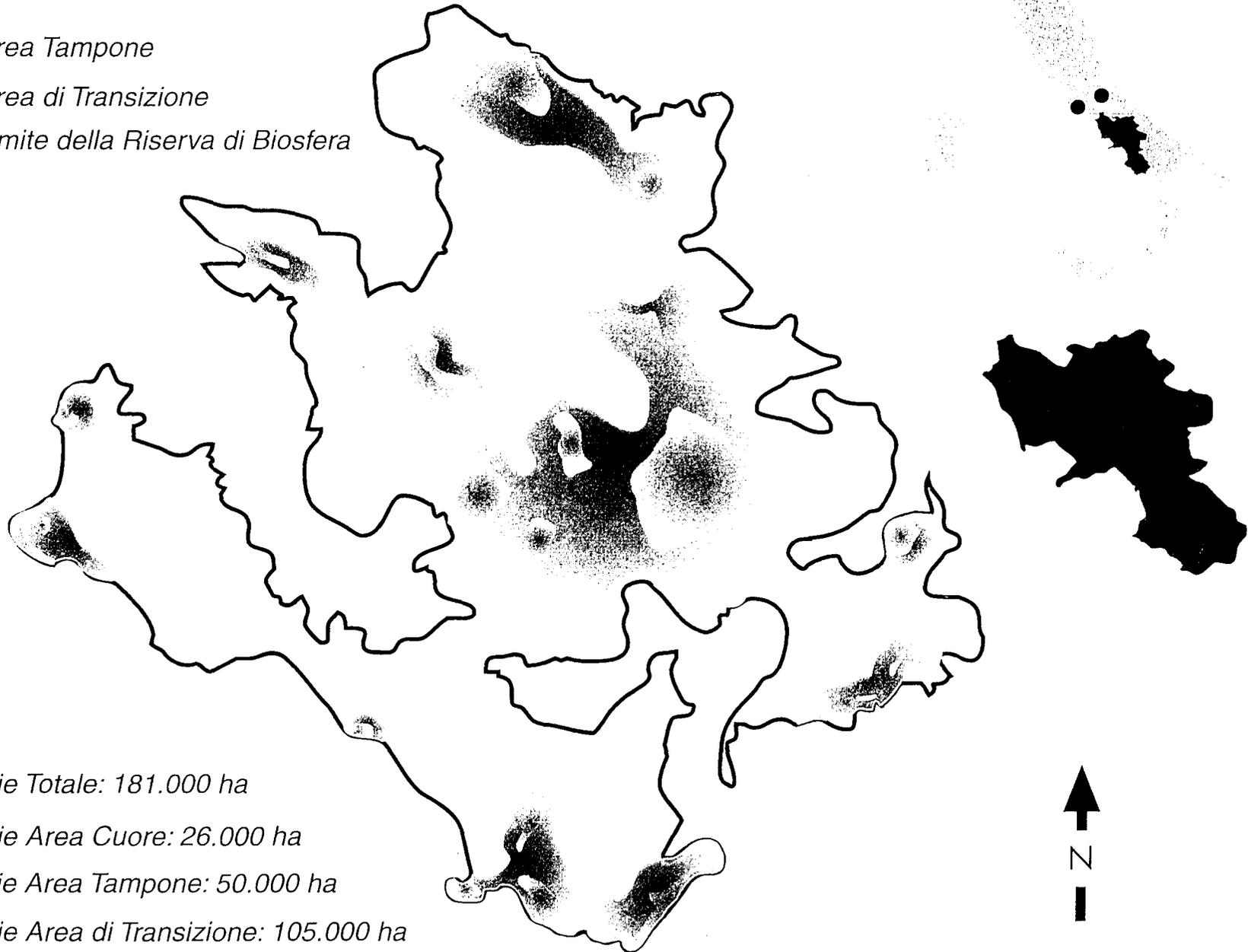
RISERVA DI BIOSFERA "IL CILENTO E VALLO DI DIANO"

 Area Cuore

 Area Tampone

 Area di Transizione

 Limite della Riserva di Biosfera



Superficie Totale: 181.000 ha

Superficie Area Cuore: 26.000 ha

Superficie Area Tampone: 50.000 ha

Superficie Area di Transizione: 105.000 ha