

EMAS - Newsletter

EMAS website
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>

EMAS in figures

In September 2007, a total of 5743 sites and 3842 organisations are in the EMAS register as of September 30th, which equals to a plus of 1.9% in sites and 1.2% in organisations for the third quarter of the year. This equals to more than 1.6 Mill. people working in these sites.

Registered organisations	and sites
Austria	269 505
Belgium	42 336
Bulgaria	0 0
Cyprus	0 0
Czech Republic	28 30
Denmark	102 256
Estonia	2 2
Finland	41 48
France	13 13
Germany	1,470 1,972
Greece	55 58
Hungary	12 15
Ireland	7 7
Italy	679 879
Latvia	8 13
Lithuania	0 0
Malta	1 1
Luxembourg	0 0
Netherlands	11 15
Norway	27 27
Poland	7 7
Portugal	58 63
Romania	1 1
Slovak Republic	5 5
Slovenia	1 1
Spain	864 1025
Sweden	71 72
United Kingdom	64 364
TOTAL	3,842 5,719

Leading industrial sectors:

Sectors	Organisations
• Chemicals	267
• Sewage and refuse disposal	258
• Food and beverages	254
• Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	247
• Electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply	197

Leading service sectors:

Sectors	Organisations
• Hotels and restaurants	232
• Public authorities	227
• Other business activities	175
• Education	152

News

Natural Park "Adamello Brenta"

"EMAS certification has revealed itself as a fundamental instrument to systematize and create a method within our organization which defines clear and shared objectives, and communicates them to the outside", says the environmental manager, Mr. Pino Oss.

EMAS certification in the Natural Park "Adamello Brenta" marks the end of a path towards a certified quality which started with ISO 14001 certification and pursued with EMAS. EMAS permitted the largest protected area of Trentino to explain on the doorstep effective outputs and expected outcomes for the future sustainable development of the territory.

With EMAS registration, the expected objective was to communicate the environmental policy of the park and in particular its strategic objectives. A better perception of the added value created through the actions organised by the park management and of the importance of safeguarding its natural assets, as well as of everything related to it, is required on the beneficiaries' part. As a consequence, the park will be stronger and able to find support for future developments and to consider the diffusion of environmental culture accomplished.

The park has also a project for the future called "Environmental quality" for a series of sectors that gravitate around it, such as the agricultural and food sector, the tourist and the educational sector. Within this scope, the park has assigned a benchmark of quality for the next few years to the companies that satisfy specific requirements identified by the park and related to environmental, management and communicational aspects. Until now, this label has been attributed to 32 hotels, bed and breakfasts and camping sites. The label is really an occasion which encourages the growth of the local economy and stimulates the development of a new environmental sensibility.



The EMAS newsletter is published by the EMAS Helpdesk on behalf of the European Commission. An electronic copy is available on the Internet at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm or by subscribing to the mailing list.

For a free subscription, comments or further information send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at: emas@ec.europa.eu or write to the following address:
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Upcoming events

24-25 October 2007
Fredericia, Denmark
Dogme Life conference
 Discuss the results of the LIFE project "Dogme 2000 - a model for environmental management at the municipal level" (LIFE04 ENV/DK/000071).

24 October 2007
Manchester, UK
Best Practice in EMS Auditing
 This workshop has been designed for internal and external auditors with experience of EMS auditing. The workshop will provide auditors with information and exercise which explore best practice technique using both discussion and case studies.

24 October 2007
Lérida, Spain
Municipalia - XIV International Exhibition on Municipal Services and Equipments

10 - 11. October 2007
Budapest, Hungary
EMAS Workshop - facts and benefits for companies
 More information will be available from the TAIEX web site : <http://taiex.ec.europa.eu/>

08-11 October 2007
Brussels, Belgium
OPEN DAYS - European Week of Regions and Cities 2007
 Session: "Eco-efficient SMEs: environmental management, eco-label and green public procurement as a driver for structural changes". Committee of the Regions building, room JDE 53, 5 - 7 p.m. Session number 09A10 (EVO2)
 For further information, please see the Open Days website at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2007/index.cfm

09 October 2007
Leoben, Austria
EcoEfficiency Workshop
 At the Voestalpine Rail site; More information is available at : <http://www.emas.gv.at/article/articleview/56237/1/16773>

October 2007
Barcelona, Spain
Post-grade on Environmental Management of enterprises and public organisations
 Further information can be found at : <http://www.ub.es/dppss/psicamb/gestio.htm>

25-26 September 2007
Zwentendorf, Austria
EMAS prepares the ground to the ecological local authority
 More information on the agenda of the 6 day workshop for local authorities is available from Mrs. Hermine Dimitroff
 Mail: hermine.dimitroff@eco4ward.at

25 September 2007
London, UK
Best Practice in EMS Auditing
 This workshop has been designed for internal and external auditors with experience of EMS auditing. The workshop will provide auditors with information and exercise which explore best practice technique using both discussion and case studies. The programme is available at : <http://www.iema.net/index.php?module=ievents&func=view&startdate=20070824&enddate=20080224&eid=114>

21-23 September 2007
Bienno, Lombardia, Italy
Fair Think global, Act local
 More information on the EMAS fair is available at : http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/events/invitatio_n_emas_fair_bienno.pdf



Editorial

The protected areas issue

Protected areas represent unique and valuable ecosystems that need to be preserved. Nowadays they have become a point of reference for environmental management. In this sense, the managers of these sensitive areas are willing to implement new tools to improve the results.

A protected area is a place where different stakeholders converge and have a common interest. In many cases it is difficult to synchronise the activities of all parties concerned to achieve a final and successful goal.

In this issue of the EMAS Newsletter it is demonstrated that EMAS is a tool for organisations to evaluate, improve, report and communicate their environmental performance. Combined with the specific management of protected areas, EMAS optimizes the development of best practices, ensuring that the necessary economic activities are carried out while protecting and conserving eco-systems and natural resources.

The EMAS Team, Environment Directorate General, Unit G2, European Commission.

Adding value to the management of protected areas

Report

Spanish government fosters implementation of EMAS in protected areas

Becoming part of the EMAS register is a plus of quality in the environmental management of protected areas. In this line, some national parks are already registered and other protected areas are working to achieve the same goal.

National and Natural Parks are an excellent setting to implement a regulation which certifies fine environmental management. As sensitive and representative areas in Spain, they are regulated by national and regional legislation, with the aim to preserve the natural resources and control the use of them.

"National Parks Autonomous Entity" ("Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales") is a public entity depending on the Ministry of

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Selective waste treatment in the National Park "Teide": containers have been installed to make it possible for the visitors to separate waste

Environment, which is in charge of developing and coordinating the planning of the National Parks. This entity has decided to promote the implementation of the EMAS Regulation in the 14 Spanish National Parks, beginning with the project in the National Park "Teide".

The National Park "Teide", in the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands), was the first protected area to be registered under EMAS in 2006.

Continued on next page >



Continued from page 1 >

After this, another two registrations followed: the National Park "Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici" in Catalonia and the National Park "Timanfaya" on Lanzarote (Canary Islands). The rest of the National Parks are working on the implementation of EMAS.

These experiences show the other protected areas how to receive European recognition for excellent environmental management.

Best practice

Teide, Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici and Timanfaya

Three National Parks are working under the EMAS Regulation already: Due to the decision of the "National Parks Autonomous Entity" ("Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales"), these parks achieve important targets in order to comply with the EMAS Regulation.

The scope of the environmental system comprises all the activities carried out in the national parks, reaching from forest

conservation to the maintenance of installations and equipment. The visitors play an important part inside the national parks, because they are in direct contact with them. As a result, the awareness of the visitors has increased through the installation of posters, the delivering of brochures etc., and frequent visitors have been counted.

The management of the three national parks recommend the implementation

of EMAS in other protected areas. To know more about the process of implementation, an interview has been conducted with the manager of each national park in order to better understand the particular situation.

Interviews

National Park Teide, the first EMAS registered National Park

The first National Park to be nominated for implementing the EMAS Regulation: Being one of the older national parks in Spain, with a big and complex infrastructure, this park was chosen as the pilot park to implement an environmental management system under EMAS. "The implementation of EMAS in the National Park Teide is setting off a cascade of environmental improvements, in and outside the park", says the Park Director, Mr. Manuel Durbán.

The intention of implementing EMAS in the National Park "Teide", the first protected area, was to go beyond conservation. The success achieved with EMAS implementation made possible to extend EMAS implementation to other national parks.

The outcome expected was to comply fully with the legislation and to gain a

high level of control of the activities, while decreasing the risks.

Thanks to EMAS, the national park has reached the following goals:

- Waste generation has been decreased
- Natural resources consumption has been decreased
- Installations and infrastructure have been adapted
- Emergency protocols have been improved
- Staff awareness has increased

Additionally, the implementation of the environmental management system within the national park, and later on in other national parks (Aigüestortes and Timanfaya), has made an exchange of experiences and opinions possible.

As a result of the implementation of EMAS, the periodical proposal of new objectives focused on continual



One forestry house in the national park with a solar panel.

environmental improvement has been incorporated in the work plans of the staff. Also, the local community is proud to live inside the first Spanish national park which received EMAS registration.

The Park Director of "Teide" recommends the implementation of EMAS in other protected areas. In the opinion of Mr. Manuel Durbán, national parks are emblems of nature and pioneers in the conservation and respectful management of the environment. Here EMAS can provide support and add value to environmental management.

National Park Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici

Discovering how EMAS can help in the management of a national park Following in the footsteps of the National Park Teide, this park has gained EMAS registration as it is in line with the environmental policy of the Department of Environmental and Territorial Affairs of Catalonia.

"The implementation of EMAS in the National Park Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici has led to calmness in management, while helping to improve organisation", says the Park Director, Mrs. Mercè Aniz.

The aim of implementing EMAS was to become a model organisation for the organisations located in the National Park and to comply with the targets set out in the specific legislation of the National Park.

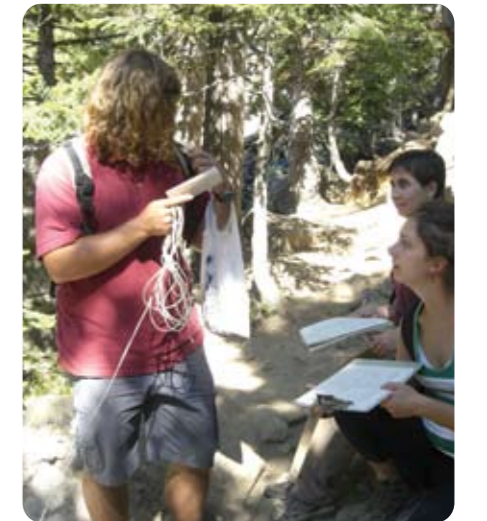
The expected effect was homogenisation of the management of installations and improvement of the relations with third parties which perform activities in the park. Although validation took place only recently, some improvements have been already achieved :

- Specifications for controlling and monitoring equipment and installations have been designed to assist work alignment
- The communication channels among the staff in the park have been improved
- The local community living in the park has become aware of the activities and now follows the example of the park management: some organisations have started the implementation of EMAS

It has to be emphasized how much the involvement and awareness of the staff in the park have improved, as well as the promotion of working group meetings related to quality and conservation.

Mrs. Mercè Aniz, the Park Director of "Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici", recommends the implementation of EMAS in other protected areas. In her opinion, the implementation of EMAS helps to homogenise and improve the organisation, to define the operative process and to improve internal and external communication.

Furthermore, EMAS gives transparency to the performance of activities perceived by the local community living within the park. In this sense, as a national park is a representative area of important natural values, the EMAS certificate makes it possible to communicate achievements of management to the inhabitants and visitors.



One day of training in the national park.

National Park Timanfaya

Aspiring to the best environmental management system. After the successes of the national parks Teide and Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici, the National Park Timanfaya knew that EMAS is a valuable tool to improve control in an organisation.

"The implementation of EMAS in the National Park Timanfaya represents an effective way to control the strictness of management", says the Park Director, Mr. Aurelio Centellas.

The expected outcome with the implementation of EMAS was to reach a high level of strictness in the management of the National Park, as well as to detect the impact of routine activities that were not considered before the EMAS implementation.

After EMAS implementation the following targets have been achieved:

- The requirements for contract services and contractors have been improved by including stringency and detailed environmental clauses
- A management plan has been developed in order to separate and minimise waste
- Staff awareness has been trained and increased
- Targets have been defined periodically to promote a high level of management control as well as to reduce impacts and consumption

Participation of the staff in the development of the environmental management system has been important. Currently many proposals and suggestions that would help to improve the system continually have been received.

The Park Director of "Timanfaya", Mr. Aurelio Centellas, recommends the implementation of EMAS: it can be a long and tedious process, but once running, EMAS gives better control and effective management, as well as monitoring of the activities carried out in the National Park.

As a result, the internal relations can be improved, achieving a high level of involvement of the staff in the continual improvement of the system. Moreover, it shows the visitors of the park that the management of a protected area bears in mind the preservation and conservation of the park while reducing environmental impacts to a minimum.