

A PLAN FOR THE SYSTEMATIZATION OF THE SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA

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In 2002 the Environmental Advisory Board of the Community of Madrid and of Castile and León established a Work Protocol with the goal of coordinating the coherent elaboration of a Systematization Plan (PORN) in each autonomous zone that *«would propose the most adequate measures of protection for its area of application, allowing for the projection, among other plans, of the figure of a National Park.»* We undertook this task with regard to the Madrilenian sierra territory in this sense in the year 2003 and we finished it, as was foreseen, in 2005, with a small cartographic refinement in the zoning classification of February, 2006, which was presented to the Assembly of Madrid and officially approved in June, 2006. For the purpose of this analysis, we kept in mind the values that arose from the study of this territory and the possibilities for its incorporation into the language of the Directive Plan for the Network of National Parks, which was in force at that time, adding to the cartography of natural, territorial, and landscape values, plus the existing territorial and administrative impositions, the uses, classifications, properties and special distribution of mountains, spaces previously protected, etc., the application of the zoning foreseen in the set of norms.

Thus, once established the values and the uses, the Directive Plan for the Network of National Parks expressly denoted the types of zoning that were applicable in the case of a National Park and marked with unequal precision the compatibilities and incompatibilities that may be present in each zone. Following the language of the Directive Plan, the established zones were: 1) reserve zone; 2) zone for restricted use; 3) zone for moderate use, that would permit the authorization of *«the practice of agricultural and traditional usages;* 4) zone for special utilization; and 5) zone of traditional settlement. The zones classified as for special use were those that that could present confusion in the admission or prohibition of specific compatibilities among specific uses, particularly in regard to forests, and this modality of conservation.

It was evident that the inclusion of specific valuable areas but with a harmless use in the protected territorial system of Guadarrama would make the resulting National Park more coherent, while its exclusion would reduce its geographical entity. A material improvement

of the Park would result from its integration. But in a restrictive view, on the other hand, one could even arrive at the preference for compatible areas although of a value reduced by half or more, and a rejection of compatible areas that would be questionable from certain budgets, but of a markedly greater value. The excessive following of these guidelines could lead, therefore, to a questionable selection based more on the types of usage than on the value of the locales. In other words, the zoning of the National Park could remain, thus, conditioned more by the interplay of compatibilities/incompatibilities than by the geographic and ecological evaluation of such places. The desirable situation was and is, thus, to search for an equilibrium between the geography of values and the geography of compatibilities.

The existing measures of protection in the Sierra de Guadarrama within the Community of Madrid, at the time of the composition of the PORN, were already in use, although varied, disperse and local, without pretending to create a global organization of the Sierra. They are still those of the Natural Park, the Regional Park, LICs, ZEPA, Picturesque Locales, Natural Monuments of National Interest, and Biosphere Reserves. These measures have been the point of departure for the PORN, with the possibility of being reabsorbed or revised upward to a figure of integration in the organization of the entirety. But furthermore, in the Law of Conservation of Natural Spaces and of Wild Flora and Fauna, that was our legal point of reference, when we occupied ourselves with these tasks, other measures were contemplated that were still not applied to the Sierra de Guadarrama in the Community of Madrid, like those of the National Park, the Protected Landscape and the Natural Reserve. As a congruous application of the foreseen measures in the set of norms relative to the characteristics of the different areas of the territory under study we selected those measures that could form a coherent whole among themselves, with elements of mutual support, and from this arose a Plan that could be accommodated to the geographical reality and the norms in force, territorially viable, with a globalization formed by the integration of components and territorial spaces, with a unity of criteria and with internal coherence with regard to the proposal and the assembled pieces.

In conclusion, we went from traditional entities of disperse and mid-range protection, of a restricted size in the terrain that is properly of the sierra and relatively unconnected, to other ample, united, high and medium range, and connected in a mountainous totality constituted by a more rigorous geographical base. The totality is, thus, an organic and progressive proposal with differentiated functions, and even the strict National Park is also and, therefore, the negotiation is moving forward gradually according to those differentiated and scaled areas and it is being coordinated in the entire territory and in its external relations.