

## **Franco Mari**

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### **CV**

Bachelor degree in biological science at Milan University on wildlife management and a PhD at Turin University on evolutionist biology and biodiversity conservation.

As freelance biologist he has developed and worked as researcher or project manager on different projects in Protected Areas in Europe, Asia, North and South America mainly focused on conservation on endangered species and Park management.

Member of different groups as IUCN reintroduction specialist group, actually is working for EvK2CNR Committee as scientific advisor for the SEED project, developing the research programs for the sustainable development of the Central Karakorum National Park – North Pakistan – and the related Management Plan. He has published several papers and scientific notes

### **Development of a Management Plan for Central Carakoram National Park**

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The 11th December 1993 the first notification of the Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) was issued, but the Park didn't present a zoning system and a related management plan, and its boundary showed a significant overlap with the adjacent Kunjerab National Park that was established in 1975. From that moment different organizations have been developed several proposals for the management plan of the CKNP - foreseeing also the enlargement of the original Park as in the concept of the Central Karakoram Complex – but none of these documents was approved by the higher institutions, leaving the Park without an operative management plan.

At the starting of SEED project the organizations involved – EvK2CNR, Central Karakoram University and CKNP Directorate - considered to don't use a “conservationist approach” - this process is based on the preservation of the pristine wilderness so the Protected Areas are managed like an islands through the prohibition of any resource use – moving on a planning process based on a “participatory approach” that involve directly the communities.

This in consideration of the importance for a Park in high mountain areas, like the CKNP, to have not only a conservation function, but also to support in a sustainable way the needs of local communities, often living in critical conditions.

To give to the management plan the higher perspectives of being immediately applicable in the local contest, in the definition of the Park boundaries was chosen to not include the following items: villages, roads, main mining and agricultural areas.

Starting from a multidisciplinary field work to collect reliable basic data on the Park area and its resources use, in March 2013 the version 1.1 of the CKNP Management Plan was presented. This document contained the delineation of Park boundaries and related zoning system, as well as the first approach to the sustainable use of the natural resources by local communities.

From that moment an evaluation and consultation phase was developed, both at institutional level as well as with the different local communities that have part of their territories inside the proposed Park's boundaries.

In this Conference the new boundaries and zoning system of CKNP are presented, as well as the result of the general consultation phase and the further steps of the planning work, moving from general considerations to specific ones at level of the 15 territorial units identified in the CKNP area.