

AMICI DEL PARCO NAZIONALE GRAN PARADISO

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Dear Mr. Di Caprio,

we are a group of citizens who know and appreciate the Gran Paradiso national park (Western Italian Alps). We created an association called "Amici del Parco nazionale Gran Paradiso" (amiciparconazionalegranparadiso.it) in order to press for a better conservation of the park.

We share your conviction that there won't be any future without Nature conservation, at least as regards humanity. We have therefore appreciated your statement in favour of the Mountains that you made public using an image of Gran Paradiso. Just because we believe that the Mountains and their national parks are a common good, let us make some remarks about the photograph you put on your Instagram profile. That photograph is really suggestive and spectacular, and surely gets attention. However it shows two lakes artificially enlarged in the fifties for hydroelectric purpose. What is worse, the area is marred by a road, which is also a nuisance for the Park's environment; as it conveys a lot of cars to a close delicate site: the Nivolé plateau. That is really one the finest site not only in the Park but in the entire Alps: a plateau at an elevation of 2800 m with several lakes and the background of the 4061 m of Gran Paradiso summit.

We have been asking for years that the road is limited to public service vehicles and bicycles, but only a little insignificant restriction has been enacted. This situation is not compatible with a park such as Gran Paradiso, well-known all over the world. Moreover, a big sport event has recently been planned along the road for next May: the arrival of a lap of the Giro d'Italia (Italian Cycling Tour). This event will cause great disturbance to wild animals in the sensitive period of winter's end. We have proposed placing the Giro arrival a few miles lower at Ceresole Reale.

Gran Paradiso national park is a temple of Nature, it needs respect and care. We would be very happy if you come and visit its beautiful mountains and, at the same time, we would appreciate your support to our demands. We know you are engaged in fighting climate change and defending Nature. It would be a honour and a great help to have you at our side in the defence of Gran Paradiso national park.

Very truly yours

Amici del Parco nazionale Gran Paradiso

Aosta Febbraio 2019