



“LITTLE SYDNEY”  
PROTECTING NATURE IN EUROPE  
HAINBURG, AUSTRIA 28-31 MAY 2015



# **“Transboundary Parks: Not Only to Understand Each Other, But to Cooperate”**

**Theme: Partnerships, Governance, Capacity Development and Mobilisation of Resources**

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MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG VON BUND UND EUROPÄISCHER UNION



Europäischer Landwirtschaftsfonds  
für die Entwicklung des ländlichen  
Raums: Hier investiert Europa in  
die ländlichen Gebiete.



# Transboundary Parks Network (TransParcNet)

## EUROPARC Federation Experience and Perspective

### 10 certified areas throughout Europe up to now:

1. Neusiedler See – Seewinkel (AT) and Fertő – Hanság (HU) National Parks – 2003/2010/2015
2. The Krkonoše Mts. (CZ) and The Karkonosze Mts. (PL) National Parks – 2004/2011
3. Oulanka (FI) and Paanajärvi (RU) National Parks – 2005/2011
4. Maas-Swalm-Nette Nature Park (GE/NL) – 2007/2012
5. Thayatal (AT) and Podyjí (CZ) National Parks – 2007
6. Vätsäri Wilderness Area (FI), Øvre-Pasvik National Park (NO), Øvre-Pasvik Protected Landscape Area (NO), Pasvik Nature Reserve (RU) and Pasvik Zapovednik (RU) – 2008/2013
7. Prealpi Giulie Nature Park (IT), Triglav National Park (SI) and Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (SI) – 2009/2014
8. Bayerischer Wald (GE) and Šumava (CZ) National Parks – 2009
9. Sächsische Schweiz (GE) and České Švýcarsko (CZ) National Parks and Labsképískovce Protected Landscape Area (CZ) – 2012
10. Escaut Plaines (BE) and Scarpe-Escaut (FR) Nature Parks - 2013

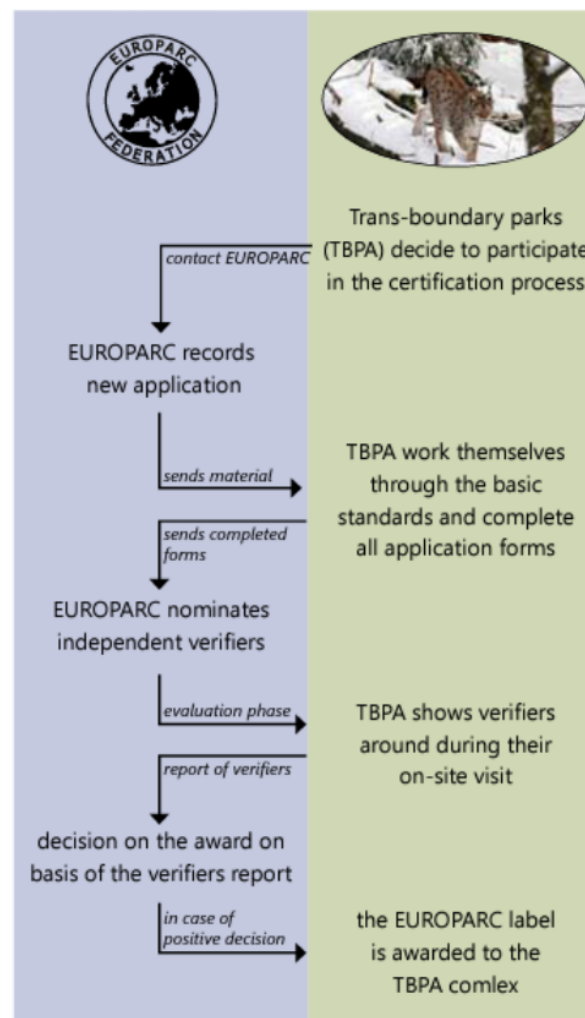
# Certification process

## Steps for implementation

If neighbouring parks consider working towards achieving a trans-boundary award, they are asked to:

- > Formally register their application with EUROPARC;
- > Work through the basic standards, assessing what has already been achieved and where action is still required;
- > Complete and submit the full application documents, illustrating how the neighbouring parks are fulfilling each of the basic standards criteria;
- > Cover the costs for the administration and the verification process.

EUROPARC Federation provides a manual to accompany the certification process. Independent verifiers evaluate each application, including an on-site visit in the protected areas. Trans-boundary protected area complexes fulfilling a minimum of ten out of 14 criteria can be awarded with the EUROPARC label. The final decision is taken by EUROPARC upon





# Transboundary Parks Network (TransParcNet)

## EUROPARC Federation Experience and Perspective

**Transboundary Working Group**  
**Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee**

### Re-evaluation scheme

Every certified area is a subject of re-evaluation every 5 years. Re-evaluation is focused on:

- Quality of cooperation
- Trends in cooperation (strengthening/weakening; improving/worsening...)
- Scale of cooperation
- Trained independent verifiers





# Transboundary Parks Network (TransParcNet)

## EUROPARC Federation Experience and Perspective

### Changes since 2012

- Re-evaluation made personally by verifiers (as well as first evaluation was made always)
- Therefore re-evaluation is not for free anymore (500 € for registration to the program, 3000 € for the first certification, 2000 € for re-evaluation).

**The EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme**

The programme is the only method in Europe to analyse the progress of transboundary cooperation, identify examples of best practice and encourage the exchange of experience and expertise in this field.

Through its programme EUROPARC certifies Protected Areas who reach and maintain a high level of cooperation.

The unique verification and certification system is composed of four elements:

- The EUROPARC Basic Standards for Transboundary Cooperation, guiding Protected Areas to continuously advance their collaboration.
- An evaluation process, which includes a self-evaluation process and an on-site verification visit, carried out by two international transboundary experts.
- The formal certification as a EUROPARC Transboundary Area, bringing added value to the Protected Areas' management by demonstrating that quality standards are being achieved.
- A re-evaluation process every five years, to monitor and develop the cooperation between the transboundary Protected Areas.

**Better Together  
Following nature's design**

Man made borders are abundant in Europe, but nature knows no boundaries and follows its own design. For nature to be effectively protected, EUROPARC believes cooperation between Protected Areas across these man-made borders is necessary. This ensures a significant contribution to the conservation of both nature and cultural heritage, the achievement of sustainable regional development, and promotes international peace and understanding.

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**FRONTIER ON THE MAP - COOPERATION IN MIND**  
EUROPARC'S TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS PROGRAMME



# Transboundary Parks Network

## The Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. National Parks Example (CZ/PL)



- National Parks established in time of communist regimes in Central Europe. Therefore there was a strict regime on the state border, although Poland and Czechoslovakia were both Soviet bloc countries.
- The Karkonosze Mts. NP (PL) established in 1959, The Krkonoše Mts. NP (CZ) established in 1963
- Contacts between scientists and experts in the first decades, as well as between mountain rescue services (not belonging under National Parks administrations)
- First serious contacts between NP administrations possible after 1989 political changes
- Systematic cooperations starts in 1994
- 2004 – first written agreement on systematic cooperation
- 2005 – EUROPARC Transboundary Park certification
- Since 2008 – about 20 joint projects, esp. Financed through EU-Funds
- Since 2013 – joint logo
- 2014 – new agreement on systematic cooperations signed by Directors with both Ministers present
- 2015 – agreement on future joint projects within the new EU-budget perspective signed



# Transboundary Parks Network

The Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. National Parks Example (CZ/PL)





# Transboundary Parks Network

## The Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. National Parks Example (CZ/PL)





# Transboundary Parks Network

The Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. National Parks Example (CZ/PL)



# Transboundary Cooperation in Protected Areas IUCN/WCPA Perspective

- Transboundary Cooperation Specialist Group within WCPA – Maja Vasiljević as its leader
- Website at [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net)
- Fresh news – Transboundary Conservation guidelines issued just recently

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Global Transboundary Conservation Network. The header includes the IUCN and WCPA logos, a search bar, and navigation links: HOME, NEWS, ABOUT US, TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION, CASE STUDIES, POLICY, EVENTS & DOCUMENTS, CONTACTS. The main banner features a landscape with a rainbow and the text "What is transboundary conservation network?". Below this, a "NEWS" section highlights "New IUCN WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines on transboundary conservation now available online. Read the news here and download the Guidelines here." A "FEATURING VIDEOS" section includes "Transcending Boundaries: Perspectives from the Central Albertine Rift Transfrontier Protected Area Network". A text block describes the network's mission: "The Global Transboundary Conservation Network brings together more than 200 experts in transboundary conservation. The network was launched at the 10th IUCN World Parks Congress and is facilitated by Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group of IUCN WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas). IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network with a membership of more than 1,000 organisations and 10,000 volunteer experts organised through six Commissions. The Global Transboundary Conservation Network offers expertise and guidance on all aspects of transboundary conservation planning, management and governance."



## Transboundary Conservation

A systematic and integrated approach

Maja Vasiljević, Koen Zurchel, Matthew McGinley,  
Boris Grg, Michael Schoon, Tatjana Flosser Michel,  
Craig Crooks, Series Editor: Adrian Phillips, Volume Editor



Developing capacity for a protected planet

Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 23





# Transboundary Cooperation in the Promise of Sydney

## A promising future

7. **Shared governance.** The beauty and diversity of nature is only rivalled by the richness and variety of ways by which people support the maintenance and implementation of a variety of shared governance. All countries, relevant organisations, protected areas managers and conserved areas, in particular for the conservation of transboundary means to ensure their equity, effectiveness and efficiency, in support of sustainable livelihoods and meet human rights. We can begin to respond by achieved through recognition of customary practices, advancing the conservation of nature and its associated cultural diversity and and models of transboundary conservation governance. processes, the concept of "governance" of protection of its dimensions and character.
12. **Transnational wildlife crime.** All countries, relevant organisations, protected area managers and rightsholders engage in putting transnational wildlife crime out of business by well-coordinated support to: devolved wildlife governance arrangements that engage indigenous peoples and local communities and secure the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from conservation efforts, and sustainable use in particular; stronger laws and independent judiciaries; anti-corruption measures and whistleblower protection; mandatory due diligence regulations; increased law enforcement efforts by legitimate authorities in compliance with human rights standards; efficient transboundary cooperation, traceability mechanisms and regional alliances; and enhanced transparency at all levels.
1. **Better understand and** vitality of trans-nationally-improving governance is also communities towards community should:
- processes of governance, guidance, and development integration of customary nourished among governments species and marine areas be and support the voluntary preservation, sustainable use, restoration and enrichment practices of indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners and other actors for both protected areas and "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs or "conserved areas"). This will enhance the completeness, representativeness, connectivity and sustainability of countries' conservation systems.

## A promising future

The beauty and diversity of nature is only rivalled by the richness and variety of ways by which people collaborate to care for it, as inseparable from their own wellbeing. Yet, we appear to fall very short of our collective responsibility towards nature and our shared humanity. There is an immense *unrealised* potential to **strengthen conservation, support sustainable livelihoods and meet human rights**. We can begin to respond by **improving our ways of taking decisions for the conservation of nature and its associated cultural diversity and values**. In attempts to understand and improve such processes, the concept of “governance” of protected and conserved areas has emerged, as well as some of its dimensions and characteristics (see: [www.iucn.org/pa\\_governance](http://www.iucn.org/pa_governance)).

We, individuals and organisations who dedicated time to reflect on the subject in preparation to and during the IUCN World Parks Congress of Sydney 2014, would like to assert that **improving the diversity, quality and vitality of governance of protected and conserved areas and territories—locally, regionally, nationally and trans-nationally—is essential to conserving nature, ecosystem functions and bio-cultural diversity**. Further, improving governance is also crucial for **resilience, climate change adaptation and to advance economies and communities towards better and more sustainable living**. Consequently, we believe the conservation community should:

1. **Better understand and take action about governance for the conservation of nature.** We should engage in processes of governance inquiry, assessment, evaluation and action, improve governance standards and guidance, and develop stronger and more supportive legal and policy frameworks, including better integration of customary law, at all levels. A variety of conservation partnerships can be sustained and nourished among governments and civil society, including for Transboundary Conservation Areas, migratory species and marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. And there is compelling evidence to fully recognize and support the **voluntary preservation, sustainable use, restoration and enrichment practices of indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners and other actors for both protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs or “conserved areas”)**. This will enhance the completeness, representativeness, connectivity and sustainability of countries’ conservation systems.



7. **Shared governance.** All countries, relevant organisations, protected area managers and rightsholders support the maintenance and implementation of a variety of **shared governance models** for protected and conserved areas, in particular for the **conservation of transboundary ecosystems and migratory species** as means to ensure their equity, effectiveness and efficiency, including for sustainable use. This should be achieved through recognition of customary practices, advances in protected area law and other legislation, and models of **transboundary conservation governance** designed to suit their contexts.
12. **Transnational wildlife crime.** All countries, relevant organisations, protected area managers and rightsholders engage in putting **transnational wildlife crime out of business** by well-coordinated support to: devolved wildlife governance arrangements that engage indigenous peoples and local communities and secure the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from conservation efforts, and sustainable use in particular; stronger laws and independent judiciaries; anti-corruption measures and whistleblower protection; mandatory due diligence regulations; increased law enforcement efforts by legitimate authorities in compliance with human rights standards; efficient **transboundary** cooperation, traceability mechanisms and regional alliances; and enhanced **transparency** at all levels.





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LE 07-13  
Entwicklung für das Ländliche Raum



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# THANK YOU for your attention

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