

EUROPARC Federation



People
Passion
Protected Areas
40 Years Working for Nature



EUROPARC
FEDERATION 
Working for Nature



The EUROPARC Story



40 Years Working for Nature is not only about looking back to what EUROPARC has undertaken and learned, it is about looking to the future. Building on the experience gained EUROPARC seeks to create a legacy, to renew the organisation and to ensure it remains relevant to European issues. Importantly, it remains to serve its members, who manage all aspects of European protected areas through international cooperation.

EUROPARC's history is the stories of its members. EUROPARC's future is the story yet untold!

The Idea



Founding members

Dr h.c. Alfred Toepfer (D)
Dr Herbert Offner (D)
Egide Moreau (B)
François Giacobbi (F)
Dr Dušan Colić (Y)
Brenda Jones (UK)
Prof Dr C.V. Oprea (RO)

It could be said that the EUROPARC Federation was born out of the curiosity of people working in protected areas, to find out what is happening elsewhere. This curiosity, and the interdependence of Europe's nature, led the founders of the Federation of Nature and National Parks, to commit themselves, to further the conservation of Europe's nature through international cooperation. This hope for a better future, emerged in the early 1970's at a time of considerable political and economic crisis. The human pressures on the environment were recognised through the Stockholm declaration and the first CITES agreement was signed, signalling that species themselves were at risk of extinction through unsustainable use. 40 years later, the challenges, the need for international cooperation and the hope remain.

The founders of EUROPARC, set out to create a constitution for Nature stating that working for nature was "restricted by conventional frontiers – frontiers that are not feasible for nature".

Prof Dr C.V. Oprea (RO), early council member

Resolution 1973

...the bodies in charge of nature parks and national parks will combine and form a European Federation with the object of achieving in unison the founding, financing and laying out of national and nature parks in Europe, of exchanging ideas and experiences, of co-ordinating plans and measures, of making possible the creation of parks which straddle political frontiers and of instructing the general public on the aim and object of nature parks and national parks and of implementing a programme of meetings or conferences for this purpose.

In 1973 visionary people, working on both sides of the then iron curtain, came together sharing a passion for nature and wish to exchange ideas and experience on nature conservation. To this end, a new resolution was adopted by the fledgling federation.

This is the foundation upon which the EUROPARC Federation has been built. The wish to improve the management of protected areas in Europe through international cooperation, networking and shared experience still remains embedded in the DNA of the organisation today.

Many and various threats still jeopardise the very existence of protected areas. As an important voice of protected areas in Europe, EUROPARC and its members, as we enter our next 40 years, must remain vigilant to retain this valuable shared natural resource.



Past president Erika Stanciu reminds us:

This vision of a “common future” for national parks and people is one in which managers look beyond their own boundaries and transfer knowledge and experience to become important players in the social and economic development of their countries. The strength and success of the EUROPARC Federation in the future is that it is a living network which can help protected area professionals and their supporters to plan and act together.

Erika Stanciu (RO)

EUROPARC President 1999-2005

The idea upon which EUROPARC, now the largest protected area network in Europe was founded, is as relevant today as it was 40 years ago. As Nature knows no boundaries, EUROPARC believes in the principle that the future protection and conservation of nature is achieved through international cooperation. International cooperation works best through personal contact. Through personal contact come mutual understanding, shared experiences, knowledge and innovation. This delivers better support and management of protected areas which ensures the future protection and conservation of nature.

The Challenges

BUILDING A NETWORK

The 1970's were the "foundation phase" of the network. Although the organisation was registered in Basel, Switzerland, the bulk of the Federation's activities took place in Germany, with meetings shared across Europe through the generous support of the Alfred Toepfer foundations. Even in the 1970's EUROPARC was already seen as an important voice, attending the first European Ministerial Conference on the Environment staged by the Council of Europe. By 1979, EUROPARC gained observer status with the Council of Europe which it retains today.

The European Bulletin, was one of the very few environmental publications in 3 languages. Prof Dr Hans Köpp, editor of the Bulletin 1975 to 1983 said:

I am convinced that the Federation and its Bulletin bridged the gap between Eastern and Western Europe at that time. They anticipated the European Unification.

The 1980's saw a huge increase in protected areas. Bringing diversity of designations and as well as the increase of the European community itself, led to many new members coming into the Federation.

As with all networks, the 80's also brought some new challenges to the Federation. Internal difficulties led to a temporary and unfortunate split between those representing inhabited and uninhabited parks. It was seen as a crucial debating point in its day, something difficult to consider from the view of the present. Of course, the situation was unsatisfying and soon wise men sat down together and agreed on the reunification of both parts.

The Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe is now reunited. (...) our Vice President and Secretary General, we have to take the necessary steps to achieve the objectives we have set ourselves.

François Giacobbi (F)

President of the Federation of Nature and National Parks 1984-1987





THE NETWORK GROWS

The major step forward in the 1980's was the opening of an office in Grafenau (D) and the appointment of the Federation's first staff member, Eva Pongratz. This enabled the Federation to focus energies on the communication with members to develop policy and programmes to support the management of Europe's protected areas.

Networks within the network: Charter for Sustainable Tourism, Transboundary and Junior Ranger programmes

Members are the living library of EUROPARC and it was concerns expressed by members about the role and impact of tourism in protected areas that led EUROPARC to form a working group to investigate and gather evidence. That international group produced the seminal report "Loving them to Death" published in 1993. This outlined the need for a more sustainable approach to the management and planning of tourism in protected areas, crucially

with the tourism businesses as partners. With the support of the French Federation of Regional Parks, the Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas became the most established, biggest and respected network of protected areas as sustainable destinations, showing that business and biodiversity can work together.

Europe is a complex continent with thousands of years of human interaction overlaying the natural world bringing many political borders. EUROPARC began to turn its attention to transboundary needs in an early conference in Belgium in 1988. However, it was with the focus provided through the IUCN, in association with EUROPARC in 1994 that the "Parks for life - Action for protected areas in Europe" was published and stimulated further action. From this work EUROPARC produced studies and analysis including the report "Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe" (1999) by DI Robert Brunner (A). The Transboundary "Following Natures Design" Award was developed and launched at the 5th World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa.





The burgeoning TransParcNet has developed into an important platform to raise issues and seek solutions to aspects of biodiversity management, climate change and cultural interaction in a cross border situation. In many respect the transboundary programme embodies the core principles upon which EUROPARC was founded. Indeed to quote, Hentschel and Stein (1999): "Trans-frontier protected areas should unite not only nature, but also nations", this philosophy continues even today.

With the EUROPARC community growing through the 1990's and 2000's, new thoughts and challenges were presented. The idea of providing young people with an insight into the reasons for nature protection gained importance. In 2002 the Junior Ranger programme was launched and has grown to a well established network. Drawing on EUROPARC's extensive and committed membership of protected areas, the Junior Ranger project aims to ensure the acceptance of the protected area in their region.

With a growing network it was inevitable that a collective voice was increasingly raised. EUROPARC launched the European Day of Parks on 24th May 1999. This event still enables protected areas to unite and declare a common message across Europe.

THE NETWORK OF THE FUTURE

As EUROPARC enters the next phase of its development, it finds itself once more in a period of economic and political turmoil. Savage cuts affect all aspects of the protected areas communities. Naturally, the ability of organisations to remain part of a European network is challenged. It will require vision, courage and patience for EUROPARC to continue to serve the needs of its members. New partnerships and new ways of working will need to be found, to fulfil their aspirations and to provide the networking services, advice and support that have generated the successful contributions to nature conservation, through international cooperation that the network has delivered in its first 40 years.



Foundation of first National Parks in Europe (S) 1909

IUCN founded in Fontainebleau (F) 1945

"Challenge of man's future" 1954

WWF created in Morges (CH) 1961

"Silent Spring" 1962

Wilderness Act (USA) 1964

Foundation of Club of Rome 1968

Moon landing 1969

EUROPARC TIMELINE

EU's first plan for a single currency 1970

Earth Day (USA) 1970

ABBA formed 1972

"Limits to Growth" 1972

UN Conference on the Human Environment 1972

Oil embargo begins, economic crises in Europe, large scale inflation and unemployment 1973

The 6 become 9: UK, Ireland and Denmark join EU 1973

EU sets up Regional Development Fund 1974

Amnesty International awarded Nobel Peace Prize 1977

Bill Gates and Paul Allen form partnership called Micro-Soft 1975

Elvis Presley dies 1977

Margaret Thatcher becomes Prime Minister 1979

CDs appear on the market 1982

Personal Computers introduced by IBM 1981

Single European Act 1986

Andy Warhol dies 1987

USSR launches MIR space station 1986

Exxon Valdez oil spill 1989

Fall of Berlin Wall 1989

Fall of Iron Curtain 1991

Use of the Internet grows exponentially 1993

CITES 1973

1st Environmental Action Programme launched 1973

Foundation of Les Écrins National Park (F) Hortobágy National Park (HU) Gauja National Park (LV) 1973

Green Belt Movement 1977

Convention on air pollution 1979

The Bird's Directive 1979

IUCN World Conservation Strategy 1980

Global 2000 Report calls for international cooperation in solving environmental problems 1980

Ozone Hole 1985

Chernobyl 1986

Montreal Protocol 1987

International treaty bans all ocean dumping of wastes 1980

United Nations report on climate change 1990

Sweden is first nation to enact a carbon tax 1991

Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro (BR) 1992

May 12th Foundation of the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe, today EUROPARC 1973

1st General Assembly in Goslar (D) 1974

First 15 members join the Federation 1975

European Bulletin 1st published by Federation 1975

Federation gains observer status at Environmental Committee of the Council of Europe 1979

Split of Federation during 7th GA at National Park Cicero (I) 1980

Alfred Toepfer becomes Honorary President for life 1980

MOU with IUCN and WCMC 1988

Start of Staff Exchange Programme 1985

First training seminar at Losehill Hall (UK) for Rangers 1985

Start of the project "Inventory of Nature and National Parks of Europe" 1988

First mentioning of name "EUROPARC" 1988

Foundation of German section 1990

IBM sponsors 1st EUROPARC computer 1990

Theo Burrell receives first Alfred Toepfer Medal 1990

1970's

1980's

1st personnel exchange (Bavarian Forest NP and Peak District NP) 1984

Reunion of Federation at Peak District National Park (UK) 1984

Eva Pongratz 1st Director of Federation 1986

1st office in Grafenau (D) 1986

Federation reaches 50 members! 1986

Report published on application of IUCN management categories in Europe 1989

Foundation of EUROPARC Atlantic Isles 1991

Project "Ecotrans and Parks" 1991

DR h.c. ALFRED TOEPFER
1st President of the Federation 1974-1979



DR D. J. KUENEN
President 1979-1984



FRANÇOIS GIACOBBI
President 1984-1987

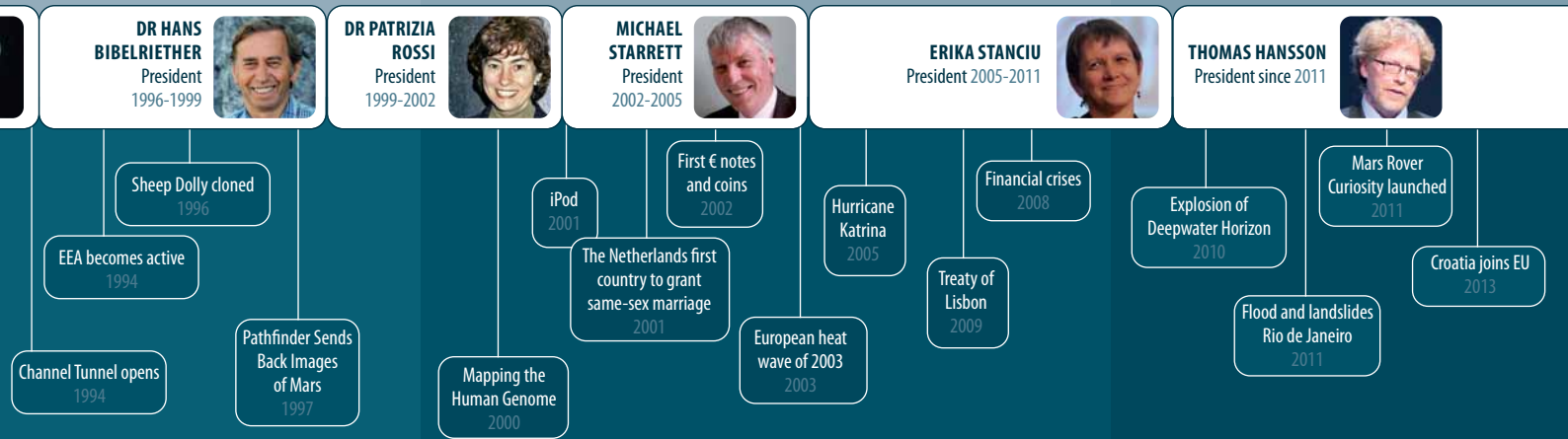
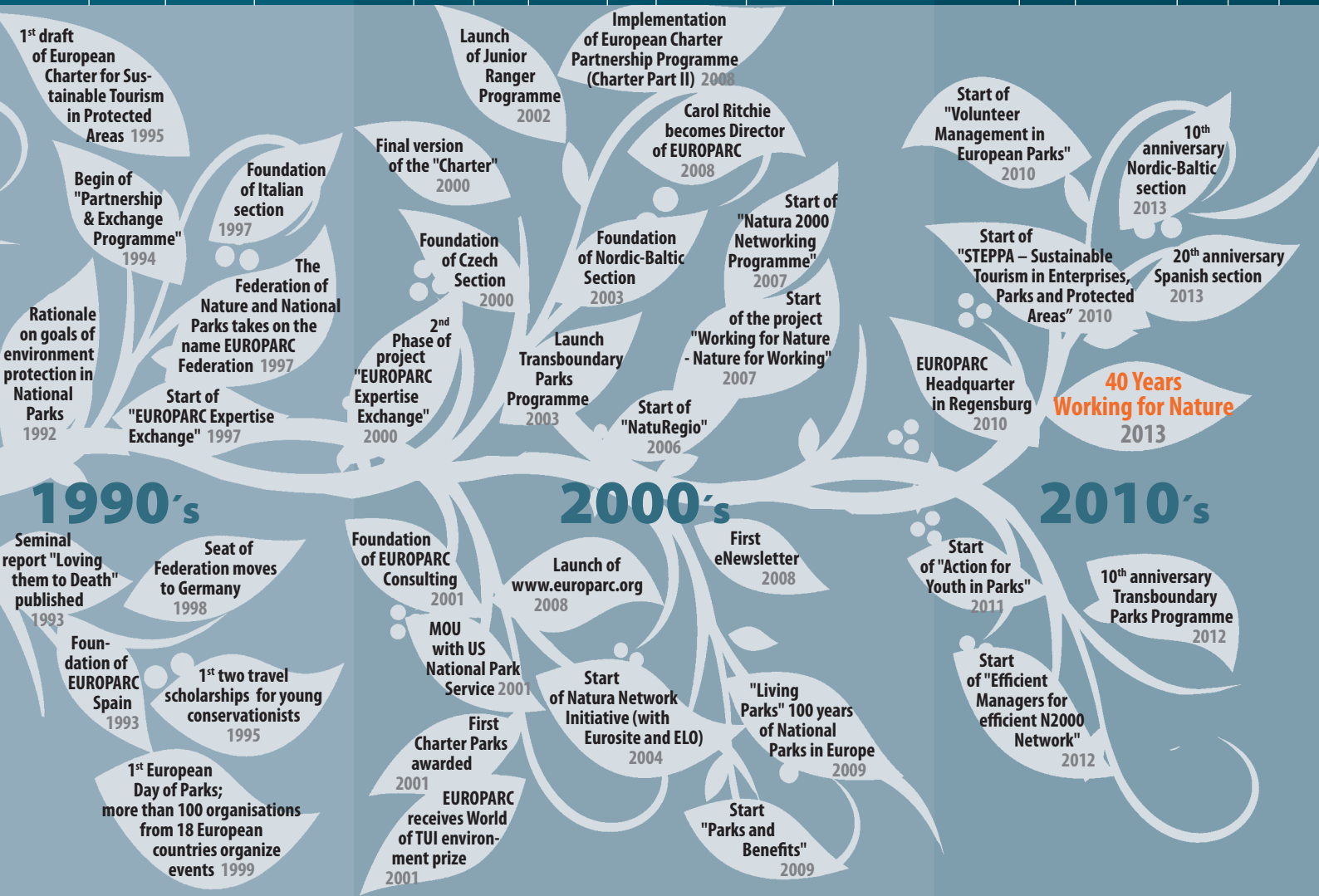
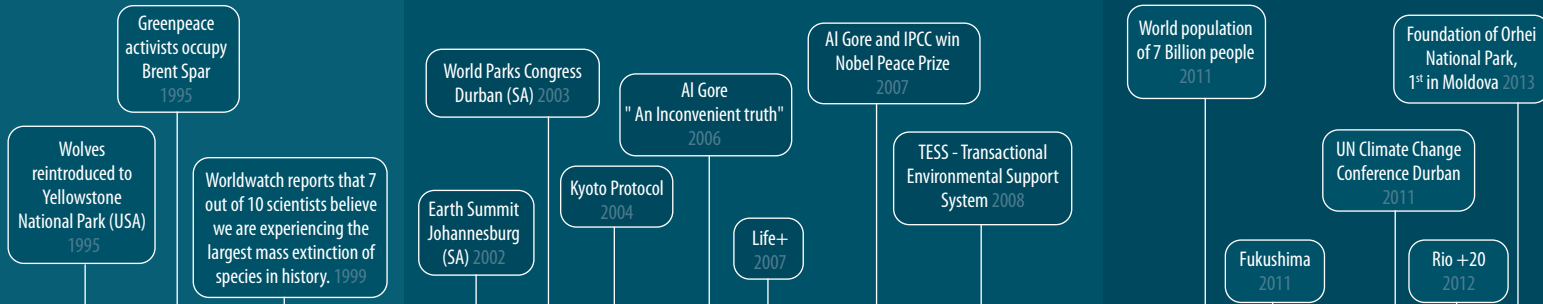


EGIDE MOREAU
President 1987-1990



AITKEN CLARK
President 1990-1996





The People

EUROPARC wouldn't be what it is today if it wasn't for people believing that their conservation concerns all European countries, regardless of political frontiers. EUROPARC always brought people together who share their passion for natural and cultural heritage and a wish to manage their sites better.

Often, it takes a good idea and one person to make a difference. In EUROPARC's case one such person was Dr h.c. Alfred Toepfer. He realised that nature protection was a topic of interest for many European countries. In 1965 he held the first "European Working Conference" and 30 delegates from 13 countries followed his invitation. This conference – what was the Federation in embryo – ran for 8 years, when they took the decision to found a "European Federation". After an intensive year, the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe was born the 12th May 1973 at the 9th Working Conference meeting in Saarbrücken (D). The association itself was registered in Basel, Switzerland.



Toepfer funded the work of the Federation in its early years, enabling the innovative and forward thinking founders to develop and grow the new Federation. The legacy of Alfred Toepfer remains in the Federation today in the form of the Alfred Toepfer Scholarships, given to young conservation professionals to undertake a study visit in European countries. The Alfred Toepfer Medal is given to an individual, nominated by the EUROPARC members, who has made a significant contribution to nature protection in Europe.

Following Alfred Toepfer's early leadership, distinguished individuals like Dr D.J. Kuenen, Senator François Giacobbi and Egide Moreau used their considerable experience and diplomacy to take EUROPARC through some challenging early years. During the 1990's and 2000's Aitken Clark, Dr Hans Bibelriether, Dr Patrizia Rossi, Michael Starrett, Erica Stanciu and Thomas Hansson guided the Federation through expansion of membership, staffing and the opening of an office in Brussels, moving of the headquarters to Regensburg and ongoing discussions about change in the way the Federation is run. In addition, they presided over a period of intense project work, such as the hugely ambitious and successful Partnership & Exchange Programme 1994-1999 and the *Phare* - European Expertise Exchange Project, from 1997-2001. These projects embodied the ideal of international exchange across the network, fondly remembered by many members, but sadly no longer available.



EUROPARC has strong partnerships when it comes to knowledge exchange, having agreements with organisations across the world ensures members have access to a global community. Our members share their ideas in seminars and trainings, educational programs and projects for knowledge exchange, and utilise communications in print and all modern technology.

The EUROPARC Partnership and Exchange Programme facilitated our long-term cooperation with China.

Dr Rauno Väisänen (FIN)
Director Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services

I strongly believe that park managers can learn a lot with and from colleagues of other countries. The EUROPARC Federation is well placed to facilitate exchanges and learning among its members, even with partners from overseas!

Jens Brüggemann (D)
project coordinator of the Partnership & Exchange Programme 1994-1999

EUROPARC signed MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING with

EuroNatur (1998)
Charter and Pan Parks (2000)
IUCN WCPA (2003)
Spanish Agency for International Development (AECI)
and the Commission of the European Communities (2008)
Redparques (2009)
Parks Forum (2009)
Slow Food International (2009)
E.C.O. Klagenfurt (2010)
International Ranger Federation IRF (2010)
National Park Service - The United States Department of
Interior (2011)



The Directorate of the EUROPARC Federation is committed to fulfilling the aims of the organisation and to deliver its strategic goals. Where the Council is the driver, the Directorate is the engine of the organisation. The small team is split between the headquarters in Regensburg (D), and an office in Brussels. The team manages a number of important European projects and represents the Federation and members' interests. Many talented and committed individuals have worked with the EUROPARC team over the years and their efforts are commended.

With exceptional service to the Federation long standing retired Director Eva Pongratz commented:

If EUROPARC hadn't existed, one would have had to invent it. That's what I am still thinking today and I am proud that over the course of 21 years I was able to built up the headquarter of the European umbrella organisation for protected areas and contribute to the development of the organisation as director in the years 1986-2007.

Eva Pongratz (D), EUROPARC Director 1986-2007

Director Carol Ritchie, since 2008, and her dedicated international team continue to drive EUROPARC today as the organisation celebrates "40 years Working for Nature".

The work of the Federation is overseen by the EUROPARC Council and President. Over 70 EUROPARC members from numerous countries have been elected to serve on the EUROPARC Council. Bringing their experience and many volunteer hours, they have guided the Federation strategically fulfilling the founding aims of the organisation and to serve the best interest of the members. Their service and commitment is rarely recognised but should be acknowledged, for without which, the Federation could not be celebrating its 40th anniversary. Further, the Federation has over the years, the foresight to engage an internal auditor. For much of its history, several people have served as the "eyes and ears" of the members to ensure the work of the Federation is undertaken in the most effective and efficient way. Their contribution to the Federation's development is much appreciated.

Throughout the Federation's history, it has been the participation of members that has led the agenda. Hence the work of the



PRESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Dr h.c. Alfred Toepfer (D)	1974 – 1979
Dr D.J. Kuenen (NL)	1979 – 1984
François Giacobbi (F)	1984 – 1987
Egide Moreau (B)	1987 – 1990
Aitken Clark (UK)	1990 – 1996
Dr Hans Bibelriether (D)	1996 – 1999
Dr Patrizia Rossi (I)	1999 – 2002
Michael Starrett (IE)	2002 – 2005
Erika Stanciu (RO)	2005 – 2011
Thomas Hansson (S)	since 2011

EUROPARC INTERNAL AUDITORS

Jean Friedrich (L)	1984 – 1999
Georges Theis (L)	1999 – 2008
David Cameron (UK)	since 2008

Federation has also been supported over the years by efforts from working groups on sustainable tourism, marine and coastal, health and protected areas, wilderness and transboundary cooperation amongst many. These working groups have brought together experts from the membership to focus on issues important to protected areas. They consider policy issues, bring together best practice, develop new methodologies, look to future agenda development and seek new ways to conserve nature at a site level. They continue to be an excellent breeding ground for new ideas and innovative solutions. Their voluntary committed and unquantifiable dedication is a testament to the ongoing belief in the vision of the management of Europe's shared natural heritage through international cooperation.

Over the years the Federation has supported the creation of seven regional and national sections. The sections fulfil many of the EUROPARC Federation's aims, whilst reflecting the priorities and characteristics of the areas they cover. They undertake a huge volume of work and both support and stimulate the work of the Federation as a whole.





In 2001 the Federation founded EUROPARC Consulting as a company specialising in the policy and practice of protected area management. Working with a group of international experts and across many different European countries, EUROPARC Consulting fully subscribes to the EUROPARC Federation's philosophy. They continue to make an excellent contribution to the range of services EUROPARC can offer, in particular in the verification of the Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

The most important people in the EUROPARC Federation are its **members**. The future of the Federation is guided by the members' wishes and the Federation will change, renew and adapt to the changing circumstances of the protected areas of Europe.

EUROPARC Sections and years of foundation

EUROPARC Deutschland	1990
EUROPARC Atlantic Isles	1991
EUROPARC España	1993
Federparchi - EUROPARC Italia	1997
EUROPARC Česká Republika	2000
EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic	2003
EUROPARC France	2004







40 Years Working for Nature

480 months of dedication to preserve Europe's natural and cultural heritage

2080 weeks of advocacy to safeguard Europe's wildlife, land- and seascapes

14600 days of commitment to support protected areas managers

Credits

Cover: Parco naturale Alpi Marittime (I), Picture: Nanni Villani

Pg 2: Triglav National Park, Škrlatica Mountain

Pg 3: 1st TransParcNet meeting 2009 in Lapanina (EST),
Picture: Martin Šolar; Passion for Nature in Krkonoše
National Park (CZ), Picture: Radek Drahný

Pg 4: Founder Dr Herbert Offner (2nd r) at General Assembly 1976
in National Park Plitvice Lakes (HR)

Pg 5: François Giacobbi and Eva Pongratz at General Assembly
1987 in Hohe Tauern National Park (A); Alfred Toepfer (right) with
Henry Makowski at Toepfer's office in Hamburg, Picture: Erwin Falk

Pg 6/7: Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park (E),
Vall de Dellui

Pg 8/9: Hoge Kempen National Park (B); Charter Awardees at
EUROPARC 2012 with President Thomas Hansson (B),
Picture: Mine Dalemans; Logo of Hoge Kempen National Park (B);
Staff from Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (FIN/NO/RUS) and Oulanka-
Paanajärvi Transboundary Area (FIN/RUS) celebrating 10 years of
EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme, Picture: Petri Haapala;
Junior Rangers at the International Camp 2011 in Weerribben-
Wieden National Park (NL), Picture: Federico Minozzi; Team of
Hortobágy National Park (HU) celebrating European Day of Parks

Pg 10/11: Dr h.c. Alfred Toepfer, Picture: Frank Mihm;
Dr D.J. Kuenen; François Giacobbi, Picture: R. Maupertius; Egide
Moreau, Picture: Hopfner; Aitken Clark, Picture: Erwin Falk;
Dr Hans Bibeliether, Picture: EUROPARC; Dr Patrizia Rossi,
Picture: Eva Pongratz; Michael Starrett, Picture: The Heritage Council;
Erika Stanciu, Picture: Valentino Mastrella; Thomas Hansson,
Picture: Mine Dalemans

Pg 12/13: Hoge Kempen National Park (B); Theo Burrell (right)
receives 1st Alfred Toepfer Medal from former President Egide
Moreau at EUROPARC 1990 (E), Picture: EUROPARC

EUROPARC FEDERATION Working for Nature

THANKS

Gathering the stories and images of 40 years Working for Nature, has been a marathon undertaking. We thank all associated with EUROPARC past and present for their cooperation and permission to use their images. For all the stories and pictures we couldn't use, we do apologise, publication space limited us, but these remain in the collective memory of EUROPARC. We will utilise some on our website and other materials. Special thanks go to Petra Schultheiß and Dea Mijakovac in the Directorate for sterling efforts to bring this material together. We are deeply grateful for our designer Václav Hraba for going the extra mile to create this at very short notice.

As long as there are those who still wish to see the conservation of nature through international cooperation, the EUROPARC Federation will be there to support and realise that ambition and to keep telling the story of protected areas in Europe.

IMPRINT

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Pg 14: Director Carol Ritchie (left) and former President Erica Stanciu (right) with representatives from Parks Forum and Slow Food International, Picture: Karin Björk; EUROPARC Council meeting 2004; Picture: EUROPARC; Representatives from Cairngorms National Park receive Charter Award at EUROPARC 2011 in Bad Urach (D), Picture: Christine Wawra; EUROPARC Council meeting in Sigulda National Park (LV), Picture: EUROPARC

Pg 15: Students of Master programme Management of protected areas at Klagenfurt University, Picture: E.C.O Institut; Former President Dr Patrizia Rossi crossing the border during Transboundary seminar in Rötzi (A) June 2000, Picture: EUROPARC; Alfred Toepfer Scholars at EUROPARC 2011 in Bad Urach (D) with President Thomas Hansson and Andreas Holz from Alfred Toepfer Stiftung; Picture: Christine Wawra

Pg 16: Wilf Fenten and Anne Webser, EUROPARC Consulting Staff, Picture: EUROPARC Consulting; Charter Evaluation Committee at restaurant in Madrid with a picture taken at a EUROPARC meeting 20 years earlier in the same place, Picture: EUROPARC Consulting; EUROPARC Council meets Sections in Berlin, Picture: EUROPARC Germany

Pg 17: Lakes in core zone of Retezat National Park (RO), Picture: Andreas Beckmann

Pg 18/19: National Park Plitvice Lakes (HR), Picture: Branko Ceak

Back cover: New Forest mist & autumn colour, Minstead Road (UK), Picture: Martin O'Neill



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