



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 Transfrontier Cooperation, guiding Protected Areas to continually advance their collaboration.
- An evaluation process, which includes a self-evaluation process and an on-site verification visit, carried out by international transboundary experts.
- The formal certification as a EUROPARC Transboundary Area brings added value to the Protected Areas' management and demonstrates 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 natural 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 Federation - Transboundary Parks Programme

Protected Areas participating in the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme benefit from

- **Acknowledged standards**

Identification of the priorities and essential elements of effective transboundary cooperation

- **Internal and external assessment**

Receive valuable expert advice, to improve the transboundary cooperation, through the independent verification process

- **Awareness-raising opportunities**

Promote the benefits and opportunities arising from the transboundary cooperation, with politicians, communities, media and visitors at a local, regional and international level

- **Network of good practice examples**

Share experiences with and learn from other European Transboundary Parks

- **Capacity building possibilities**

Take part in workshops and seminars on transboundary cooperation and develop the skills and knowledge of Protected Area staff

- **Added value of certification**

Evidence of the proven quality of your cooperation for potential funders

TransParcNet - experience exchange amongst transboundary experts

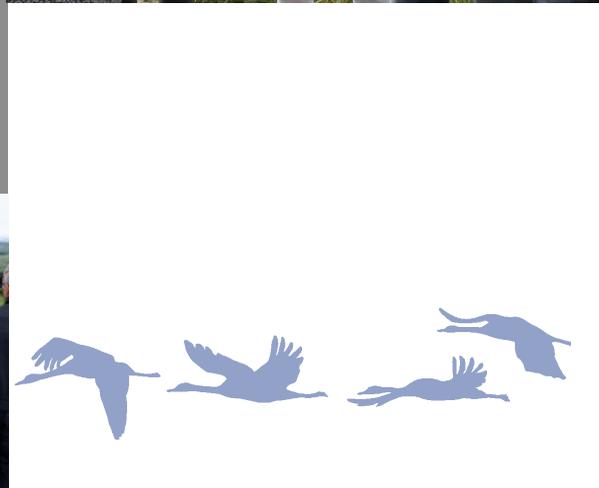
Peer support amongst colleagues is the most effective way to overcome challenges and improve Protected Areas management.

The TransParcNet brings together those working in Transboundary Areas encouraging the exchange of experience and ideas.

Meeting annually, the TransParcNet finds solutions to deliver effective conservation and sustainable development in their areas.

Who can join

All types of European Protected Areas adjoining across or lying adjacent to international borders can apply for the programme. They need to be a member of the EUROPARC Federation.



About EUROPARC

The EUROPARC Federation is the network for Europe's natural and cultural heritage. Created by our members, the federation works, to improve the management of Protected Areas in Europe through international cooperation, exchange of ideas and experience, and by influencing policy. One of the aims of the EUROPARC Federation is to encourage and facilitate inter-regional coordination on nature protection issues. With its Transboundary Parks Programme, EUROPARC raises awareness on the common responsibility for border regions and shows the values and benefits of transboundary collaboration between Protected Areas.



What people say about the programme

"Completion [...] of the application documents... did not just serve the purpose of reporting to EUROPARC, but also acted rather like a mirror for us, in which a functioning cooperation as defined by the questionnaire was recognised to be something real and alive. On the other hand, weaknesses which one had perhaps completely overlooked or at least underestimated became very apparent. One was somehow shaken out of a certain professional complacency."

Kurt Kirchberger
Neusiedler See - Seewinkel (AU)
and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU) certified 2003 and 2010



"The EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme helped us to increase our communication and achieve more mutual structure – we created a joint vision and an action plan which help us in the daily work and also in future project planning. The EUROPARC system has also given us a European network – fruitful for us to see and experience how other transboundary parks manage their daily work and challenges in nature protection issues."

Tiia Kalske
Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (FI/NO/RU) certified 2008 and 2013

"The Transboundary Parks Programme was definitely a very good impulse for the further development of our cooperation. The evaluation report helped us to think about the possible improvements of the current cooperation and to formulate next steps. We intend to integrate the goal keeping the TB certificate not only for these 5 years but also for the next periods into the new Strategy of our cooperation (2014-2020) now being prepared."

Handrij Härtel
Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland (CZ/DE) certified 2012



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