AN INQUIRY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPARC MEMBERS AND NATURA 2000 SITES

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1. RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

A research developed, on behalf of EUROPARC Federation, by the European Documentation Centre on Nature Park Planning (CED PPN, Polytechnic of Turin, group of research: Angioletta Voghera, Gabriella Negrini, Emma Salizzoni, Sergio Bongiovanni)

CED PPN MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS

- Nature conservation policies, with a specific focus on European Protected Area policies (management and planning).

- A particular attention to the necessity of networking and cooperation among the different authorities responsible for nature conservation in Europe: focus on the relationship between PAs set up at a national/regional level and Natura 2000 Network.

The importance of a systemic knowledge about this relationship for a better policy integration

Conero Regional Park, Italy
Aims at identifying and assessing:

- The connection between European PAs that are EUROPARC members (“EPAs”) and Natura 2000 sites: spatial overlap and the role played by EPAs in Natura 2000 site management

  **EPAs**: over 18 millions ha, 18% of European PAs

- The role played by EUROPARC members that are *not* PAs (“Agencies”) in the management of Natura 2000 sites
2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

EUROPARC PROTECTED AREAS (EPAs)

- Identification – performed by means of GIS (Geographic Information System) – of the spatial overlap between the EPA shapes available from the CDDA (and from other sources) and the N2000 site shapes available on the N2000 database.

- Elaboration of the data concerning the N2000 sites encompassed in the EPAs: extension of the N2000 sites, percentage of the EPA area covered by the N2000 sites, body responsible for the management of the N2000 sites.
2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- Gathering of information by means of e-mail and/or phone calls with EUROPARC members

- Elaboration of the gathered data (extension of N2000 sites managed by such EUROPARC members).

### EUROPARC AGENCIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>UID</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TOWN</th>
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<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>TEL.</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>N2000 SITES (ha)</th>
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<tr>
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3. RESEARCH OUTCOMES

EUROPARC PROTECTED AREAS (EPAs)

- EPAs encompass 7% of the total terrestrial and marine N2000 sites area (10% of the total terrestrial N2000 sites area).
- N2000 sites cover 37% of the overall EPA surface.
- Considering the overall extension of N2000 sites overlapping EPAs, the percentage with respect to the total terrestrial and marine N2000 sites area increases from 7% to 11% (14% with respect to total terrestrial N2000 sites area).
- 56% of N2000 sites (4 mln ha) overlapping EPAs are managed by EPA Authorities.

EUROPARC AGENCIES

The EUROPARC agencies are directly responsible for the management of 21% of the total terrestrial and marine N2000 site area (27% of the total terrestrial N2000 site area).

THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE PLAYED BY EUROPARC MEMBERS IN N2000 NETWORK

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4. CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE RESEARCH

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

- **CDDA (EEA):** several European PAs are missing, and, in some cases, even if PAs are present in the CDDA, cartographic information are missing.

- **N2000 database:** as of today, data concerning the management of N2000 sites exist in relation to very few N2000 sites.

SHORTCOMINGS OF THE EUROPEAN DATA SOURCES

A FIRST STEP: POSSIBLE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAs AND N2000 SITES

- Analysis of environmental and management features of EPAs encompassing N2000 sites

- Analysis of the environmental features and pressures of N2000 sites overlapping EPAs

- Analysis of conservation measures (Management Plans) of Natura 2000 sites overlapping EPAs and their relationship with EPA Management Plans

THE POTENTIAL OF A SYNERGETIC APPROACH TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION