EUROPARC Conference 2012 Genk

Workshop: My park is your park. What are the benefits of working transboundary?

Case: Dutch-German cross border park Maas-Swalm-Nette

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www.grenspark-msn.nl
www.naturpark-msn.de
Contents

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• Administration and cooperation
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The cross border park is a special purpose association formed by the German association nature park Schwalm-Nette and 7 Dutch communities in the Province of Limburg.

Size: 800 km²

Inhabitants: ca. 390,000

Rivers: Maas, Nette, Niers, Roer/Rur, S(ch)walm
Characteristics

• Rivers, forests, lakes, heath land, moors and agricultural landscapes

• 10,000 ha big forest region (Flora-Fauna-Habitat-Directive and the Bird Directive, NATURA 2000) and national park De Meinweg in the Netherlands

• The Maas and the Nette play an important role for recreation, for tourism as well as for water depending species

• Within a radius of 100 km a potential of more than 7 million people live

• Several places with culturally and very interesting historical buildings and sites
History 1965 - 2012

1965 Founding of the **German nature park Schwalm-Nette** as an association by statutory regulations by four German districts (representing 17 German communities)

1976 **Enlargement** of the German nature park to the **Dutch-German cross border nature park Maas-Swalm-Nette** on behalf of a treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the federal state of Northrhine-Westfalia (management by an advisory board)

2002 Foundation of the cross border **association** Dutch-German cross border nature park Meuse-Swalm-Nette
Administration

- The cooperation, the policies and aims of the Nature park are determined by the **statutory regulations** of the association accepted by the participants in 2002

- The association is ruled and controlled by a **general board** (and the **board of directors**) representing the participants on both sides of the border

- A trans national **office** in Roermond

- Employees:  
  director (biologist)  
  project manager (agricultural engineer)

- The employees are **bilingual** and used to **live and work in both countries**
The general board

• 10 members (5 Dutch, 5 German) representing the 7 Dutch communities and the German Nature park Schwalm-Nette

• On Dutch side members are professional politicians of the participating community authorities
  German side members are elected and honoured members of the district council

• Further the board consists of 5 advisory members from national and regional authorities
The goals and aims of the cross border cooperation statutory regulations:

- Maintain and develop, reconnect nature and landscape
- Support and development of recreation and tourism
- Environmental education
- Support the Dutch and German cross border cooperation and participants
- To create identification with the nature park Maas-S(ch)walm-Nette
Tasks of the office

• Interface for cross border contacts and the exchange of information

• Bringing together project partners

• PR for the cross border nature park MSN

• Planning, organisation and coordination of projects and their (international) fundraising (INTERREG-Programmes)
Finances 2010 – 2014

The basic budget for the office is about 220,000 € per year.

- 25 % Federal State of North Rine-Westphalia
- 25 % Province of Limburg,
- 12.5 % German Nature park Schwalm-Nette
- 12.5 % 7 Dutch communities
- 25 % Funds through project management
# Projects of the cross border nature park MSN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>project period</th>
<th>Budget (€)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERREG III A MSN in the picture</td>
<td>2002-2008</td>
<td>815,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERREG III A Ecological Network of Wetlands</td>
<td>2004-2008</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reintroduction of Red deer in the ecological corridor</td>
<td>2004-2008</td>
<td>112,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERREG III A Former II. WW Air base Venlo</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People2People Projekt TRAP Beesel-Brüggen</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>People2People Projekt EcoTop MSN</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERREG IV A National park region MeinWeg</td>
<td>2009-2012</td>
<td>950,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERREG IV A Water.Walking.World</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>435,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERREG IV A Natural Border Waters</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>4,070,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>7,767,000,- €</strong></td>
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Results cross border projects

1. Transportable expositions of the nature park
2. Network of 20 visitor’s / information centres
3. Annual international tree planting day for schools
4. Annual nature park working day
5. Environmental education programmes for D-NL guides
6. Bilingual publication of cross border event/excursion programme (more than 600 events)
7. Bilingual internetsite (60,000 visits / year)
8. And a restored and (re-)connected nature (ponds, fens, rivers and heathlands) and corridors for species and visitor infrastructure
Wasser ist Leben im Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette
Water is life in the Nature Park Maas-Schwalm-Nette

Naturparktag
Grensparkdag
Sonntag 28.08.2005
Wasser Water
am/ bij het Naturparkcentrum Wachtiens Haus Pallen - D
bei der / bij de RAMU Naturschutzstation Wildenau - D
beim / bij het Watercentrum Heel (Beegden) - NL

Das aktuelle Programm erhalten Sie unter www.naturpark-msn.de

21x
Besucherzentren
Überraschend grenzenlos
Besoekerscentra
Verrassend grenzeloos

Het zeeden voor een overstap naar de volgende website opgezet: (7/79)

Natuurpark Grenspark

Visie
Voor op en onder het water staat de 21x logo ter zeden:

Website www.naturpark-msn.de

Flusskarte
Map of the area

Visitekaarten
Visitor cards

Website www.naturpark-msn.de
Nationalparkregion MeinWeg

Wanderkarte 1:25,000

Radwanderkarte 1:50,000

Mit Begleitheft

BVA

Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette
Grenspark
Connecting Nature to Nature is connecting People to People
2007: Certified by the EUROPARC Federation as Transboundary Parc Following Nature’s design

Verification process
- Looking in the mirror
- Critical selfreflection

Visit of the verifiers
- Getting a good second opinion
- Experiences from abroad
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Work to do: recommendations

2012: Reevaluation successful
Good to know for cross border cooperation

- Bilinguality helps you if you speak different languages

- Understanding of cross border similarities and differences in socio-cultural behaviour and societies are very important (even more then speaking the same language)

- Flexibility, patience and the wish to learn from each other

Succes

- Four eyes see more than two, four ears hear more than two, two people reach more than one

- Working cross border brings you new friends and opens your mind