Project Aims and Output

Website

www.european-parks.org

Direct knowledge exchange

Survey
Study visits

Book on European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks

Communication towards political decision makers

Various publications
2nd meeting of the project working group, November 2015 in Bonn

From left to right: Christian Stauffer, Swiss Parks Network (CH); Béla Báthty, Hungarian Nature Park Association (HU); Christian Kayser, Nature Park Our (LU); Franz Handler, Association of Austrian Nature Parks (AT); Damien de Chanterac, EUROPARC Federation; Katharina Denkinger, Association of German Nature Parks (project coordinator); Richard Blackman, Europarc Atlantic Isles (GB); Ulrich Köster, Association of German Nature Parks (director); Dagmar Hupperich, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; Ralf Forst, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation; Olaf Ostermann, Federal State Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; Dr. Peter Gärtner, Nature Park Barnim (DE); Olaf Holm, Regional Nature Park Montagne de Reims (FR)
A Nature Park, Regional Park or Landscape Park is:

- ... an officially recognized, designated protected area with the aim to protect nature and the landscape.

- The basic working areas are:
  - Nature and landscape conservation
  - Sustainable tourism and recreation
  - Sustainable development of rural areas
  - Environmental education

- ... works together with a network of regional stakeholders

- ... a large scale protected area

- ... is managed by a designated organization with own salaried stuff
according to the project definition, 22 European states* have Nature-, Regional- or Landscape Parks

* 30 European states (EU-28 + Norway and Switzerland) were considered in the analysis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (ISO3)</th>
<th>Name of relevant protected area (&quot;Nature-, Regional-, or Landscape Park&quot;)</th>
<th>Name in Englisch</th>
<th>Number (as in June 2015)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUT</td>
<td>Naturparke</td>
<td>Nature Parks</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEL (Wallonie)</td>
<td>Parcs naturels</td>
<td>Nature Parks</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGR</td>
<td>природен парк</td>
<td>Nature Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE</td>
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<td>Regional Nature Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>CZE</td>
<td>Chráněná krajinná oblast (CHKO)</td>
<td>Protected landscape areas</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>DEU</td>
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<td>Parques regionales</td>
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<td>Parques rurales</td>
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<td>FRA</td>
<td>Parcs naturels regionaux (PNR)</td>
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<td>GBR (England, Wales, Nordirland)</td>
<td>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's)</td>
<td>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBR (Schotland)</td>
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<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRV</td>
<td>Parkovi prirode</td>
<td>Nature Parks</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
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<td>regionalni park</td>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUN</td>
<td>Natúrpark</td>
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<td>Regioniniai parkai</td>
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<td>Nature Parks</td>
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<td>Dabas parks</td>
<td>Nature Parks</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aizsargajamo ainavu apvidus</td>
<td>Protected Landscape Areas</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOR</td>
<td>Regionale parker</td>
<td>Regional parks</td>
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<td>Nature Parks</td>
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<td>ROU</td>
<td>Parcuri naturale</td>
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<td>Protected landscape areas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regijski parki</td>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total:

- > 880 European Nature-, Regional and Landscape Parks
- Surface area: > 370,000 km²

Data source: geodata from park associations or responsible agencies
Survey – Selected Results
Creating networks for stakeholders on park subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Area</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature conservation, preservation of biodiversity</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable tourism and recreation</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natura 2000</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement of local communities in park development</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable development of rural areas</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental education, education for sustainable development</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial and landscape planning</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public relations, communication</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating networks for stakeholders on park subjects</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2 of 5 possible answers are shown (possible answers range from "very important" to “not relevant at all")
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Administrative bodies of parks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria, Latvia, Portugal, Slovakia</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>State, Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic, Lithuania, Luxembourg</td>
<td>State, Local administrative unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>State, Local administrative unit, Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain, Poland, Italy</td>
<td>Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France, Germany</td>
<td>Region, Local administrative unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK- EN/WLS/NI, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, UK- SCT, Hungary, Norway, Belgium</td>
<td>Local administrative unit, Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do your parks take on obligatory governmental tasks?

- Yes, 13 countries
- No, 6 countries
- n.s., 4 countries

Regional Nature Parks undertake the following tasks:

- Natura 2000 (management, monitoring)
- Spatial planning/ development planning
- Nature conservation management
- Supervision of nature conservation plans
- Water framework directive
Share of parks with management plans

Question: How many of your parks do have management plans?

- Management plans not obligatory, 3 countries
- Management plans obligatory, 9 countries
- “Very many” parks have management plans → 12 countries
- “Rather few” parks have management plans → 6 countries
- “very few” parks have management plans → 2 countries
- n.s., 1 country

n.s. = not specified
How important is the collaboration and the exchange of the parks with the following stakeholders?

- Municipalities: 91% very important, 9% rather important
- Foresters, farmers, land owners: 61% very important, 39% rather important
- Nature conservation organisations: 48% very important, 48% rather important
- Citizens: 45% very important, 36% rather important
- Tourism organisations: 17% very important, 61% rather important
- Local chambers of commerce: 9% very important, 18% rather important
- Educational institutions: 9% very important, 61% rather important

*2 of 4 possible answers are shown (possible answers range from “very important” to “not important”)*
Financial donors of parks (without EU-funding)

- Local administrative units: 55% (very important donor) / 36% (less important donor)
- State: 48% / 26%
- Regions: 47% / 21%
- Companies or other private sponsors: 14% / 57%
- Partner companies: 0% / 55%
- Donations and dues from private persons: 0% / 45%
Importance of European funds for the financing of the parks

- Very important, 17 countries
- Rather not important, 2 countries
- Not important; 0
- Not specified, 2 countries

n.s. = not specified
Study visits (2016)
Study visits 2016
Austria
Hungary
Switzerland
Luxembourg
Italy
Croatia
Norway
France
United Kingdom
Spain
Poland
Governance structures
Features of a well functioning and strong Regional Nature Park

- Functioning park directorate (sufficient personal and financial resources)
- Support/financing by the local level (municipalities)
- Support/financing by state and/or regions
- Associations, NGOs
- Educating institutions
- Tourism organisations
- Municipalities, cities, counties
- Farmers, foresters, landowners
- Local authorities (for nature conservation, agriculture,..)
- Citizens
Good governance of Regional Nature Parks

Important aspects of good governance:
  o Designation process in accordance with regional stakeholders
Example Switzerland: designation process and bottom-up model

Label “Candidate park”

1. Feasibility study
   - Natural and scenic quality?
   - Support by population?

2. Project Planning
   - Provisional sponsorship
   → Strong involvement of communities!
   → Management plan

3. Establishment (max. 4 years)
   - Preparation of a Charta, together with communities
     (contract, management plan, project planning)
     - referendum

4. Operation
   Management with involvement of municipalities and stakeholders
   (council & advisory committees)

Label “Park of national importance” (validity 10 years)

Evaluation → referendum → renewal for another 10 years

(c) Swiss Alps Tektonikarena Sardona
Good governance of Regional Nature Parks

Important aspects of good governance:

- Designation process in accordance with regional stakeholders
- Clear structure of decision, consultation and implementation
Example France: park governance

**Decision-making**

- General assembly (defines superordinate objectives)
- Council (with President on top; decides on current matters)

**Consultation**

- Working groups on superordinate topics
- Scientific committee
- Coordinating group (working groups on pilot projects on e.g. Natura2000, ECST, climate)

**Implementation**

- Park directorate

Graph based on a graph by the Regional Nature Park Montagne des Reims, simplified
Good governance of Regional Nature Parks

Important aspects of good governance:

- Designation process in accordance with regional stakeholders
- Clear structure of decision, consultation and implementation
- Charta/management plan
- Integration of the management plan in spatial planning
The regional nature park charter:

- ... is a contract which contains a management plan and sets development goals for the next 12 years
- ... is drafted by the future management body together with regional stakeholders
- ... needs to be approved by
  - Towns/villages
  - Intercommunal associations (EPCI)
  - Involved department(s) and region(s)
- ... has to be considered in spatial planning

† The French model of a park charter has been adopted by various countries, including Switzerland, Luxembourg, Wallonia and others..
Good governance of Regional Nature Parks

Important aspects of good governance:

- Designation process in accordance with regional stakeholders
- Clear structure of decision, consultation and implementation
- Charta/management plan
- Integration of the management plan in spatial planning
- Functioning park directorate
- Support on national level
Example Croatia: support by government level

The Ministry of Environment as service provider to parks:

- Management effectiveness assessment tool → identifying strength and weaknesses
- Support in preparation of management plans
- Training workshops for park employees (Monitoring, GIS, Natura 2000, Education,..) → Remodeling of Park labels
- Website ‘Parks of Croatia’
Good governance of Regional Nature Parks

Important aspects of good governance:

- Designation process in accordance with regional stakeholders
- Clear structure of decision, consultation and implementation
- Charta/management plan
- Integration of the management plan in spatial planning
- Functioning park directorate
- Support on national level
Environmental Education
Old domestic animal breeds
Regional Products
Nature Protection & Monitoring
Regional identity
Sustainable Tourism
Advising farmers
Cultural heritage & landscape
Finally, a well functioning park needs committed, well connected people.
Thank you for your attention!