#### BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE TOPIC and THE EUROPARC TB PROGRAMME



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Working cross-border..., transboundary cooperation... WHY?

A simple, obvious, evident reason:

### Nature knows no boundaries





Is it really possible for cross-border protected areas to reach their objectives on nature conservation without collaboration?



Working cross-border..., transboundary cooperation... WHY?

### Some people do not know the borders neither

Local communities share traditions, relations and friendship

common history / common future

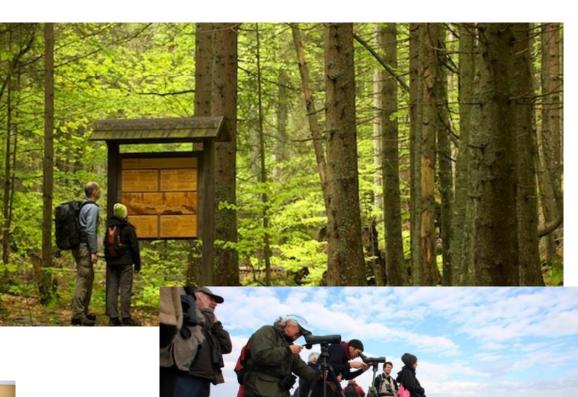




Working cross-border..., transboundary cooperation... WHY?

# To promote traditional and new Economic Opportunities





#### Some key starting points



#### **Benefits**

For Nature

- More efficiency and stability in management, monitoring, investigations, actions
- Transfer of knowledges and experiences
- New vision on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

For Parks

- More visibility (local and international)
- Lobbying to influence policies, plans and programs in the areas
- Possibility to overcome political and administrative boundaries

For Staff

- Mutual motivation / ongoing comparison
- Motivation for intercultural innovation
- New perspectives new horizonts

For Money

- Projects, Competitive advantage in getting money from international organisations
- New opportunities for local development

For People

- Raising public awareness on common responsibilities for border regions
- Build of mutual understanding between communities, working for peace...

For Europe

Build European Union and Europe on the ground, implement EU policies

#### Some key starting points



#### Challenges

#### For Politics

- Political will
- Political changes / Unstability

#### For Laws

- Different legislative background
- Changes in legislative framework
- Different public authorities,
- Different goals of parks, different protected areas category
- Borders in not-Schengen area

#### Difficult to transfer knowledges

• Lack of experiences in crossborder cooperation

#### For Staff

- Language barrier
- Time consuming / day-to-day urgent matters versus long term approach
- Lack of funds / financial sustainability

#### For People

- Lack of mutual trust / in some case 'hard' historical background
- Strong personal commitment but not adequate institution's commitment



### Transboundary Parks...following nature's design

The EUROPARC
"Transboundary Parks Programme: following Nature`s design"
initiative

is a special verification and certification system

that aims to promote and facilitate transboundary cooperation between European protected areas

#### What EUROPARC does



- Elements of the system:
- The EUROPARC Basic Standards for transboundaries cooperation
- A verification process carried out by external verifiers
- The formal certification as a "EUROPARC Transboundary Area" if the application was successful
- The renewal of the Certificate every five years
- The **application** is open to crossborders European Protected Areas, **members** of EUROPARC.

- Basic Standards and the verification process provide a unique support system



#### 14 Basic Standards:

- > List of Quality Criteria (e.g. common vision, work plans, etc.)
- > List of Fields of Work (e.g. nature conservation, tourism, etc.)
- Primary and Secondary
- Indicators
- Range of practical and measurable activities
- Ten out of the fourteen Basic Standards must be achieved before certification can be obtained
- PAs commit themselves for continuous improvement



#### The verification process:

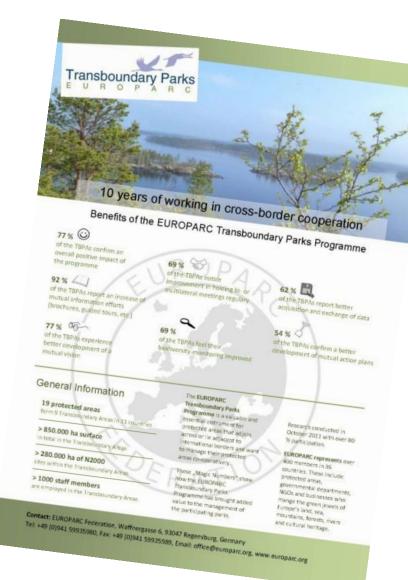
- Independent verifiers assess the park and prepare a report, including useful recommendations for the areas
- the **Transboundary Steering and Evaluation committee** (STEC) upon receiving reports from the verifiers, make recommendations to the Council for the award
- > the EUROPARC Council formally decides for the award
- The Award Ceremony takes place during the EUROPARC Annual Conference
- Verifications are each 5 years

#### What EUROPARC does

69 % of the TBPAs notice improvement in holding bi- or multilateral meetings regulary

77 %

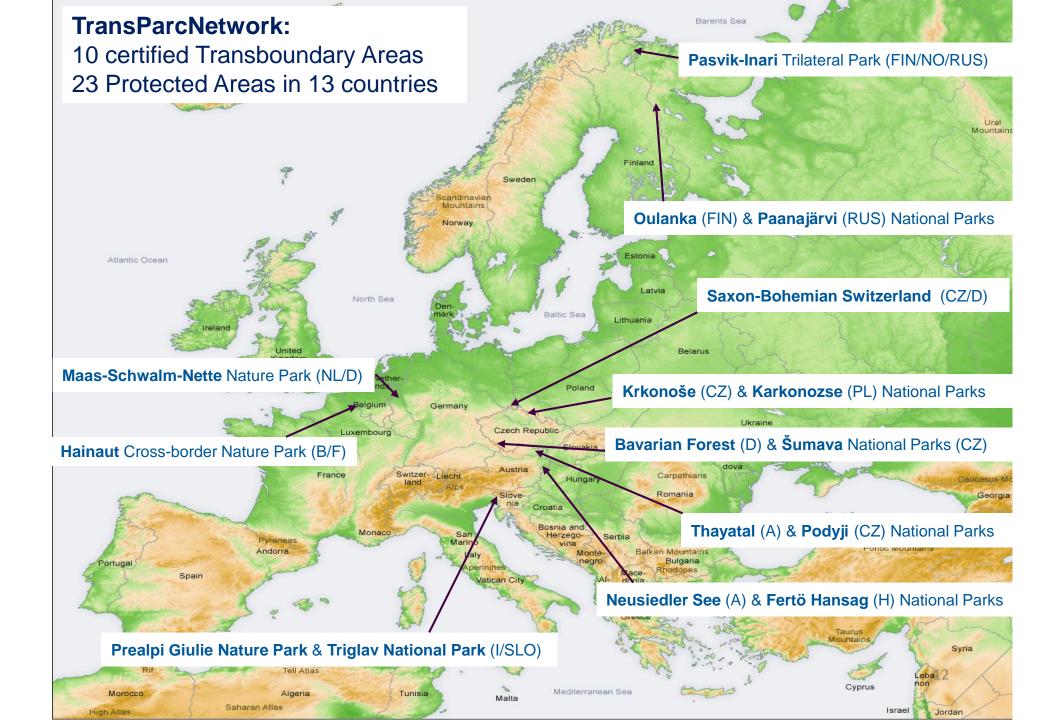
of the TBPAs experience better development of a mutual vision



of the TBPAs feel their biodiversity-monitoring improved

92 %

of the TBPAs report an increase of mutual information efforts





#### **TransParcNet network aims:**

- ✓ To provide other Protected Areas with assistance
- ✓ To facilitate capacity building between European TB areas
- ✓ To coordinate thematic working groups
- ✓ To organise staff exchanges and study visits
- ✓ To put on events, conferences, seminars and workshops
- ✓ To publish information on transboundary issues and projects
- ✓ To prepare directories and databases on TB areas
- ✓ To promote the interests of TBPAs on a national and international level
- ✓ To raise funds for and promote joint projects between TB areas



#### **TransParcNet meeting 2018**

Podyji and Thayatal National Parks (AU-CZ)

5-8 June 2018, Retz- Austria

River Landscape Area Protection

(water management and water flows regulation, river and agriculture landscape, river ecosystem and retention capacity of landscape, fish populations and its management)

Join us!!

- 2017 in Ecoregion Julian Alps (IT/SI)
   Changing Climate, Changing Parks
- 2016 in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland Transboundary Parks (DE/CZ)

Visitor management in Protected Areas

- 2015 in Bavarian Forest and Sumava National Parks (DE/CZ)
   The value of healthy ecosystems for nature and people
- 2014 in Hainaut cross-border Nature Park (BE/FR)

  Green Infrastructure in Transboundary Protected Areas
- 2013 in Maas-Swalm-Nette Nature Park (DE/NL)
- 2012 in Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (FI/NO/RU)

(First meeting in 2007)

#### What EUROPARC does



#### To know more about the EUROPARC TB programme

http://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/

#### Discover our Transboundary Parks

http://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/discover-our-transboundary-areas/

#### Webinar Record Visitor Management in Transboundary Parks

http://www.europarc.org/tools-and-training/europarc-webinars/previous-webinars/webinar-visitor-management/ -

#### Toolkit and case studies of TB cooperation

http://www.europarc.org/toolbox/transboundary/ -

#### Green infrastructure in TB areas

http://www.europarc.org/nature/park-management/greeninfrastructure/?utm\_source=ep&utm\_medium=search&utm\_campaign=linktrack&utm\_content=results -

#### TransParcNet meetings info, reports, presentations...

http://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/transparcnet/ -

#### Workshops on TB at EUROPARC Annual Conferences

Lobby and advocacy in Brussels



Together to protect the old taiga forest and promote dialogue, common understanding, and collaboration at the European Union borders'

by Riina Trevo, Specialist, Finnish representative in the working group of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (FI-NO-RU)

Trilateral cooperation between Russia, Finland and Norway is about **nature protection**, **management**, **environmental awareness**, and promotion of **sustainable nature-based tourism** in the Pasvik-Inari region.

Identified best practices are the solid bases for the cooperation.

Five nature protection areas constitute the Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park.







#### Case study 2



## Cultural and socio-economic benefits for cross-border communities, involving private and public stakeholders in common projects

by Silke Weich, Cross-border project manager,
Nature park Maas-Schwalm-Nette (DE-NL)

Important in the transborder cooperation within the German-Dutch nature park Maas-Schwalm-Nette is the **commitment of stakeholders on both sides of the border** for common ideas and projects, mutual understanding of cultural differences, appreciation of each other's strengths and respecting each other's weaknesses.

Not only project partners, but also society is involved in project actions.

One single management body for the area.



