



# DECLARATION

of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme

## The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

[9 NOVEMBER 1989-2019]

# Nature has no borders



On the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall we, the **European Transboundary Parks** highlight the need to re-enforce cooperation and mutual understanding in Europe, across frontiers.

Since its birth, **EUROPARC's Transboundary Parks Programme**, has embodied the spirit of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, on the basis of our day to day experience collaborating in the **management of a shared biodiversity despite our political borders.**

Our network of protected areas is characterised by being one, close to the other- but separated by a border a virtual administrative, political and cultural wall - even in a now open Europe.

The experience of our history, our knowledge and values, led us to create a movement of active people, concretely co-operating and building projects to overcome barriers through the **EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme: a true European project.**

The inspiration derived from the Fall of the Wall is particularly evident given that **most of our protected areas are located on the former Iron Curtain (now European Green Belt)**. Just looking at a map of Europe makes this very clear.

As equally evident is the energy and the will that the people involved in the Transboundary Programme put into the cooperation activities every day, driven by the pleasure of working together in once, long-time divided territories.

For these reasons and on this occasion, **we strongly declare our commitment for peace, dialogue and nature protection**

and our availability to support, in the frame of our institutional goals and skills, any initiative aimed at fostering cooperation between European states within and beyond the European Union.



TransParcNet Meeting 2018 in the Transboundary Area composed by Podyjí National Park (CZ) and Thayatal National Park (AU)

**“Borders are not natural, they were created by people. Therefore, people should also be able to break them down for our cultural and natural heritage.”**

*Brunner, 2006*

**Europe is a complex continent with thousands of years of human interaction overlaying the natural world.** The most obvious manifestations of that history are the many political borders that abound, and indeed change over time.

Nature however, never recognises these artefacts of human civilisation and our Protected Areas represent what is most special across our small, marvellous and populated continent and constitute a “shared European inheritance” of nature protection.

Yet in places borders create artificial barriers to the management of these valuable natural resources. The places where Protected Areas share a common political boundary bring these management issues into sharp focus and need special consideration.

**The EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme “Following Natures Design” seeks to support a process of mutual understanding,** often between countries where history may have created mutual distrust, or administrative barriers and develop management tools to enable greater cooperative management.



**The Protected Areas awarded with the EUROPARC Transboundary Programme Certificate compose the TransParcNet,** an innovative platform for safeguarding cross-border biodiversity, ecosystem services and cultural landscapes, as well as inspiring and encouraging people for better understanding of the importance of transboundary cooperation.



**Transboundary Parks Award Ceremony**

*(left)* Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (FI-RU-NO) Scotland, 2018

*(right)* Binntal Veglia Devero Transboundary Nature Park (IT/CH) Latvia, 2019

**DISCOVER OUR TRANSBOUNDARY AREAS:**  
[europarc.org/discover-our-transboundary-areas](http://europarc.org/discover-our-transboundary-areas)

- 1 Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (FI/NO/RU)
- 2 Oulanka-Paanajärvi Transboundary Parks (FI/RU)
- 3 Hainaut-cross-border Nature Park (BE/FR)
- 4 Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park (NL/DE)
- 5 Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland Transboundary Parks (DE/CZ)
- 6 Krkonoše and Karkonosze National Parks (CZ/PL)
- 7 Šumava and Bavarian Forest National Park (CZ/DE)
- 8 Podyjí-Thayatal Transboundary Parks (CZ/AU)
- 9 Neusiedler See-Seewinkel & Fertő-Hanság (AU/HU)
- 10 Julian Alps Transboundary Ecoregion (IT/SI)
- 11 Binntal Veglia Devero Transboundary Nature Park (IT/CH)

