



Krkonoše National Park, Czech Republic

## Transboundary Cooperation: How can you protect nature beyond your border?

Ever since humans started to settle, they have erected borders to protect land, property and territory. However, nature does not recognise man-made borders.

Protecting and living alongside nature means **following nature's design**, working across boundaries. The vital importance of transboundary cooperation **across** political borders in Protected Areas is widely acknowledged: for the **effective conservation of common nature and landscapes**, but also to help achieve sustainable regional development whilst promoting mutual understanding and international peace.

Working across borders comes with its own particular challenges. To encourage best practice and facilitate daily cooperation between European Protected Areas across borders, EUROPARC has developed the Programme "**Transboundary Parks – Following Nature's Design**", an innovative and unique system of standards for transboundary cooperation.

# The Transboundary Parks Programme

The standards of the programme enable Protected Area managers to analyse the current level of cooperation, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of cross-border partnerships at all levels of administration and to identify fields of work where practical action is required. Throughout the whole process, they are supported and encouraged by the EUROPARC network.

Transboundary Parks...following nature's design

[www.europarc.org/transboundary-parks-programme](http://www.europarc.org/transboundary-parks-programme)

An objective evaluation system guides Protected Areas through a structured analytical process - following practical and measurable actions, that foster administrative and political collaboration, nature conservation, sustainable development and cross-cultural interaction.

After a successful external evaluation, the areas are certified with the **EUROPARC Transboundary Award** to renew every five years. This constructive assessment process not only enables ongoing improvement and development of the transboundary partners, but will secure **long-term quality transboundary cooperation between Protected Areas**.

## The TransParcNet [www.europarc.org/transparcnet](http://www.europarc.org/transparcnet)

The TransParcNet is the network of certified transboundary areas that meet once a year to exchange experience and best practice. By joining the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks programme you will:

- >>Receive the EUROPARC Transboundary Award, a quality label providing **high international recognition** of your work;
- >>**Be part of the TransParcNet**, a dynamic European network, receiving and offering experiences, solutions and inspiration from and to other transboundary areas;
- >> Use an **established methodology** to enhance management and cooperation skills;
- >> Expand the possibility for **funding and common projects**, opening up new opportunities;
- >> Analyse your work through **external and independent verifications**;
- >> Increase the recognition of your cross-border Protected Areas at local and international level;
- >>Receive and offer motivation and inspiration at professional and personal level, contributing to a larger European common journey for nature protection, peace and understanding.



**EUROPARC**  
FEDERATION

The EUROPARC Federation is the largest and most representative Protected Area network in Europe, comprising almost 40% of the Natura 2000 network.

[www.europarc.org](http://www.europarc.org)



*Our members manage Europe's Protected Areas, covering almost every regional, national, European and international designation.*



Produced with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community.