



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N



Becoming a member of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme

The Certification Programme of EUROPARC in a nutshell

January 2022

What is it?

Cooperation between Protected Areas that adjoin across or lie adjacent to international borders make a significant contribution to the conservation of both natural and cultural heritage and the achievement of sustainable regional development. Such cooperation also promotes international peace and understanding, and makes an important contribution to the development of a common Europe.

The EUROPARC Federation has always emphasized the importance of transboundary work. It heeded calls to define minimum standards and guidelines for Transboundary Protected Areas. The result is the EUROPARC “Basic Standards for Transboundary cooperation between European Protected Areas”. These comprise a set of principles which clearly detail a range of practical activities that should be undertaken by Protected Areas seeking to achieve good quality, long-term cooperation.

In September 2003 this objective, innovative and unique system was endorsed by the IUCN and officially launched at the 5th World Park Congress in Durban/South Africa. It contains a special verification and certification system that helps cross-border protected areas improving the management of common ecosystems, habitats and species.

There are four elements to the system:

- Unique “Basic Standards for transboundary cooperation between European Protected Areas”
- Evaluation process carried out by external verifiers
- Formal certification as “EUROPARC Transboundary Area” if goals were met
- Re-evaluation after 5 years, ongoing monitoring and improvement of the transboundary cooperation

What’s in it for you?

With its Transboundary Parks Programme the EUROPARC Federation takes an unequivocal stand on the importance of cross-border cooperation. The benefits for Protected Areas becoming a member of the Transboundary Parks Programme include:

- Clear **identification of the priorities and essential elements of quality transboundary cooperation** according to an acknowledged standard
- Public relations and **awareness-raising** opportunities with visitors as with local and national media and politics
- The opportunity to work with and learn from other European Transboundary Parks in a **network of best practice examples** in cross-border cooperation
- Helpful **internal and external assessment** and technical support, leading to new ideas and improvement
- The opportunity to take part in **capacity building** workshops and seminars, e.g. verifiers training
- A **certificate bringing added value** for future funding applications, by demonstrating that quality standards are being achieved

Who are we?

The EUROPARC Federation was founded in 1973. It has since grown to become Europe's largest Protected Areas network and currently has about 400 members spanning around 40 countries. EUROPARC is built on the principle that Europe's natural heritage can be better conserved and managed through international cooperation. Therefore the organisation seeks opportunities for networking, exchange and collaboration in all aspects of Protected Area work.

For more information about the process how to become a EUROPARC Transboundary Park, and the costs and conditions associated with the certification process, please see the document "Costs & Conditions".

For further information on the Transboundary Parks Programme please contact

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