

Terms of Reference for Member Participation Working Groups



Terms of Reference

Name of Group: TASK FORCE TRANSBOUNDARY PARKS	
<p>Purpose Why is this group being formed</p>	<p>The Task Force Transboundary Parks is a working group formed to support the EUROPARC Directorate and the EUROPARC Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC) in providing strategic and critical guidance of the Transboundary Parks Program and in the animation of the TransParcNet. Our purpose is also to create opportunities to promote and enlarge the program and to increase its visibility towards European and international organizations. To advise and involve other cross-border areas in Europe who are not yet working transboundary and to promote the Transboundary certification.</p>
<p>Links to Strategy What specific area of the strategy this work is linked to?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Transboundary Parks Program (Following Natures Design) is one of the successful and mature programs of the Europarc Federation to be continued and further developed according to the strategic goals of the Europarc Federation Through the Transboundary Parks Program all of the four defined Strategic Goals of the Federation are supported with special reference to the transboundary cooperation of Protected Areas in Europe.

<p>Membership</p> <p>who is membership of the group open to? What kind of expertise or skills are needed.</p> <p>Are representatives from external organizations included, who and why?</p> <p>Please list proposed members and their organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the Task Force are members of the TransParcNet, and are representatives of certified Transboundary Parks (TBPAs) after the Transboundary Parks program or experienced verifiers (both always member of the EUROPARC Federation). - All the certified Transboundary Parks are permanent invited to be member of the Task Force Transboundary Parks. - No external members outside the EUROPARC Federation are involved within the Task Force. - The chair(s) are elected by the members of the Task Force. - All work is done on a voluntary basis. <p>Actual members of the Task Force (February 2022) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - André Claassen, Maas-Swalm-Nette Nature Park, Netherlands/Germany - Daniele Piazza, Veglia Devero Park -Ossola, Italy - David Freudl, Thayatal National Park, Austria - Jakub Kaspar, Krkonoše National Park, Czech Republic - Leo Reyrink, Co-chair, verifier (Germany) - Mojca Smolej, Co-chair, Triglav National Park (Slovenia) - Riina Tervo, Inari-Vätsäri Wilderness Park, Finland - Rolands Auzins, verifier, Latvia - Stefano Santi, Council member Europarc Federation, Italy - Stefania Petrosillo, EUROPARC directorate, Brussel - Tiia Kalske, Ovre-Pasvik National Park, Norway - Ulf Zimmermann, Saxon Bohemian Suisse National Park, German
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<p>What benefits will membership of this group bring to its members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate capacity building between European TBPAs for better communication, the exchange of experience and best practice. - Provide other Protected Areas, already involved in the program, striving to complete the Basic Standards with assistance information. - Better harmonization of management and planning of transboundary Protected Areas. - Preparation and realization of projects dealing with transboundary issues. - Coordination of thematic sub groups which should enable the exchange of experience. - Staff exchanges and study visits, workshops on transboundary issues and meetings of the TransParcNet (organized and facilitated by the members of the Task Force Transboundary Parks). - Publications and information on transboundary issues and projects. - Promotion and lobbying of our cross-border initiatives in to national, international and EU bodies (i.e. Committee of the Regions) in close cooperation with the directorate.
<p>Chair of Group</p>	<p>Co-chairs: Mojca Smolej and Leo Reyriink</p>
<p>Council Liaison</p>	<p>Stefano Santi</p>
<p>Directorate Liaison</p>	<p>Stefania Petrosillo</p>
<p>Term What is the anticipated duration?</p>	<p>The Task Force Transboundary Parks is supposed to be a permanent body as long as the Transboundary Parks program will be implemented. Its compositions can be modified according to the needs and possible turn-over of the representatives of the TBPAs. The 2 co-chairs stay (at least one with experience) in office 2 years and can be re-elected. A revision of the Term of Reference will be done each 3 years, corresponding to the Council renewal.</p>
<p>Outcomes/Results What are the intended results or conclusions of the group?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased quality of the program (by regular revision of relevant documents for the applications and reports). - Increased communication and exchange of information between the members. - Better harmonization of transboundary cross border management, new member, promotion of the TB program, to advice directorate and STEC on TB issues. - Acquisition of new members. All members have renewed. - Increased dialogue with European Institutions and international organizations (IUCN, Green Belt) with events

	<p>participation, written contributions and other possible collaborations.</p>
<p>Outline workplan What do you plan to do and achieve for the period to 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enlarge TransParcNet with at least 1 new TB park per year and to support TBPA's to renew - To continue "mentoring" new possible members in formal and informal ways (parks that are similar, or in the same regions, or with which the members of the task force have relationships and collaborations) - Organize one TransParcNet life meeting per year – workshops and best practice of TB management and solving problems. - Task force meetings with different themes – 3 per year. - Identify cross border problems of and for the members. - At least 1 open webinar per year (EUROPARC webinars) - At least 1 internal webinar per year only for TransParcNet members, devoted to specific topic of interest (e.i. European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation -EGTC) - Continue to collaborate with EUROPARC Sections to promote the program at national/regional level with specific events and webinars in local languages (as done in French and Spanish) - Sub-working groups active on topics specifically important for the network - At least 1 project proposal presented - Candidature of the TransParcNet to the European Citizen Award - Visibility of the TransParcNet and of the Transboundary Program increased at European and international level. Possible participation on alliances (e.i. European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance) and other networks - Specific attention to cross-border Marine Protected Areas and evaluation on if and how to involve them in the program (meetings with managers, webinar)
<p>Challenges and Opportunities what do you envisage being the main challenges to a successful achievement of your workplan and what they opportunities can you take advantage of that would support assist or multiple your efforts.</p>	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings in presence (also in relation to the actual covid pandemic) - Costs of traveling (especially for TB members from Easter-Europe) - Different national legislation in EU and non EU countries - Project funding for a common project on TB issues (a common project is in preparation) <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning from each other – best practice exchange - Growing network for transboundary issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TransParcNet give more opportunity for application to different EU funds; possible project activities for all or some of the members - High interested showed by EU and international interlocutors
<p>Working methods How will the group function? Meetings/online access/F2f etc approx. how many/when How will the group be managed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 3 meetings per year – on line and 2 TB meeting (TransParcNet) in presence: during EUROPARC conferences and during the annual TransParcNet meetings. - Managed by two chairs (agenda, organization of Task Force meeting, reporting), with support of EUROPARC staff and other members.
<p>Reporting How will the group report its work, when and by whom. All working groups will need to ensure their work is recorded in EUROPARC's annual report and may too be subject to technical reports from funders if the work is related to projects or NGO grant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting by co-chairs to Directorate (Stefania Petrosillo) - Task Force meeting reports to the members of the TransParcNet and directorate. - Reports will be available for annual reports and NGOs grant reports
<p>Review How and when will the work of the group be reviewed</p>	<p>End of each year: overview of annual working program for year to end and preparation of annual working program for following year. Involved: all members of Task Force.</p>