

EUROPARC FEDERATION – XXX SECTION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT *EXAMPLE*

PREAMBLE

The EUROPARC Federation was built on the idea to further the conservation of Europe's nature through international cooperation. The idea upon which EUROPARC, the largest association of Protected Areas in Europe was founded, is as relevant today as it was over 50 years ago. As nature knows no boundaries, EUROPARC believes in the principle that the future protection and conservation of nature is better achieved through international cooperation.

As the EUROPARC network has grown and developed, it is now time to renew the organisation to ensure it remains relevant to European issues. Importantly though, it remains to serve its members, who manage all aspects of European Protected Areas through international cooperation. An important part of the EUROPARC Federation are the transnational and national Sections. Sections are created at the request of members and can have various organisational and legal forms. They help to deliver the aims of the EUOPARC Federation and communicate, translate, help, improve and achieve the EUROPARC strategy with the membership as stated in [Article 8 of the Statutes of the EUROPARC Federation](#).

Together we want to ensure that EUROPARC is the strong and united voice for all nature and landscape Protected Areas in Europe. Together we will strive to realise a stronger, unifying EUROPARC network that is able to respond to the current and future challenges of European nature and society.

This agreement underlines and reinforces our collective commitment to find new ways of working together within our organisation for the benefit of the whole EUROPARC Federation.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

The Council, Sections and Directorate agree to work for the benefit of the members and the values of the common [EUROPARC strategy to 2030](#). Underpinning this common agreement of cooperation of the EUROPARC network, are a set of values and principles, agreed in the strategy as the means by which we seek to work together:

A key element of the EUROPARC Federation is bringing a broader European dimension to complement and support national and regional conservation and sustainability agendas. This is supported by the Sections, who can complement the work of the EUROPARC Federation with national and/or transnational expertise and provide a direct link between the EUROPARC Federation and its members in respective countries.

We therefore agree to value:

- the autonomy and diversity of the Sections,

- their experience, and expertise,
- their important role for members on a national and transnational level.

This means that Sections:

- determine their work priorities and tasks independently,
- agree to recognise that they are part of the European network of the EUROPARC Federation,
- support the work of the EUROPARC Federation,
- help to achieve the strategy and the agreed goals and objectives of the EUROPARC Federation (as stated in Article 8 of the Statutes of the EUROPARC Federation),
- strengthen the flow of information, communications and participation between the EUROPARC Federation and its respective members.

The Directorate will:

- support the Sections in implementing the strategy and goals of the EUROPARC Federation,
- communicate regularly priorities, updates and information to Sections.

We all agree to work together to find the most innovative, efficient and effective ways to achieve our common goals and to create participatory structures that enable the expertise of Sections and members alike to be utilised in forming future policies and programmes.

DELIVERING OUR VISION AND GOALS

The EUROPARC network pursues the vision of **Sustainable Nature, Valued by People**, and works to ensure that the value of Protected Areas is recognised at a national level and at the heart of Europe.

With this Partnership Agreement, the Council, Sections and the Directorate of the EUROPARC Federation commit to actively contribute to the implementation of the EUROPARC strategy, goals and priorities, to accomplish that vision.

Together we will seek to:

- **champion the value and benefits of Protected Areas** in response to environmental and societal challenges, including climate change, health, well-being, and the green recovery,
- **look for financing models** that will help Protected Areas and us, as a network, leverage both public and private investments for linked agendas on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as on restoration and conservation of biodiversity,
- **build individual and organisational capacity** to enhance the status of nature on land and sea and people's connection to it,

- continue to **promote sustainable development tools and approaches for people and nature,**
- **encourage peace and mutual understanding among our members and beyond.**
- work with members to **generate collective foresight for Protected Areas policy and practice,** encouraging continual development, stimulating new ways of thinking and learning.

As a family of the EUROPARC network, we stay and stand united as we **strengthen and grow our network. We agree to work together to find the most innovative, efficient and effective ways to realise our common goals and to create participatory structures that enable the expertise of Sections and members alike to be utilised in forming future policies and programmes.**

PILLARS OF COOPERATION

This agreement is a joint commitment by the EUROPARC Council, Directorate and Sections to:

- strengthen the cooperation in developing the work of the EUROPARC Federation,
- share information with regular meetings and exchanges,
- promote and develop joint actions and projects for the benefit of the members and towards the effective implementation of the common EUROPARC strategy.

Following the principles, values and commitments in this Partnership Agreement, yearly meetings between individual Sections and the EUROPARC Directorate will take place in order to align and coordinate tasks, actions and responsibilities to achieve the agreements' aspirations.

For a successful cooperation, the following arrangements are made between the Council, Directorate, and Sections of the EUROPARC Federation:

Information exchange

Exchange of experience and information is fundamental for the EUROPARC Federation.

To support the flow and exchange of information, all parts of the EUROPARC Federation agree on the following:

- **Regular Directorate updates:** The Directorate will provide updates during the biennial meetings, with information regarding ongoing work and current developments, activities, projects and other potentially relevant news.
- **Regular Council updates:** The Section Representative will share regular updates with the Sections concerning the work and current developments, activities, projects and other potentially relevant news of the Council after each Council meeting.

- **Regular Sections updates:** The Sections will share updates during the biennial meetings concerning their main activities and relevant news.

To support the flow of information between Sections and the respective membership of the EUROPARC Federation, the Sections agree on the following:

- **Strengthening the flow of information and communication** between the EUROPARC Federation and the membership by processing, translating, forwarding and disseminating information, calls for participation and newsletters from the EUROPARC Federation, to ensure information and opportunities for members are made accessible and available. Annual campaigns and events like the European Day of Parks and the EUROPARC Conference should be prioritised.
- **Increasing the involvement and participation** of the membership in programmes and activities of the EUROPARC Federation (e.g. European Day of Parks) and in EUROPARC working groups by promoting them to members, and suggesting suitable candidates or inputs, and by functioning as coordination point between members and the EUROPARC Federation regarding any queries of members.
- **Increasing the visibility and stronger involvement** of the membership in the European network, e.g. through joint activities with the EUROPARC Federation, active participation at the EUROPARC Conference etc.
- **Contributing to provide information or experience to EUROPARC's policy and advocacy work and making the best use of policy developments, updates and specific positions** developed by the EUROPARC Federation, aiming to distribute messages with their national authorities.

Strategic meetings

The need to meet, both online and face-to-face, is essential to work together efficiently and effectively, to ensure cohesion of our common work, better planning, and improved understanding of national needs and mutual support.

Therefore, all parts of the EUROPARC Federation agree to the following:

- **Annual meeting between Council, Directorate and Sections,** preferably face-to-face within the framework of the EUROPARC Conference, otherwise online. This will contribute to improve the coordination within the EUROPARC Federation. The Sections agree to try to fit this meeting into their annual schedule and budget.
- **Annual online meeting between all Sections:** At least **three additional online meetings** organised by the Section Representative with the Section Coordinators and the Directorate. This will enable the EUROPARC Federation and Sections to agree to common projects, seek funds, harmonise plans and activities, and potentially avoiding duplication of effort.
- **Annual meeting between each Section and the Directorate and/or the Section Representative:** To ensure the involvement and a sense of belonging

of Sections, an annual meeting between each Section, the Directorate and/or the Section Representative is planned to align and coordinate tasks, actions and responsibilities and to define joint activities (e.g. European Day of Parks, a webinar etc.) for the coming year. Concrete agreed tasks and actions should be written down for reference.

EUROPARC Programmes

The EUROPARC Federation operates a number **of international programmes and initiatives** including:

- [Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas](#),
- [Transboundary Parks Programme](#),
- [Healthy Parks Healthy People Europe](#),
- [Junior Ranger](#) and [Youth+ Programme](#),
- [European Day of Parks](#).

Sections agree to promote the benefits of these programmes to the membership. Council and Directorate will ensure the use of programmes and initiatives are simple, accessible and materials are provided to Sections so that members can see the local, regional and European benefits of engaging in EUROPARC activities.

All use of EUROPARC programmes by members and sections need to have a specific agreement of use with the directorate because of legally binding branding and copyright rules.

Joint activities

To contribute to the relevance of the work and programmes of the EUROPARC Federation, all parts of the EUROPARC Federation commit to work together, to:

- **Align programmes, projects, tasks, and actions:** Individual activities, projects and areas of work of each Section should be compared to the strategy, projects and work plan of the EUROPARC Federation with the aim to identify synergies and points of contacts, deficits and good practice. This will help to align the work of each Section to the strategy of the EUROPARC Federation. Progress and yearly tasks should be noted in the annual meeting between each Section with the Directorate.
- **Design and develop joint activities and projects,** e.g. joint webinars or joint activities in the framework of the European Day of Parks between Sections, members and the EUROPARC Federation strengthen the internal cooperation, exchange and contribute to the implementation of the common strategy and objectives. Content can be discussed in the annual meeting between each Section and the Directorate.
- **Collaborate with Sections and membership in the planning phase and content of the EUROPARC Conferences:** The Directorate recognises the wish of Sections to be more involved in the planning phase and design of the contents of future EUROPARC Conferences. The Directorate will engage with

Sections in the Conference preparation phase to identify relevant good practice and case studies from across the membership. This will ensure the visibility of the expertise we have within our membership and will strengthen participation.

- **Lobbying in the interest of Sections and membership:** The new political strategy foresees that Sections and membership play a greater role in the political work of the Federation EUROPARC by enhancing the role and contribution of Sections to the political work and creating opportunities for direct Section involvement, consultation and feedback.

Appointed contact persons

Clearly assigned roles and contact persons help to clarify responsibilities and duties.

All parts of the EUROPARC Federation therefore agree on the following:

- **Sections** represent the EUROPARC Federation in their respective countries or regions.
- **Section Coordinators:** Each Section agrees to appoint a Section Coordinator, who is the contact person for the Directorate and the Section Representative.
- **Contact Persons at the Directorate:** Contact persons for the Sections are assigned in the Directorate for different purposes, e.g. communication, membership and general issues, in order to facilitate communication and the exchange of information.
- **Section Representative in the Council:** The Sections agree to select a Section Representative from among themselves for a term of 3 years, who is called into the Council as a co-opted member and functions as a link between the Sections and the Council.

We, the undersigned, commit to the fulfilment of this agreement to the best of our abilities, for the benefit of all parts of the EUROPARC Federation, its members and to the achievement of our common vision **Sustainable Nature: Valued by People and championed by EUROPARC members.**

This Partnership Agreement shall commence on the date of signature and shall continue at least until the end of the term of the current strategy of the EUROPARC Federation (end of 2030). After three years, an internal evaluation of the results of the agreement will take place.

Each Section President, the President as well as the Director of the EUROPARC Federation shall sign this Partnership Agreement.

Date and place