

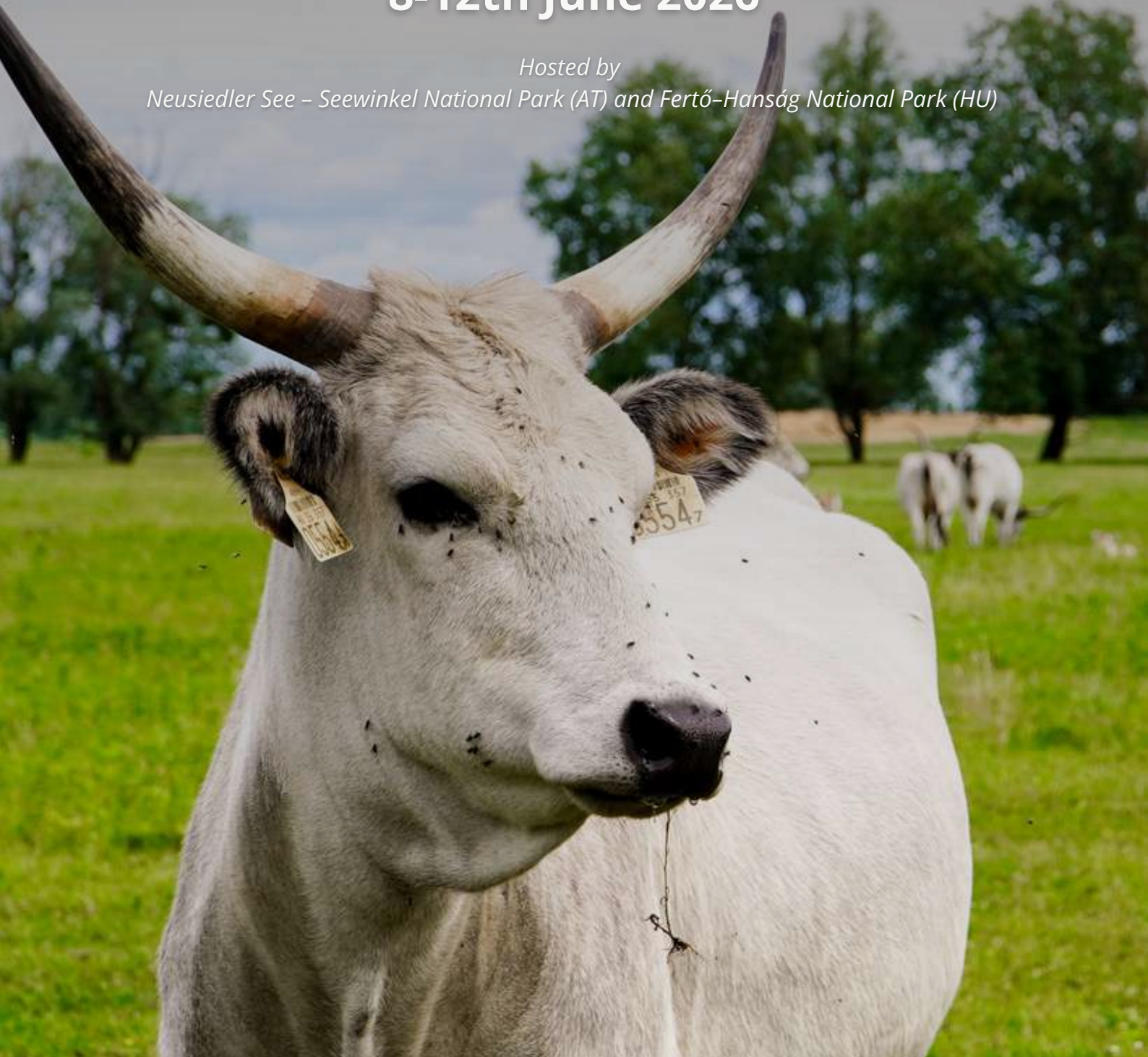
TransParcNet Meeting

Cross-border Grassland Management

8-12th June 2026

Hosted by

Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park (AT) and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU)



Co-funded by
the European Union

GRACE

A GREEN AND RESILIENT BORDER REGION



Foreword

TransParcNet is the only certified network of Transboundary Protected Areas, bringing together Protected Areas across Europe to secure shared natural heritage through cooperation beyond national borders.

From **8–12 June 2026**, the annual TransParcNet Meeting was hosted by Neusiedler See–Seewinkel National Park (Austria) and Fertő–Hanság National Park (Hungary). Set within one of Europe's most valuable transboundary **grassland landscapes**, the meeting focused on how cross-border cooperation and active management can conserve biodiversity-rich habitats. Through expert presentations, field visits and workshops, participants exchanged practical experiences on grassland restoration, traditional grazing, pollinator conservation and collaborative management.

This report captures the key highlights from the meeting, including presentations, field excursions and discussions that demonstrated how **cooperation across borders is essential for protecting Europe's shared grassland landscapes**.

EUROPARC and the entire TransParcNet network extend their sincere thanks to the organisers for their warm hospitality and excellent coordination.

“

“It was my first TransParcNet meeting, everything was new to me, and above all, meeting new colleagues, sharing experiences, and an excellent atmosphere were the greatest takeaways I'm bringing home from the meeting.”

-Participant

[Video summary](#)



[Photo album](#)



Sandra Grego, EUROPARC

Presentation Highlights



The opening presentation introduced the **Interreg Austria–Hungary project GRACE**, the cross-border initiative that made TransParcNet 2026 possible. Running from July 2025 to December 2028, the project brings together Neusiedler See–Seewinkel National Park and Fertő–Hanság National Park Directorate, alongside strategic partners, to **strengthen the conservation of the shared Lake Neusiedl–Fertő landscape through joint research, habitat management and stakeholder engagement.**

A central focus of GRACE is **improving the management of transboundary grasslands.** The project investigates **how different grazing and mowing practices influence biodiversity, including vegetation, arthropods, breeding waders, dung beetles and bats.** By combining **ecological research** with **practical management experiments**, the project aims to **provide evidence-based recommendations** for maintaining species-rich grassland habitats.

Beyond grasslands, GRACE also addresses the **conservation of reed habitats and water dynamics.** Activities include **developing a shared reed classification system, studying the genetics of reed stands, monitoring bird and mammal populations and bringing together existing scientific knowledge.** These findings will support **coordinated management strategies** across the Austrian–Hungarian border, including **harmonised habitat mapping** and **conservation-oriented grazing plans.**

The project places strong emphasis on **communication and capacity building** through public events, training opportunities and educational activities. By combining **scientific research, practical conservation and cross-border cooperation**, GRACE provides a strong foundation for the long-term management of one of Europe's most valuable shared landscapes, while supporting knowledge exchange through initiatives such as TransParcNet 2026.

To request this presentation, please send an email to europarc@europarc.org

Grassland management in Fertő-Hanság National Park

Gábor Takács
Fertő-Hanság National Park

Gábor Takács from Fertő-Hanság National Park presented the park's approach to nature conservation grassland management, demonstrating how centuries of **traditional land use continue to shape one of Central Europe's most valuable grassland landscapes**. His presentation highlighted that many of these habitats are not wilderness but **semi-natural ecosystems** that **rely on ongoing management** to maintain their exceptional biodiversity.

The National Park manages a diverse mosaic of **salt meadows, marshes, fens and wet meadows using extensive grazing and carefully timed mowing**. Rather than maximising agricultural production, these practices are designed to **prevent the spread of reeds and shrubs** while creating a **varied habitat structure** that supports a wide range of plants and wildlife. **Mosaic mowing, appropriate stocking densities and measures to avoid overgrazing** ensure that management benefits biodiversity while minimising disturbance.

A key message was that **active management is essential** because the traditional farming practices that once maintained these landscapes have largely disappeared. Today, the National Park itself carries out much of this work, using native Hungarian livestock breeds such as **Grey cattle, water buffalo and Racka sheep** to recreate the ecological processes that historically kept the grasslands open. These long-term efforts protect habitats for numerous rare plants, birds, insects and other wildlife while **preserving the landscape's cultural heritage**.

The presentation demonstrated that successful grassland conservation depends on **finding the right balance between ecological knowledge and practical land management**. By **adapting traditional practices to modern conservation needs**, Fertő-Hanság National Park provides an inspiring example of how active management can sustain biodiversity-rich grasslands for future generations.

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Grassland management in Neusiedler See - Seewinkel National Park – past, present and future?

Harry Grabenhofer
Neusiedler See–Seewinkel National Park

Harry Grabenhofer from Neusiedler See–Seewinkel National Park explored the past, present and future of grassland management, demonstrating how centuries of grazing have shaped the unique landscapes surrounding Lake Neusiedl. His presentation showed that the **region's species-rich grasslands are the result of a long history of human land use**, with extensive grazing creating and maintaining the open habitats that support exceptional biodiversity.

Tracing the history of grazing from early settlements to the present day, the presentation illustrated how **traditional pastoral practices once dominated the landscape**. As these **practices declined over recent decades, many valuable grasslands became threatened by habitat change and vegetation succession**. This has made **active conservation management** an essential tool for maintaining the ecological character of the National Park.

Today, the National Park **combines grazing and mowing according to the ecological requirements of different habitat types**. A variety of livestock, including **traditional breeds**, are used to **create diverse vegetation structures**, while **long-term ecological monitoring** helps assess the effectiveness of management and guide future decisions. This **adaptive approach** ensures that **conservation measures respond to changing environmental conditions** while protecting the area's rich biodiversity.

Looking ahead, the presentation highlighted both the **opportunities and challenges** of sustaining traditional grazing systems in the future. **Continued cooperation between Protected Area managers, researchers and local land users will be essential** to ensure that these living landscapes remain resilient and continue to support the diverse species that depend on them.

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BEETLES

for

LIFE

*Tiny guardians of
healthy Grasslands*

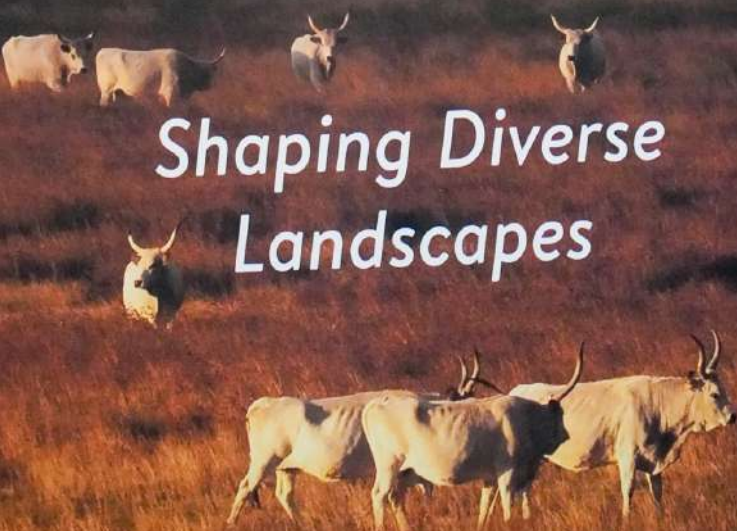


GRAZING

for

LIFE

*Shaping Diverse
Landscapes*

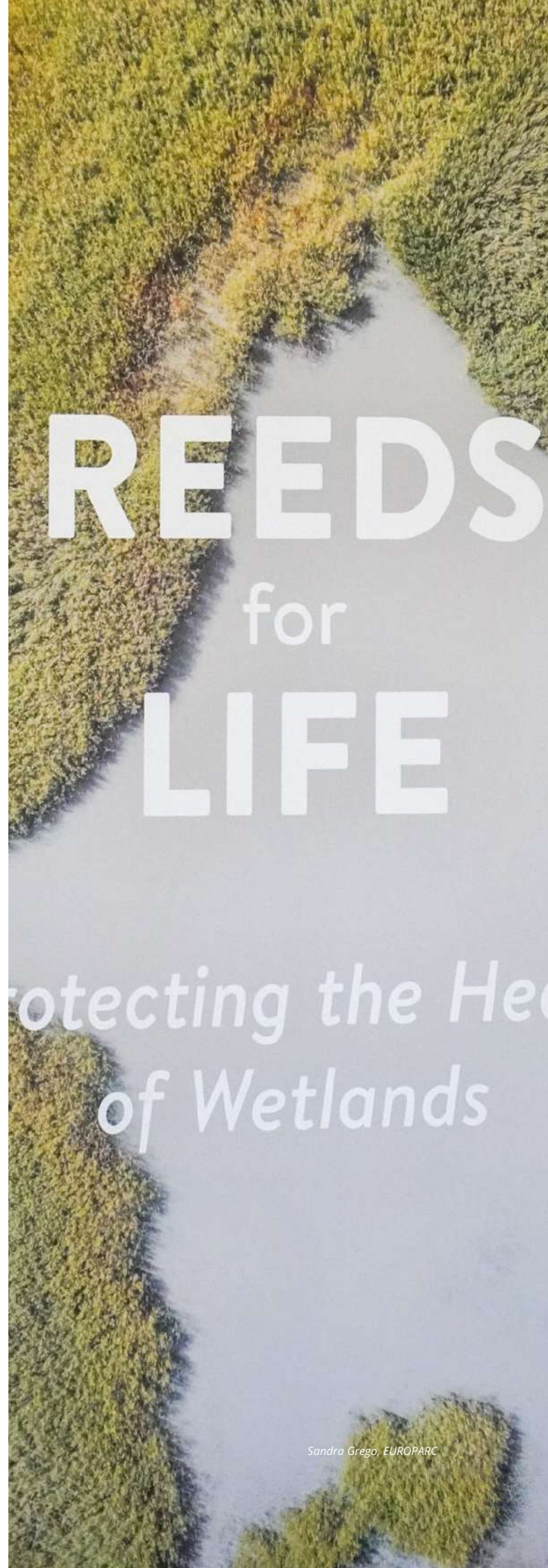


REEDS

for

LIFE

*Protecting the Health
of Wetlands*



Conservation and management of pasture habitats in the Three Nations Pyrenean Park

Marc Garriga Lujan
Alt Pirineu Natural Park

Marc Garriga Lujan, Director of Alt Pirineu Natural Park, presented the conservation approach of the **Three Nations Pyrenean Park**, highlighting **how active pasture management and cross-border cooperation are essential for maintaining the Pyrenees' rich biodiversity and cultural landscapes**. His presentation emphasised that **mountain pastures are semi-natural habitats shaped by centuries of extensive livestock farming and require continued management** to remain ecologically valuable.

The presentation outlined the main pressures facing these landscapes, including the **abandonment of traditional farming, shrub encroachment, climate change** and the **economic challenges** confronting extensive livestock systems. Without grazing and mowing, many of the open habitats that support a rich diversity of plants, pollinators and birds gradually disappear, while the **risk of large wildfires also increases**.

To address these challenges, the Three Nations Pyrenean Park **combines habitat restoration with practical support for local farmers and shepherds**. Through cross-border initiatives such as the **Interreg POCTEFA projects**, partners are **restoring open landscapes, improving pasture management, supporting flower-rich meadows and promoting local agri-livestock products**. These initiatives demonstrate that **biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods can reinforce one another when supported through coordinated management**.

The presentation concluded that **conserving pasture habitats means keeping both landscapes and rural communities alive**. By working across borders and supporting the people who manage these landscapes, the Three Nations Pyrenean Park provides a strong example of how **Protected Areas can safeguard biodiversity while strengthening local economies and preserving a shared cultural heritage**.

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High Mountain Grasslands of Shar Mountain – National Park efforts for conservation and sustainable management

Milorad Andrijeski
Shar Mountain National Park

Milorad Andrijeski from Shar Mountain National Park presented the conservation and sustainable management of the Park's **high mountain grasslands**, highlighting the **ecological and cultural importance** of these extensive pastoral landscapes. Although very different from the lowland grasslands discussed throughout the meeting, the presentation demonstrated that they share a **common characteristic: they are semi-natural habitats that depend on active management and traditional grazing to maintain their biodiversity.**

The presentation outlined the **key pressures** facing these mountain pastures, including **rural depopulation**, the **decline of traditional livestock farming**, **shrub encroachment**, **climate change** and **infrastructure challenges**. As **grazing decreases**, many valuable habitats risk becoming overgrown, **threatening endemic species, pollinators and the ecosystem services** that these grasslands provide, such as **water regulation, soil stability and carbon storage.**

To address these challenges, Shar Mountain National Park is **developing a comprehensive pasture inventory to assess habitat quality, grazing conditions and ecological pressures across the Park**. By **combining ecological surveys, socio-economic assessments, GIS mapping and close collaboration with local farmers and other stakeholders**, the initiative will provide the evidence needed to **develop adaptive management strategies and identify priority areas for restoration**. The inventory also lays the **foundation for future pilot projects, capacity building and cross-border knowledge exchange** with Protected Areas across Europe.

The presentation reinforced that **conserving high mountain grasslands requires more than habitat protection alone**. Long-term **success depends on supporting traditional pastoralism, strengthening partnerships with local communities and applying sound scientific knowledge** to guide sustainable management. In this way, Shar Mountain National Park offers an inspiring example of how Protected Areas can balance biodiversity conservation with resilient rural livelihoods.

To request this presentation, please send an email to europarc@europarc.org

Grassland projects in Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Ana Carvalho

Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Ana Carvalho from the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) ZASNET presented the work of the Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, demonstrating how **cross-border cooperation can support biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and resilient rural communities** across Portugal and Spain. **Covering more than one million hectares**, the Biosphere Reserve provides a **shared framework for coordinating conservation and sustainable development across national boundaries**.

A central focus of the presentation was the **Interreg project ASINIFIRE**, which promotes **donkey grazing as a nature-based solution for managing grasslands and forest landscapes**. By using native donkey breeds to **reduce combustible vegetation**, the **project helps lower wildfire risk while maintaining open habitats and conserving local livestock breeds**. The initiative also **combines traditional grazing practices with innovative approaches such as animal traction for forest management, reducing the environmental impacts of conventional machinery**.

The presentation highlighted that **successful grassland management depends not only on ecological measures but also on strong cooperation with local communities**. **Cross-border partnerships between municipalities, landowners and Protected Area managers have been essential for developing shared grazing strategies, harmonising management approaches and creating new economic opportunities** through sustainable tourism and local products. **Careful biodiversity monitoring** has further ensured that management actions are evidence-based and transferable to other border regions.

Looking ahead, the Biosphere Reserve continues to strengthen its cross-border cooperation through projects that **combine ecological restoration, sustainable tourism, environmental education and innovative monitoring technologies**. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how **integrated landscape management can benefit biodiversity, reduce climate-related risks and support vibrant rural communities**.

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Pilot grassland management measures in tundra habitats

Jakub Kašpar
Krkonoše National Park

Jakub Kašpar from Krkonoše National Park presented the Park's pilot management measures for **alpine tundra habitats**, demonstrating **how climate change and changing land-use patterns are transforming one of Europe's most unique mountain ecosystems**. Through striking historical photographs, vegetation maps and monitoring results, the presentation illustrated how **open tundra habitats have gradually become overgrown by dwarf pine and competitive grasses over recent decades, threatening many specialised alpine species**.

The presentation highlighted that the Krkonoše tundra is far from static. Its **mosaic of lichen tundra, alpine grasslands and flowering tundra supports numerous endemic and glacial relict species, but these habitats are becoming increasingly vulnerable as warmer temperatures, vegetation succession and the loss of traditional management alter the landscape**. Long-term monitoring has documented **significant changes in habitat extent and species composition**, underlining the **need for adaptive conservation measures**.

In response, the National Park has launched a **series of pilot restoration measures that combine mowing, biomass removal and carefully managed short-term cattle grazing** to restore species-rich subalpine grasslands. Rather than attempting to recreate the past, these **interventions seek to slow habitat degradation, maintain open conditions and provide favourable conditions for rare alpine plants**. The measures are closely supported by **ecological monitoring, allowing management approaches to be refined as knowledge develops**.

The presentation concluded that **conserving Europe's mountain tundra will require proactive, science-based management alongside long-term monitoring and collaboration**. As climate change continues to reshape alpine ecosystems, pilot projects such as those in the Krkonoše Mountains provide valuable experience that can inform adaptive conservation strategies in Protected Areas across Europe.

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Conservation of priority grassland habitats in Slovenia through the establishment of seed bank and in situ restoration

Mojca Smolej
Triglav National Park

Mojca Smolej from Triglav National Park presented a national conservation project focused on **restoring Slovenia's priority grassland habitats** through the **establishment of a native seed bank** and **in situ habitat restoration**. **Bringing together conservation organisations, research institutions and Protected Areas**, the project demonstrates how **ecological restoration can reverse the decline of species-rich grasslands while preserving their local genetic diversity**.

The presentation highlighted the growing pressures on Slovenia's high nature value grasslands. **Both agricultural intensification and the abandonment of traditional land management are causing these habitats to disappear, either through intensive use or gradual overgrowth by shrubs and forests**. Historical photographs clearly illustrated how many meadows have changed over recent decades, emphasising the **need for active restoration to maintain their ecological value**.

A central element of the project is the **establishment of a comprehensive seed bank using plant material collected from species-rich meadows across Natura 2000 sites**. These locally sourced seeds are then used to restore degraded habitats through techniques such as **green hay transfer** and **specially developed native seed mixtures**. The presentation showcased several restoration sites within Triglav National Park where degraded **meadows affected by abandonment, erosion and invasive species are being returned to favourable ecological condition** using these methods.

The presentation concluded that **successful grassland restoration requires more than re-establishing vegetation**. By **combining scientific knowledge, practical restoration techniques and long-term conservation planning**, the project helps **safeguard both the biodiversity and genetic heritage** of Slovenia's grasslands while providing approaches that can be applied in Protected Areas across Europe.

To request this presentation, please send an email to europarc@europarc.org

A management mosaic as a tool for the conservation of heathlands in the Podyjí National Park

Zdeněk Mačát
Podyjí National Park

Zdeněk Mačát from Podyjí National Park presented how a **management mosaic is being used to conserve the Park's valuable heathland habitats**. Rather than relying on a single conservation technique, the Park **combines a range of complementary management measures to restore habitat diversity, control vegetation succession and maintain species-rich open landscapes**. This **adaptive approach** recognises that **different habitat conditions require different management interventions**.

The presentation showcased several practical restoration techniques, including **extensive grazing, prescribed burning, turf stripping and the removal of encroaching shrubs and trees**. Each method addresses a specific conservation challenge, whether **rejuvenating ageing heathland, preventing woodland encroachment or creating the varied habitat structure needed by characteristic heathland species**. Together, these interventions help maintain a **dynamic landscape** that supports both biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Particular attention was given to the Park's experience with **prescribed burning**. Following a successful pilot in 2025, the programme was expanded in 2026, demonstrating that **carefully planned and well-controlled fire can be an effective and cost-efficient management tool**. The presentation also highlighted the importance of **close cooperation with fire services, ecological monitoring and public communication** to ensure that prescribed **burning is both safe and widely understood**.

The presentation concluded that **effective habitat conservation depends on combining different management tools and adapting them to local conditions**. By integrating **traditional practices with innovative restoration techniques**, Podyjí National Park provides a practical example of how active management can sustain biodiversity-rich landscapes while responding to changing environmental conditions.

To request this presentation, please send an email to europarc@europarc.org

**Borders separate –
Nature unites:**



Sandra Grego, EUROPARC

Biodiversity without borders: the tale of the teasel bees

Grace Bond
IUCN

Grace Bond from IUCN presented the **implementation of the European Pollinator Action Plans**, using the threatened **teasel bees** as an example of how **targeted conservation can support wider grassland biodiversity**. The presentation highlighted that **pollinators are essential for healthy ecosystems and agriculture**, yet many species continue to decline due to **habitat loss, inappropriate land management and landscape fragmentation**.

Published in 2023, the Action Plans provide **practical guidance for conserving Europe's most threatened pollinator species through research, governance, habitat management and public engagement**. Since 2025, IUCN and its partners have been working to put these recommendations into practice by supporting **research projects, connecting conservation practitioners and encouraging the adoption of effective management measures across Europe**.

The presentation focused on teasel bees, a group of rare wild bees that depend on flower-rich grasslands with suitable nesting habitats. Their specialised habitat requirements demonstrate the importance of maintaining diverse meadow ecosystems through carefully timed mowing, low-intensity grazing and habitat restoration. **Creating areas of bare ground for nesting, improving habitat connectivity and reducing pressures such as pesticide use and land abandonment are all practical measures that benefit both these threatened bees and many other grassland species**.

The presentation concluded by **encouraging Protected Areas and land managers to use the Action Plans as practical tools for conservation**. By **integrating pollinator needs into everyday grassland management and sharing experiences across borders**, Protected Areas can make an important contribution to **reversing pollinator declines while strengthening the resilience of Europe's grassland ecosystems**.

To request this presentation, please send an email to europarc@europarc.org

Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape

Lina Jires-Karner
World Heritage Management, UNESCO

The presentation by Lina Jires-Karner on the Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape focuses on one of Europe's key transboundary UNESCO World Heritage Sites, shared between Austria and Hungary [the location of this year's TransParcNet]. . Inscribed in 2001, the site covers around 750 km² and is recognised for its **Outstanding Universal Value**, combining **exceptional biodiversity with centuries of human interaction that shaped a distinctive cultural landscape**. Its significance lies in the **coexistence of settlements, traditional land use, and ecologically rich habitats such as steppe lakes, saline soils, reed belts, and grassland systems**.

A central message is that the **landscape's value depends on maintaining both its ecological integrity and its cultural authenticity**. This requires **careful management of development, preservation of traditional land-use practices, and protection of visual and spatial coherence across the region**. Because the site spans national borders, **coordinated governance between Austria and Hungary is essential**. This is achieved through **joint institutions, shared management planning, and cooperation between municipalities, Protected Area authorities, and cultural heritage organisations**.

For TransParcNet2026, the case demonstrates **how transboundary Protected Areas can function effectively through integrated governance systems that balance conservation and regional development**. It highlights the importance of **cross-border collaboration, shared standards for planning, and continuous stakeholder engagement**. In terms of grassland management, the site shows how **low-intensity, traditional agricultural practices help sustain high biodiversity while maintaining cultural landscapes**. It reinforces the idea that **grassland ecosystems are not separate from human activity but are shaped and maintained by it over time**.

To request this presentation, please send an email to europarc@europarc.org

Workshop

SAFETY or
TOURIST
(NEAR TO PATH)

Workshop: Best Practices in Grassland Management

As part of the TransParcNet2026 meeting, participants worked in three thematic groups - **mowing, grazing, and alternative/transboundary management approaches** (e.g. prescribed burning) - to identify key challenges, propose practical solutions, and define the conditions needed for successful grassland management across borders.

Across all groups, several common **challenges** emerged. Participants highlighted **insufficient funding, limited staff capacity, fragmented land ownership, legal and administrative barriers, and declining public awareness of traditional grassland management**. Additional concerns included **conflicts between conservation and other land uses** (tourism, hunting, agriculture), **shortages of machinery and skilled personnel, changing legislation, invasive species, water management issues, and the need to adapt management to different habitat types and climate conditions**.

The proposed **solutions** emphasised **adaptive, site-specific management** rather than one-size-fits-all approaches. Participants recommended **dynamic mowing schedules, targeted grazing using appropriate livestock breeds, and alternative methods** such as prescribed burning where suitable. **Stronger cooperation with farmers, increased financial incentives and subsidies, staff training, flexible legislation, improved communication campaigns, and better planning** were identified as essential. Participants also stressed the **value of exchanging knowledge, supporting local markets for grassland products, and sharing best practices across countries**.



The **conditions for success** focused on **long-term collaboration and stakeholder engagement**. Successful grassland management depends on **effective communication** between Protected Area managers, farmers, local communities, scientists, and policymakers. Participants highlighted the importance of **clear legal frameworks, adequate and stable funding, continuous monitoring, political support, education, and building trust with landowners**. **Cross-border cooperation, consistent public awareness, and the exchange of experience** between neighbouring countries were repeatedly identified as key enablers.

Overall, the workshop demonstrated that while the specific management techniques differ, the **underlying success factors are shared: adaptive management, strong partnerships, adequate resources, and learning across borders**.

A more detailed overview of the workshop discussions, including group-specific recommendations and examples of best practices, will be presented in the Best Practise Booklet.



Sandra Grego, EUROPARC

Field Trips



Field Trip 1 – Soda Pans and Sodic Grasslands of the Seewinkel (Austria)

Participants explored the unique soda pans and Pannonian sodic grasslands of the Austrian side of the Neusiedler See–Seewinkel National Park. Travelling by e-bike in small groups, they visited habitats shaped by saline soils and fluctuating water levels, which support highly specialised plant and animal communities. Guided by the Austrian National Park team, participants learned how grazing, mowing and water management maintain these internationally important ecosystems. The excursion complemented the morning presentations by providing first-hand insight into practical grassland conservation, habitat restoration and visitor management. The trip also offered opportunities to discuss management challenges directly in the field while experiencing one of Central Europe's most distinctive landscapes.

Field Trip 2 – Grassland Restoration around Lake Neusiedl/Fertő (Hungary)

This full-day cross-border excursion immersed participants in practical grassland management on the Hungarian side of Lake Neusiedl/Fertő. After crossing the lake by ferry, participants travelled by e-bike to restoration sites around Balf, Hidegség and Borsodi-dűlő, where they observed recent habitat restoration projects, wet meadows managed for *Maculinea* butterflies, and extensive pasture management. The visit to Kócsagvár, the Hungarian National Park Centre, provided additional insight into the park's conservation strategies and ongoing restoration work. Throughout the day, participants exchanged experiences with park managers and discussed how traditional grazing, habitat restoration and international cooperation contribute to maintaining biodiversity across the transboundary Protected Area.



Field Trip 3 – Osli-Hany Grazing Sites and Pastures (Austria & Hungary)



Following collaborative workshop sessions, participants visited the Osli-Hany area to examine active grazing systems and pasture management across the Austrian–Hungarian border. The excursion focused on how livestock grazing is used as a conservation tool to maintain species-rich grasslands and prevent habitat degradation. Guided by local experts, participants explored different pasture types, discussed practical management techniques, and considered the ecological and operational challenges of managing transboundary landscapes. The field visit reinforced the workshop discussions by demonstrating how adaptive management, cooperation between neighbouring Protected Areas, and traditional land-use practices support long-term biodiversity conservation in one of Europe's most important cross-border grassland ecosystems.



Newcomer Spotlight



TransParcNet 2026 welcomed a growing number of newcomers representing emerging and developing transboundary conservation initiatives across Europe. Their participation reflects the expanding reach of the programme and the increasing interest in strengthening cooperation beyond national borders.

We were pleased to welcome **Maria Serocki** from **Unteres Odertal National Park** (Germany), who attended alongside colleagues from the **Polish West Pomeranian Protected Areas**. Together, they are preparing to join the Transboundary Programme in 2027, marking an exciting step towards strengthening German-Polish cooperation within the network.

From Hungary, **Bianka Szakal** of **Őrség National Park** joined the meeting to learn more about the programme and its activities. As a member of the EUROPARC Youth Council and an active supporter of cross-border collaboration with neighbouring Slovenian Protected Areas, Bianka brings fresh perspectives and enthusiasm that we hope will contribute to future Task Force activities and, ultimately, to the establishment of a certified Transboundary Area in the region.

Finally, we were pleased to host three representatives from the **National Parks of Montenegro**, who are initiating transboundary cooperation through **Prokletije National Park** (Montenegro) and **Bjeshkët e Nemuna National Park** (Kosovo). Working closely with colleagues from North Macedonia, they are building a wider network of cooperation across Montenegro, Kosovo and North Macedonia, demonstrating the growing momentum for landscape-scale conservation in the Western Balkans and expressing a strong interest in joining the TransParcNet Programme.



A trophy consisting of a large, orange, diamond-patterned cone with a black silhouette of two hands shaking in the center. The cone sits on a dark wooden base with a gold plaque. To the right of the trophy is a clear glass rectangular block. The background is a blurred wall with some text.

Transboundary Programme Award



During TransParcNet 2026, the **Krkonoše Mountains National Park** (Czech Republic) and **Karkonosze National Park** (Poland) were presented with the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks certificate and commemorative trophies following the formal approval of their re-verification by the Council and the Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC). This recognition celebrates their outstanding commitment to the principles of the Transboundary Programme and acknowledges decades of exemplary cross-border cooperation.

The parks successfully fulfilled **all 14 EUROPARC evaluation criteria**, demonstrating excellence in **joint governance, harmonised management planning, biodiversity conservation, scientific research, visitor management, environmental education, and stakeholder engagement**. The evaluation particularly highlighted their **shared management strategy, innovative joint GIS and data-sharing systems, coordinated monitoring programmes, and strong staff collaboration across the international border**. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, both parks maintained effective cooperation and continued implementing initiatives that strengthened conservation outcomes and public engagement. Their partnership stands as a leading example of how Protected Areas can work together across national boundaries to safeguard shared natural heritage while promoting sustainable tourism, research, and community involvement for the benefit of present and future generations.



Transboundary Parks

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