



**EUROPARC Federation**

**Director Carol Ritchie**



Iceland

Sweden

Finland

Norway

Den.

Ireland

UK

Russia

Germany

France

Ukraine

Port.

Spain

Swi.

Austria

Hungary

Slovakia

Czech Rep.

Bulgaria

Alb.

Greece

TURKEY



Kemeri , Latvia



Cevennes, France



La Albufera Spain



Skaftafell Iceland



Ferto Hansag Hungary



Jostedalsbreen, Norway



Goreme, Turkey



Cairngorms, Scotland



Triglav Slovenia



Piatra Ciaiului, Romania

Europe's protected areas play a vital role in safeguarding the continent's nature, its wildlife and landscapes.

EUROPARC's mission: to facilitate the work of these areas by encouraging cooperation and exchange between protected area staff, and promoting their aims and work across Europe





**EUROPARC is the leading European organisation for protected areas bringing together dedicated professionals, agencies, academics and decision makers.**



**We seek to.....to increase effectiveness in conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage, for the well-being and benefit of future generations**



## Europe's Protected Areas –In Numbers

75,000 protected areas in Europe - 39 countries

810,000km<sup>2</sup> almost 19% of Europe

272 National Parks = 98,000kms.. About 40% are members of EUROPARC

Biggest majority are IUCN Cat V, but 14% are Cat II

Last 10 years Protected Areas in Europe have grown 23% but average dimension decreased....

EUROPARC has certified

77 protected areas in 9 European Countries. They cover 4,6 M hectares, welcome 60 M visitors a year and are inhabited by 75 M inhabitants 266 local businesses have currently been certified under the Charter part II

...and 8 Transboundary areas, with 17 parks from 11 countries.



## Who we are

- The EUROPARC Council
  - and the President, is elected every three years by the EUROPARC Federation's General Assembly
  - is made up of 9 experienced PA professionals from across Europe in the field of protected area management
- The Directorate
  - an international team
  - four members of staff and two interns at the Headquarters in Regensburg, 1 in Brussels and 1 at our Italian Section in Rome
- The Sections
  - 7 active national and regional Sections: Atlantic Isles, Nordic-Baltic, Germany, Italy, Spain, France, and the Czech Republic
- Together we represent over 440 members in 36 countries and offer them a number of exclusive benefits



Pictures top to bottom: EUROPARC Council 2009, EUROPARC Directorate, EUROPARC General Assembly 2010

# EUROPARC strategy - Support for Protected Areas

- **Management of protected areas**

*Contributing to the improvement of effectiveness and efficiency in protected area management in Europe .Lobbying for Protected Area interests*

- **Efficient and representative protected area networks**

*Improving connectivity. Transboundary, Networking practitioners, forming partnerships, working groups*

- **Benefits and values of protected areas**

*European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas*

*Connecting practice and policy in Brussels. The Wild Europe initiative - promoting the value of wilderness and natural habitats*

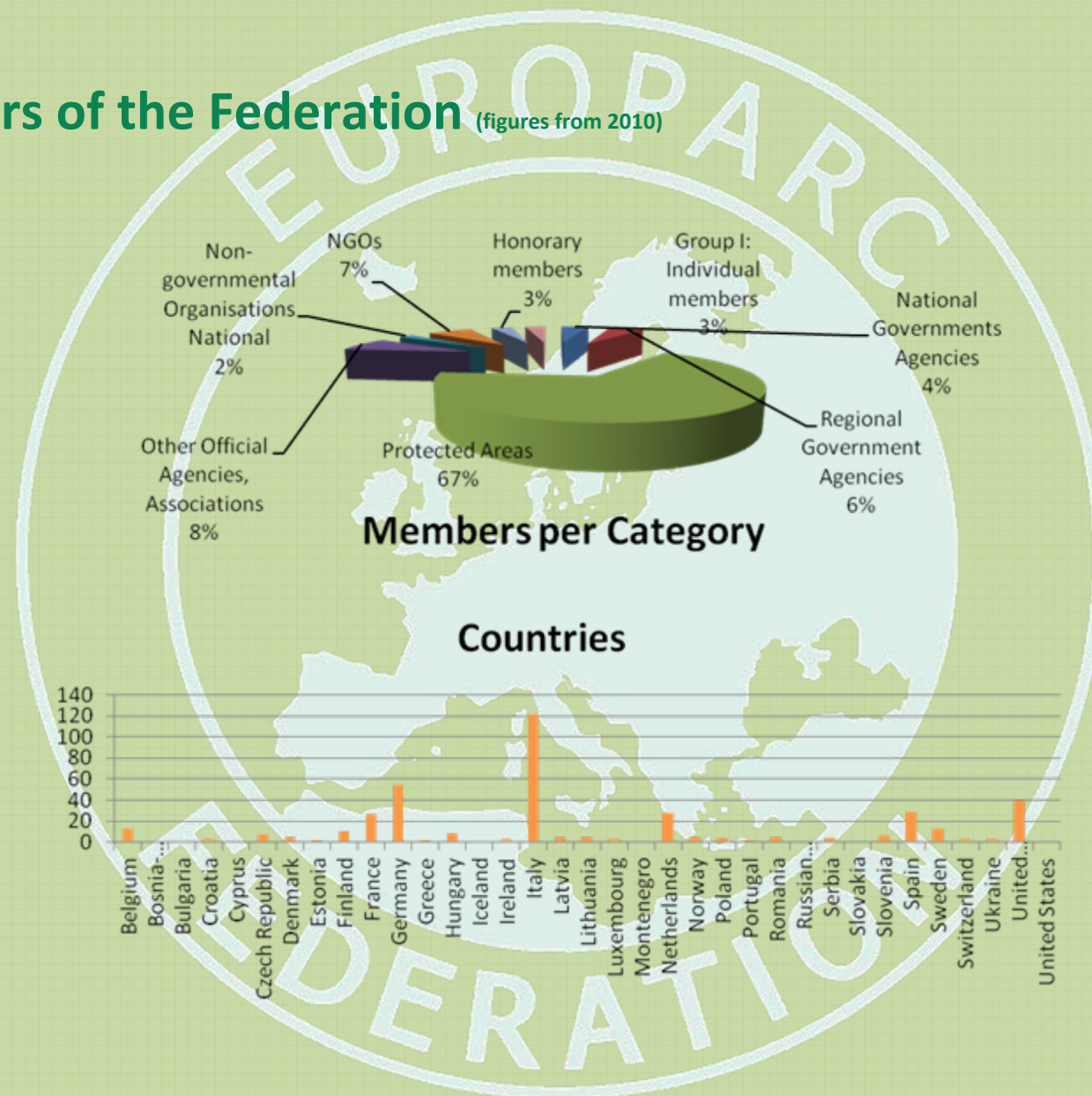
*Health and protected areas, TEEB.*

- **Capacity building, training and education**

*Support for management of protected areas through developing network of skilled professionals, volunteers and young people.*

*Junior Rangers, Working for Nature., Naturegio, Training for protected area staff: Protected areas for a living planet, WWF – Danube Carpathian Programme , Volunteers and leader training*

# Members of the Federation (figures from 2010)





Meeting the Challenge – Partnerships for Park Management

Partnerships across Borders



Transboundary Parks  
EUROPARC

# Transboundary Parks – Following Nature's Design



- evolved from “Parks for Life - Action for Protected Areas in Europe” by IUCN and EUROPARC in 1999
- launched in 2003 at the Fifth World Parks Congress
- innovative and unique system of basic standards
- encourages best practice and facilitates daily cooperation between European protected areas at borders
- The TransParcNet - Unifying ecosystems and people





# Transboundary Parks

EUROPARC



**Pasvik Inari Trilateral Park (FIN / N / RUS)**

**Oulanka (FIN) & Paanajärvi (RUS) National Parks**

**Krkonoše (CZ) & Karkonosze (PL) National Parks**

**Bavarian Forest (D) & Šumava National Parks (CZ)**

**Thayatal (A) & Podyji (CZ) National Parks**

**Neusiedler See (A) & Fertő Hansag (H) National Parks**

**Nature Park Maas S(ch)walm Nette (NL / D)**

**Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps (SLO / I)**



A scenic landscape featuring a river in the foreground, a tree with vibrant autumn foliage in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The text "Mutual understanding" is overlaid in the center.

**Mutual understanding**





Øvre Pasvik  
National Park,  
Norway

A trilateral transboundary park for  
Peace and Understanding

**Vätsäri Wilderness Area.**  
**Finland**



Pasvik  
Zapovednik,  
Russia

•promotion of the nature protection and preservation of the cultural values and sustainable management of the protected areas.

The transboundary agreement is an important means to promote nature protection , environmental education and development of joint research and monitoring programmes through **peace and mutual understanding.**



### Successful outcomes

- Nature tourism facilities and networks between the authorities and various interest groups were developed.
- Nature monitoring, the intensified cooperation led to testing harmonised monitoring methods.
- Communication: - information material about the area was developed.



The principles of EUROPARC's Transboundary Parks is that

**They foster an ecosystem perspective; champion the establishment of green corridors between habitats; promote cross-cultural interaction; support the social and economic well-being of local communities; and encourage parks to raise political support and to promote peace.**

The **GREEN** heart of Europe (Parc)

With apologies to Bayerischer Wald and Sumava