

Being part of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme

The Transboundary Operating Bodies

The verification and certification of Transboundary Protected Areas according to the EUROPARC „Basic Standards“ is currently the only method in Europe which analyses the progress of transboundary cooperation, identifies examples of good practice and encourages the exchange of experience and expertise in this field. There are different operating bodies involved in the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme:

The EUROPARC Directorate

The EUROPARC Directorate coordinates the whole registration and application process. It provides information about the verification system and is in charge of administrating the programme. The EUROPARC Directorate also appoints the verifiers to each applicant entity in coordination with the Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC). It also communicates the outcome of the evaluation and verification process to the applicant parties and is in charge of preparing the Certificates. Together with the EUROPARC Council the Directorate runs the Award of the Transboundary Certificates at the Ceremony in the EUROPARC annual Conference.

Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC)

The EUROPARC Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC) is mandated by the EUROPARC Council to coordinate the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme. Our most experienced members involved in transboundary cooperation, form the STEC. They discuss and agree on proposals regarding the development of the evaluation system to allow the forthcoming of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme. They are also in charge of assessing the verifiers' reports after the on-site visit and make recommendations to the EUROPARC Council on whether or not an applicant transboundary area deserves the Transboundary Certificate.

The EUROPARC Council

The EUROPARC Council is the head of the EUROPARC Federation and has appointed the STEC as a Standing Committee to coordinate the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme. It has the final decision of awarding applicants with the Certificate upon the recommendation of the STEC. The Council may also request further information from the STEC and the verifiers prior to its decision. Together with the EUROPARC Headquarter the Council runs the Transboundary Award Ceremony at the annual Conference.

Verifiers

The Transboundary verifiers are trained in assessing transboundary applications. They carry out the desk evaluation and the on-site visit and are chosen among the leading, internationally recognised European experts on transboundary cooperation between Protected Areas. They are chosen for their experience and their language and communication skills. A verifier assesses the application in a desk evaluation and at the on-site visit. Having independent verifiers raises the transparency of the whole process and enhances the credibility of its final outcomes. For the re-evaluation of a EUROPARC Transboundary Area, one verifier will be appointed, who should be different to that of the first evaluation.

Transboundary Task Force (TBTF)

The Transboundary Task Force is a working group of EUROPARC members for the further development and support of the transboundary work of the Europarc Federation. It is a time and task limited group approved by the Europarc Council. Members of parks already awarded the EUROPARC Transboundary Certificate form the Task Force and bring in their expertise.

The TransParcNet

The current EUROPARC Transboundary Areas build an active network of best practice examples in transboundary cooperation, the TransParcNet. They meet once a year in a different Transboundary Area to exchange ideas, address transboundary issues and get to know other Transboundary Areas. They should also provide technical support to other European TBPAs. The TransParcNet meeting is also open to other people and organisations interested in transboundary work that form not (yet) part of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme. The TransParcNet meeting is organised each year by a different certified EUROPARC Transboundary Area with support from the EUROPARC Headquarter.