EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS



European Tourism Forum

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Olaf Holm **EUROPARC Federation**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY, PROTECTION OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
MEASURES TOWARDS A MORE
SUSTAINABLE EU TOURISM

Introducing EUROPARC

- founded in 1973
- > supporting protected areas to preserve Europe's natural beauty
- > NGO
- ➤ 3 offices : Regensburg, Bruxelles, Barcelona
- oldest and largest Network of **European protected areas**
- > 390 members in 37 countries



FUN

provide opportunities for enjoyable networking experiences. Cultural and professional barriers can be overcome to enable people and organisations to cooperate better together.

RESPECT

for each other, for cultural differences, people in the landscape and for the intrinsic value of nature.

SHARING

experiences, knowledge, ideas, best practise.

LEARNING

new skills, how to manage nature and sustainable development.

COOPERATING

with each other, on projects, to develop and innovate for Protected Area management, to conserve nature and promote sustainable development.

SUSTAINABILITY

to consider the impact of our operations on the environment and to ensure we make sustainable choices whenever possible.



EUROPARC PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE COOPERATION

1. Environmental education and capacity building





















ATTRACTIF NETWORK ALL OVER EUROPE



ATTRACTIF TOURISM DESTINATIONS PROTECTION (BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPES, HERITAGE)

1993 : LOVING THEM TO DEATH



PRESSURE > OPPORTUNITY
FACE ALLONE > POTENTIAL TO WORK TOGETHER
TOURISM : GOOD FOR PARKS, GOOD FOR PEOPLE







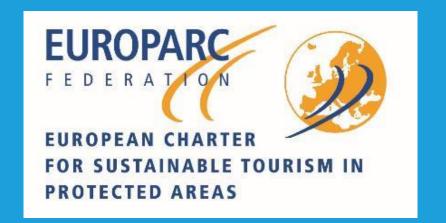


EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS (ECST)

A practical management tool that enables

Protected Areas to develop tourism

sustainably, 5 Principles for 3 levels



I. Strategy
II. Local businesses

III. Working with tour operators

Share a common vision about sustainable tourism

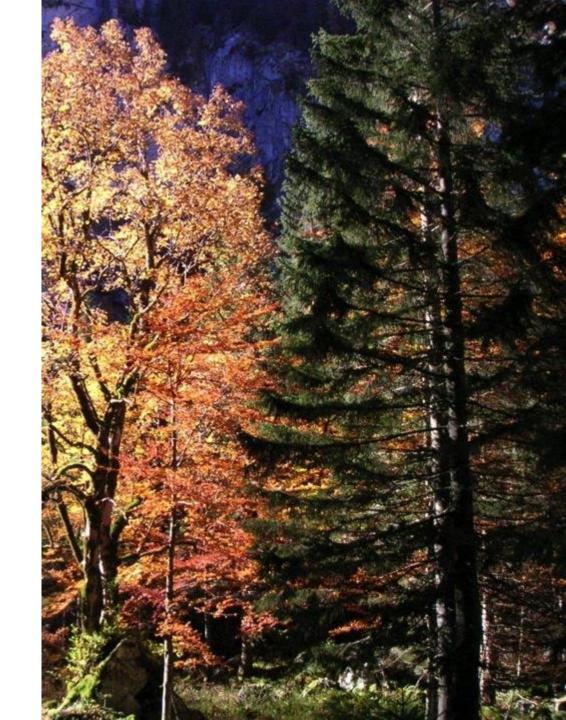
2017: 164 Charter areas
in 20 European
countries

PRINCIPLES & change the point of view!

- 1. Giving priority to **protection**
- 2. Contributing to sustainable development
- 3. Engaging all **stakeholders**
- 4. Planning sustainable tourism effectively
- 5. Pursing continuous improvement



Quality Sustainable Tourism will be good for Parks and good for People



COMPONENTS: talk together, plan and do monitoring!



Strengthen relations with local tourism stakeholders and the wider tourism industry

Bring measureable economic, social and environmental benefits from well-managed sustainable tourism



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

FOR BUSINESSES



Strengthen the relationship with the Protected Area Encouraging customers to respect the environment in their actions on the property and in nature



Engaging in energy and water saving activities



Using environmentally friendly products Reducing, recycling and managing waste



Promote the work with the protected area to develop the activity and attract visitors (quality)



56 M people

live within one hour of areas managed under sustainable tourism principles. The potential to communicate positive sustainable and conservation message is huge!

In average 1,16 M people / area



M people

live inside protected areas where tourism is managed sustainably. These are budding sustainable development Ambassadors of the future!

In average 97 304 people / area

Learning Lessons



learn yearly about how protected areas manage these places sustainably

In average

28 648 educational visits / area

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS mean in numbers?

EUROPARC's European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in protected areas builds partnerships to improve sustainable development and the management of an area's natural and cultural heritage

What does

700 Til

local products are supported by parks and businesses operating under sustainable tourism principles. Bringing local products and traditions to tourism marketplace

Hundreds of species and habitats are managed and protected within the Charter areas

our hands

protected under European law are managed by parks with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. Europe's nature is safe in Charter park hands.

Size in average

how sustainable tourism can work in practise.

In average 1.5 M visitors / park

visit European Charter parks annually. A great audience to see

Asset 11 M visit

3 206 organisations

in partnership to deliver sustainable

tourism and nature conservation.

73 M people

across Europe are working

are made to parks committed to making sure conservation and sustainable development are managed with community participation. Visitors are a great asset for the economy and as future nature protectors.



In average

Audience Participation

61 local organisations / area

are invested by Charter protected areas





441 M €uros



In average

to accomplish their sustainable tourism actions. A real commitment to words turned into actions 9 M €/ park/ 5 year plan 1.8 M €/ park/ 1 year that will make a long term difference to how nature and sustainable development are managed.

Size in average 94 265 ha /park

is protected areas where tourism

and conservation is being managed sustainably

hectares of land in Europe

hectares of land cover

the protected areas in Europe that have been certified with the Charter for sustainable tourism

Charter Part 1 in France. Develop hiking trails to discover the environment



The discover trails in the Parc naturel regional de la Montagne de Reims!







Develop the offer with local communities to link people to their heritage



Charter Part 1 in France. Discover a Park with public transports



"La ligne de bulles", the Montagne de Reims by train!



- Promote public transports
- Propose an offer to discover cultural
 & natural sites in a new way
- Connecting people and stakeholders
- Improve access for everyone





METHODOLOGY

TO BECOME A CHARTER PARTNER THE BUSINESSES NEED TO:

- Fulfil access requirements (legality, environmental regulations)
- Develop a self-assessment (sustainability)
- Implement basic actions of sustainability (compulsory)
- Define and implement an action program for the next three years.
- Sign a collaboration agreement with the Charter Park

VOLUNTARY BASIS

¿COSTS?

NOT A NORMALIZED CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

NOT A TOURISM BRAND

Charter Part 2 in Spain. Working with partners



METHODOLOGY

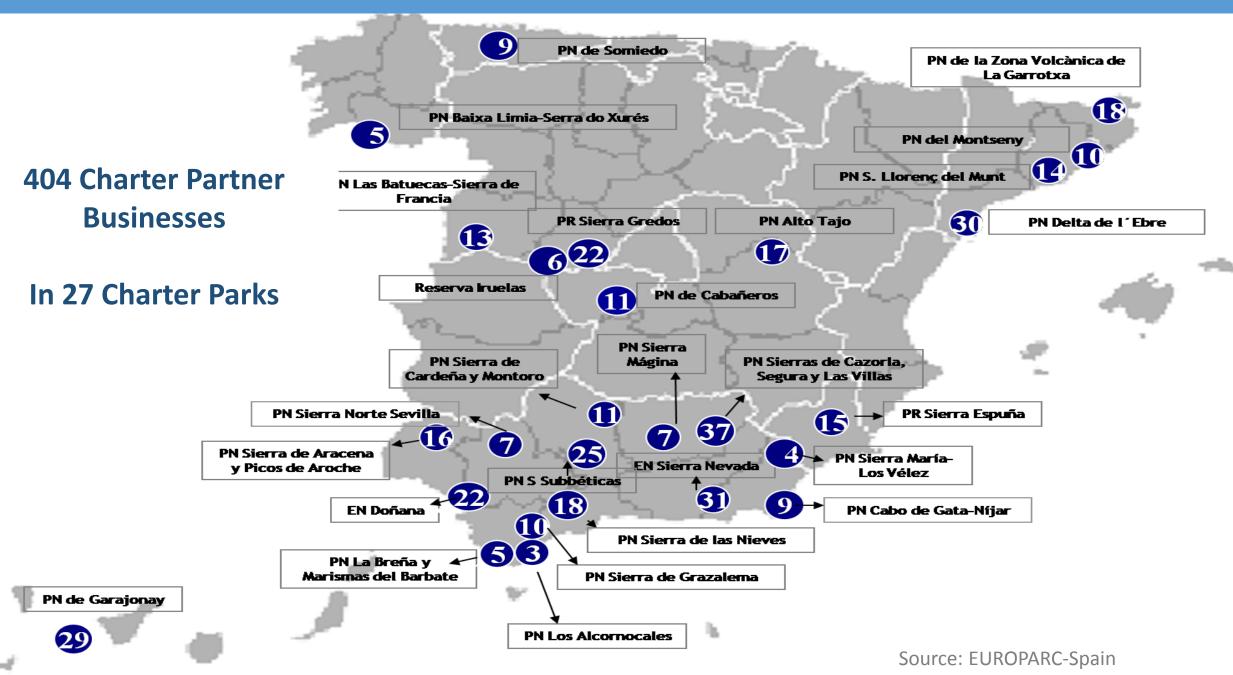
Block I: Improving your services and relating your offer to the park

Block II: Improving your environmental management

Block III: Supporting local development and heritage conservation

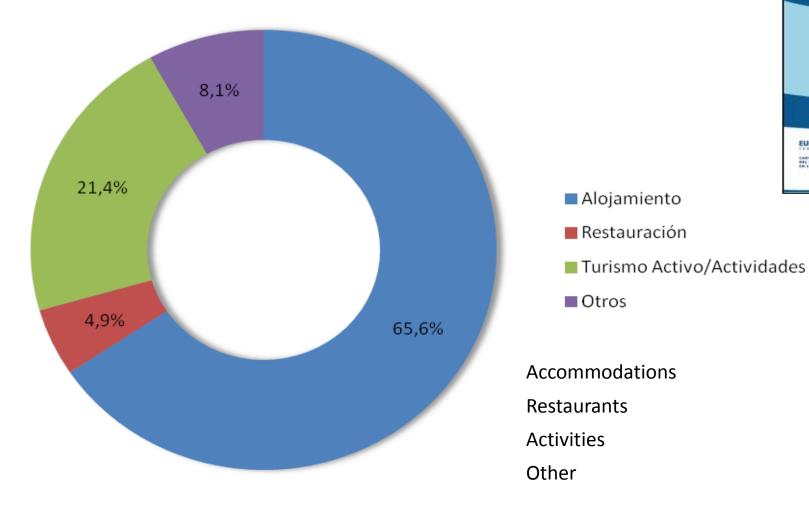
- 1.1. Understanding your market and the tourist demand of your destination
- 1.2. Enhancing your tourist offer
- 1.3. Effective and sensitive promotion
- 1.4. Working together with other businesses of your protected area
- 2.1. Saving energy
- 2.2. Saving water
- 2.3. Cutting waste
- 2.4. Minimising pollution
- 2.5. Responsible consumption
- 2.6. Environmental management certifications
- 2.7. Involving your staff and clients in your environmental management
- 2.8. Contributing to biodiversity conservation
- 3.1. Supporting the local economy
- 3.2. Influencing visitor movements and behaviour
- 3.3. Managing your grounds and property respecting the local environment
- 3.4. Supporting local causes
- 3.5. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

RESULTS - CHARTER PARTNER BUSINESSES IN SPAIN



RESULTS - CHARTER PARTNER BUSINESSES IN SPAIN

Type of tourism businesses







Source: EUROPARC-Spain



CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION

- 100% of the Charter businesses meet the requirements of protected areas in terms of their location and their
- **1,500 actions** that contribute to biodiversity conservation through actions to improve information about the park, awareness of visitors, projects for biodiversity and landscape conservation, etc.



Charter Part 3 in France. Sustainable Tour Operators bringing visitors to protected areas.

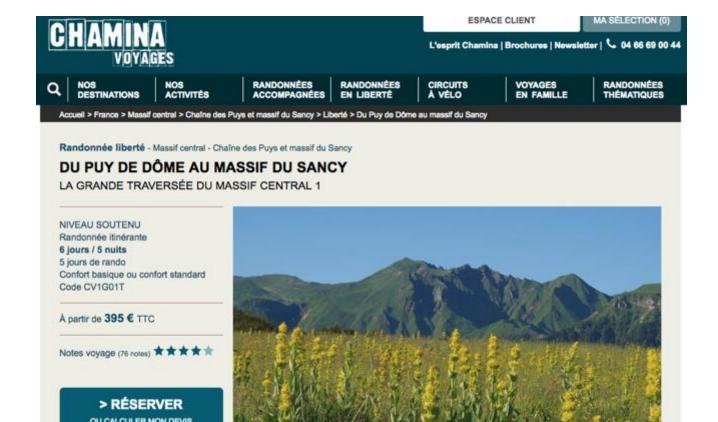


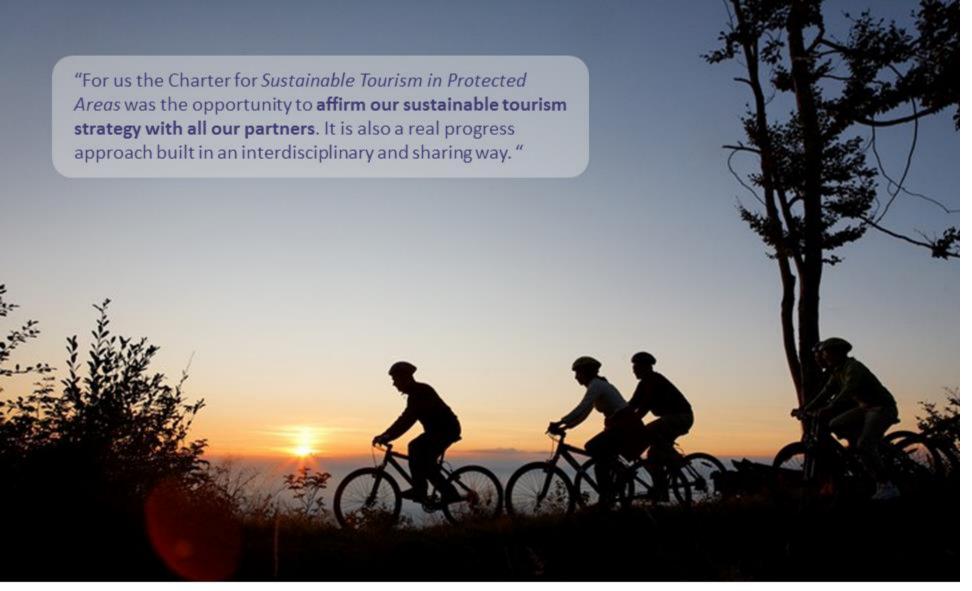
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PROMOTE THE OFFER OF THE CHARTER PARKS

- New experience since 2014 in France
- 10 Parks work with 15 Tour Operators (certification)
- 85 offers (packages) were co-constructed
- 2500 clients (2015)
- Turnover 950 000 € (2015)







#SustainableDestinations

Parc naturel régional Livradois-Forez France

Photo: Park Archive



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!





"We are all tourists somewhere!"

Know and accept each other for a better understanding, exchange to improve and share common goals, propose new ways of thinking by implementing all the actors, a key for sustainable tourism in protected areas!

Together for good quality tourism in protected areas