PROGRAMME

Society and Protected Areas 2020

Protected areas for human well-being

EUROPARC ESPAÑA

PROGRAMME 2020 SOCIETY and PROTECTED AREAS

In memory of Salvador Grau Tort (1963-2016)

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PRESENTATION

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South-East Regional Park.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

Protected areas are the cornerstone of nature conservation and can be considered part of the natural capital of our territory by providing their ecosystems and biodiversity with essential services for human well-being. In Spain, more than 27% of the land area and about 8% of marine areas are dedicated to conservation through more than 1,900 natural spaces (15 national parks, 150 natural parks, 273 reserves, 344 natural monuments, 56 protected landscapes) and everything that constitutes the European Natura 2000 network and internationally protected areas.

The ecosystems represented in the extensive network of protected areas contribute not only to greater biodiversity in Europe, but also to clean water and air, employment opportunities associated with sustainable tourism and agricultural and fishing practices, privileged places for research and education, for rescuing and preserving local ecological knowledge and spaces for physical and spiritual health, an essential legacy for today's society and for generations to come.

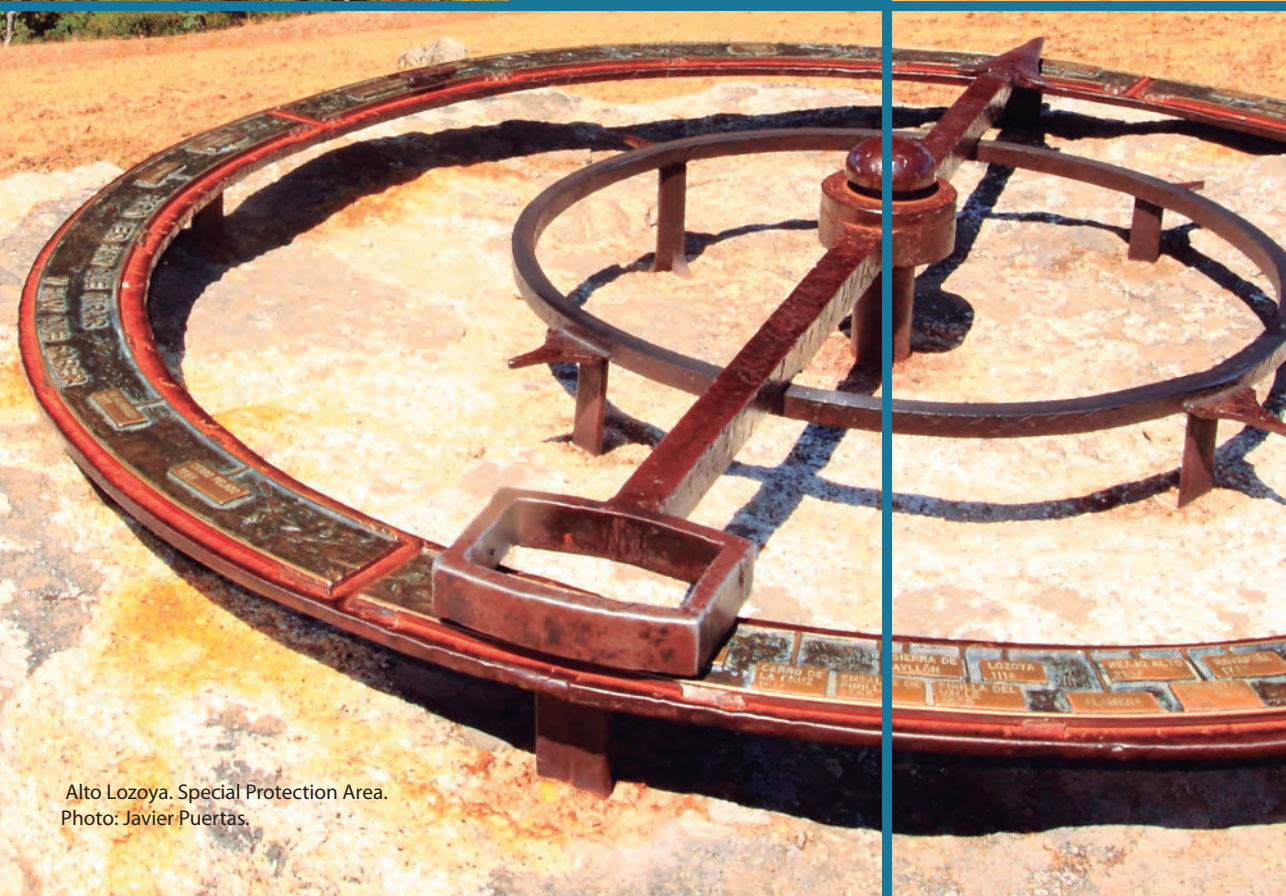
In recent years we have witnessed an exponential growth in the number of protected areas, covering almost a third of Spain. New needs have arisen from a context of profound socio-economic and socio-ecological changes that require, more than ever, an adaptive process of action to improve the role of protected areas in a modern and advanced society like what our society must be.

The Society and Protected Areas Programme 2020 is the strategic document that EUROPARC-Spain promotes through a call to action. This Programme is the result of years of debate within the EUROPARC-Spain organisation, a professional forum created in 1993 to share experiences aimed at improving protected areas in Spain which involves administrations responsible for their planning and management and the active participation of more than 1.500 professionals. Since the 2002 Action Plan, collaborative work to improve the effectiveness of protected areas has been our hallmark, advancing in the development and application of conservation tools for sustainable tourism, offering opportunities to improve the training of professionals and the incorporation of interdisciplinary scientific knowledge, where the partnership with the Foundation has been key.

Despite this progress, there are signs that we risk losing the achievements of the past 20 years if we do not take significant steps as soon as possible. Public administrations, guarantors of the fulfilment of commitments acquired during almost a century of history of protected natural areas in Spain, are not the only calls to action. Diverse social groups and professionals are also placed to promote this Programme to effectively broaden the perspective of the social value of protected areas. Conservation organisations, researchers from different natural and social disciplines, organisations linked to the primary sector, local institutions, journalists, entrepreneurs, in short, people and entities committed to a more sustainable world for present and future generations. The necessary changes require new as yet untried formulas, of solid and cohesive long-term partnerships.

The implementation of the Programme aims to be an example of application of fundamental cross-cutting principles: environmental ethics, solidarity and social and intergenerational equity, transdisciplinarity and collaborative work.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME AND WHY NOW?



Alto Lozoya. Special Protection Area.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

The EUROPARC-Spain Assembly of members approved in January 2014 the guidelines for the next work programme. The experience of the two previous strategic plans (2002 Action Plan and the 2009-2013 Work Programme, see EUROPARC-Spain 2002 and 2009) showed that work based on technical needs remains vital: the preparation of 12 thematic manuals are just one example of the organisation's great collaborative work and their usefulness for the day-to-day work of people who devote their efforts to improving the effectiveness of protected areas.

But this technical work must be accompanied by other actions which, at various levels and with different actors, help increase the visibility of the importance of protected areas for society.

Therefore, and in line with European and international policies (European Strategy 2020) (Convention on Biological Diversity), this Programme identifies specific priorities for improving the role of protected areas for Spanish society. The Programme sets very ambitious but achievable goals, if there are enough partnerships to work collaboratively. 2020 will be only a milestone along the way that will allow us to assess the scope of the achievements made.

This document is the result of many work meetings involving people with a lot of experience in planning, management and research. It sets out present and future needs based on more than 20 years' experience and on changes already detected and those envisioned in the medium term.

The document begins with an introductory chapter that places special emphasis on the role that protected areas have not only as key tools for biodiversity conservation, but also for human well-being. This chapter summarises conceptual developments internationally and provides the context for the commitments linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The second chapter summarises the analysis of the achievements and challenges for protected areas in Spain. This preliminary analysis provides the basis for the general framework for the implementation of the Programme, identifying the cornerstones on which it is implemented, the cross-cutting principles and the 8 strategic lines of action, as well as the mechanisms for its implementation.

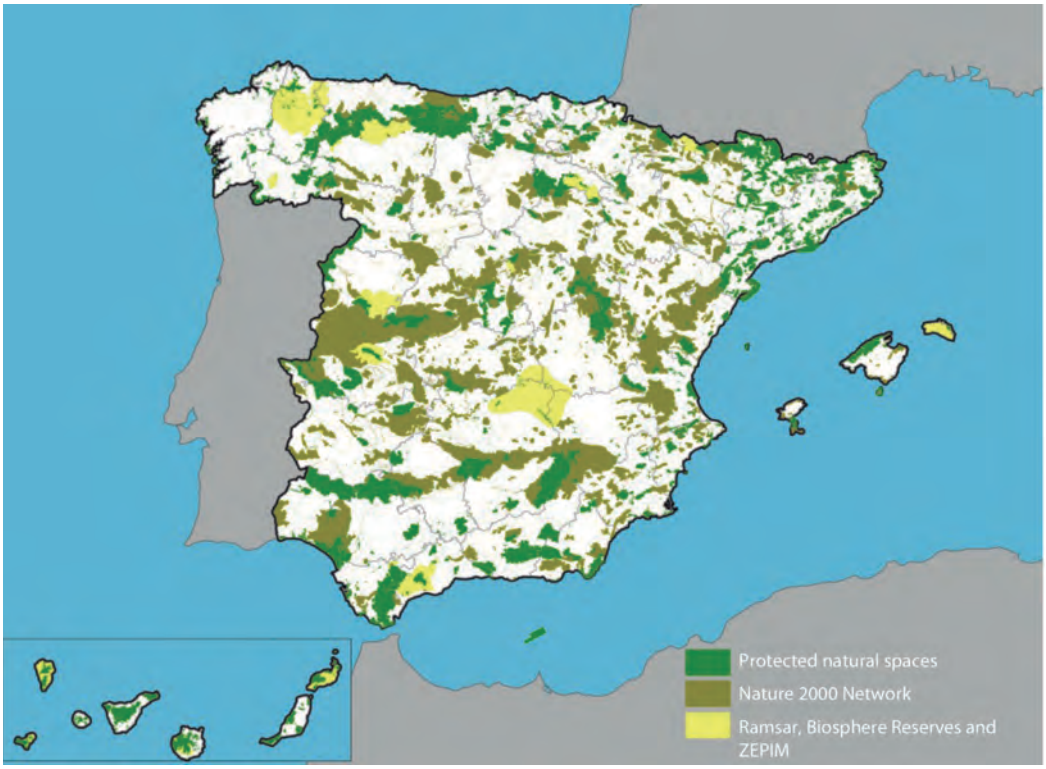
Each line of work is presented through the medium term goals (2020), with examples of types of general actions proposed during the process of preparing this document. These actions should be implemented through specific projects and actions.

As the emphasis of this Programme is on a call for action, a special effort will be made to compile projects underway and promote initiatives that will be posted in a prominent place on the web-site and which will be added to like an open catalogue (see Annex for standard form).

The document also includes a glossary of terms and a reference bibliography.

The Society and Protected Areas Programme 2020, promoted by EUROPARC-Spain starts with a diagnosis of the current situation in the whole of Spain: it looks at how to enhance achievements made and how to tackle challenges identified so that the principal nature conservation tools, protected areas, contribute effectively not only to the conservation of ecosystems and their biodiversity through their intrinsic values, but also through their ability to generate services critical to human well-being (instrumental values).

Legal, institutional, scientific, public and political support is fundamental to achieve the complex challenges that lie ahead. In addition, new formulas are needed to improve management models in broader contexts that help us to count on the support of an informed, committed and mutually responsible society.



More than 27% of the territory of Spain is included in the Natura 2000 Network, the common European policy on nature conservation. This is contributed to by protected natural spaces (national parks, natural parks, nature reserves, natural monuments, protected landscapes and other regional spaces), from whose long history of management important lessons have been learned to make progress with current challenges.

RECONNECTING NATURE AND SOCIETY: PROTECTED AREAS FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING

Sierra de Guadarrama National Park.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

The number and extent of protected areas has grown exponentially in the last decades of the 20th century and the first of the 21st century. From 3% of the land area in the 1960s we have gone to about 15% with more than 217,000 protected areas worldwide (IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, 2016).

Originally designed as tools for nature conservation, their social and economic functions have grown in recent years, generating new expectations not always accompanied by the support and capacities necessary to achieve their objectives effectively. There are global studies that point to a significant short fall in effectiveness: only between 20% and 50% of protected areas are effectively managed (Watson et al., 2014). Among the causes of low effectiveness are insufficient resources (due to their effect on effective law enforcement, active management or maintenance of infrastructures), plus poor quality of governance and inefficient bureaucracy in many areas, political corruption and armed conflict in many parts of the world.

The very idea of the functions of protected areas has evolved since the 1960s, in effect overlapping the application of different management models according to how links between nature and society are perceived (Mace, 2014).

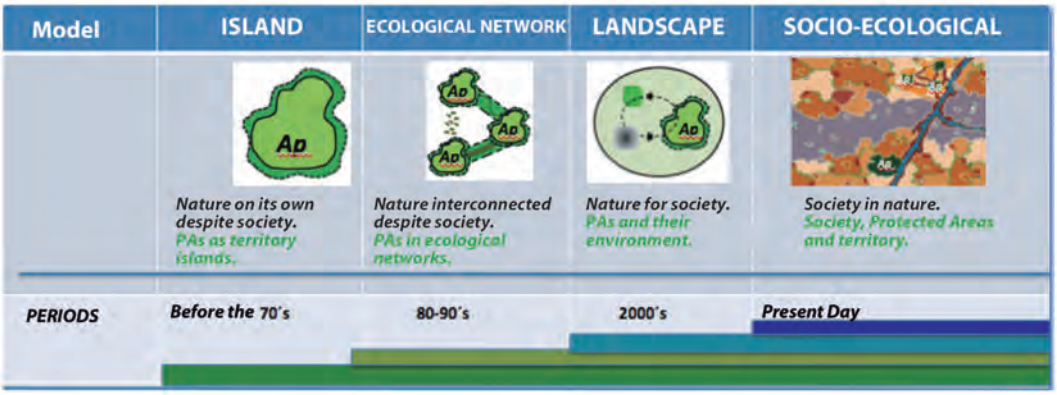
From the nature conservation model per se, where protected areas are conceived as exceptional enclaves for the conservation of iconic species and landscapes, to a model that has gradually incorporated the role of society, the importance of ecosystem services (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005) and the socio-ecological perspective to integrate protected areas as an essential tool in integrated territorial planning. Protected areas tend to cease to be an end in themselves, becoming an essential tool in territorial planning (Palomo et al., 2014; Montes and Palomo, 2015).

The review of the themes covered in the world parks congresses, events organised every 10 years by the world body of reference in conservation of nature, IUCN, also reflects this evolution. The first congresses focused on the figure of national parks under the islands model, before moving on to considering protected areas in the context of sustainable development and its close relationship with society from the 4th Congress held in Caracas in 1992. The Durban Congress (2003) incorporated social equity and in Sydney (2014) the implications of climate change and human well-being were added.

Protected areas are essential not only for conserving biodiversity, but for human well-being through the services provided by their ecosystems and the biodiversity they provide.

Protected areas are not ends in themselves, they are tools to achieve territorial sustainability objectives and therefore biodiversity conservation.

Protected areas are necessary, but not sufficient, to halt the loss of biodiversity throughout the territory.



The protected area is a concept in transition as evidenced when analysing its evolution in relation to changes in the perception of nature conservation; from the initial model of protected areas such as islands in the territory, to their full integration into the territory conceptualised as a socio-ecological system or socio-ecosystem (society and protected areas for human well-being). Source: Modified from Montes and Palomo, 2015.

Evolution of the topics addressed in the IUCN World Parks Congresses. Source: Minutes of the world congresses held from 1962 to 2014.

IUCN World Parks Congresses	Temas abordados
I Congress, 1962, Seattle, USA	Focused on the promotion of the North American model of national parks. Human impacts on wildlife, species extinction, the economic benefits of tourism and the challenges for the management of national parks were discussed.
II Congress, 1972, National parks of Yellowstone/Grand Teton, USA	Centenary year of the world's first national park, the Congress addressed the effects of tourism, planning and management, social, scientific and environmental problems in parks in tropical, arid and mountainous regions.
III Congress, 1982, Bali, Indonesia. National parks and protected areas, social and economic development support.	The focus of national parks is broadened due to their difficult application in many parts of the world. The integration of conservation in sustainable development is addressed. Emphasis is placed on the need for detailed information for management, the challenge of achieving a representative global system of land and marine areas, the relationship with sustainable development and interaction with traditional societies.
IV Congress, 1992, Caracas, Venezuela. Parks for Life: enhance the role of protected areas in sustaining society.	With the motto "Parks for Life: enhance the role of protected areas in sustaining society", managers of protected areas and other public and private sectors participated for the first time. It was stressed that conservation objectives require more management intensity, broader programmes of cooperation with scientists and integration in regional policies. A 1992-2002 Plan of Action was established, with a specific one for Europe (IUCN, 1994).
V Congress, 2003, Durban, South Africa. Protected Areas: Benefits beyond borders.	Emphasis on the benefits of conservation beyond the administrative boundaries of protected areas. The Durban Agreement includes measures to improve the effectiveness of management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, governance, the role of indigenous communities, boosting funding and involving youth.
VI Congress, 2014, Sydney, Australia. Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions.	How to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the challenges of climate change, contribution to human health and well-being, social benefits linked to ecosystem services, integration in territorial planning, diversification of governance models, traditional knowledge, incorporation of new generations and the development of professional skills to face new challenges?

Despite the efforts made in the planning and management of protected areas and achievements accomplished, global biodiversity continues to deteriorate. Only 2 of the 15 indicators used to measure trends towards conservation of the biodiversity goal for 2010 were positive (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010), one of which is coverage of protected areas.

The new targets for 2020, the Aichi goals, contain one directly related to protected areas, but it is important to bear in mind all the goals set (Box 1).

> Goal 11: "At least 17 percent of land and inland waters and 10 percent of marine and coastal areas, especially those of particular importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through systems of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and are integrated into the wider land and marine landscapes".

To support the development of these goals, in 2012 the IPBES platform (www.ipbes.net) was created under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its goal is to strengthen the scientific-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services in order to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, human well-being and sustainable development.

Its main functions are to identify and prioritise the necessary scientific information and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge; regularly assess knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem services; support the preparation and implementation of policies through the identification of relevant tools and methodologies; and prioritise capacity building needs.

Furthermore, and in the framework of Programme of Work on protected areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the scientific and technical advisory body recommended to the Conference of the Parties to increase awareness of the benefits resulting from the implementation of said Programme on health, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The new United Nations agenda has established 17 Sustainable Development Goals, two directly related to nature conservation. They are as follows:

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar Regional Park. Photo: Javier Puertas.

Box 1. *Aichi goals for biodiversity to be achieved by 2020. Source: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

Strategic objective A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by incorporating biodiversity across government and society

Goal 1. People will be aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and sustainably use it.

Goal 2. Biodiversity values will have been integrated into national and local development planning and poverty reduction strategies and processes and will be integrated into national accounting systems, as appropriate, and reporting systems too.

Goal 3. Incentives, including biodiversity-damaging subsidies, will be eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity will have been developed and applied in accordance with the convention and other relevant international obligations, and in harmony with them, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.

Goal 4. Governments, enterprises and stakeholders at all levels will have adopted measures or implemented plans to achieve sustainability in production and consumption and will have maintained the impacts of the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits.

Strategic objective B: Reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Goal 5. The rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, will have been reduced by at least half and, where feasible, reduced to a value close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation will have been significantly reduced too.

Goal 6. All stocks of fish and invertebrates and aquatic plants are managed and cultivated in a sustainable and lawful manner and using ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are established for all exhausted species, fishing activities do not have significant detrimental impacts on endangered species and vulnerable ecosystems, and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Goal 7. Areas for agriculture, aquaculture and forestry will be managed in a sustainable manner, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity.

Goal 8. Pollution, including that produced by excess nutrients, will have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Goal 9. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction will have been identified and prioritised, priority species will have been controlled or eradicated, and measures to manage the pathways of introduction will have been established to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Goal 10. By 2015, multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems affected by climate change or ocean acidification will have been minimised in order to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic objective C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Goal 11. At least 17 percent of land and inland waters and 10 percent of marine and coastal areas, especially those of particular importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through systems of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and are integrated into the wider land and marine landscapes.

Goal 12. Extinction of identified endangered species will have been avoided and their conservation status improved and sustained, especially for the most declining species.

Goal 13. The genetic diversity of cultivated plant species and farm and domesticated animals and related wild species, including other species of socio-economic and cultural value, is maintained and strategies developed and implemented to minimise genetic erosion and safeguard their genetic diversity.

Strategic objective D: Increase the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services for all.

Goal 14. Ecosystems that provide essential services, including water-related services, that contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being have been restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, local and indigenous communities and the poor and vulnerable.

Goal15. The resilience of ecosystems and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon sinks will have been increased through conservation and restoration, including at least 15 percent of degraded lands, thus contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as the fight against desertification.

Goal 16. By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on "Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization" will be in place and in operation, in accordance with national legislation.

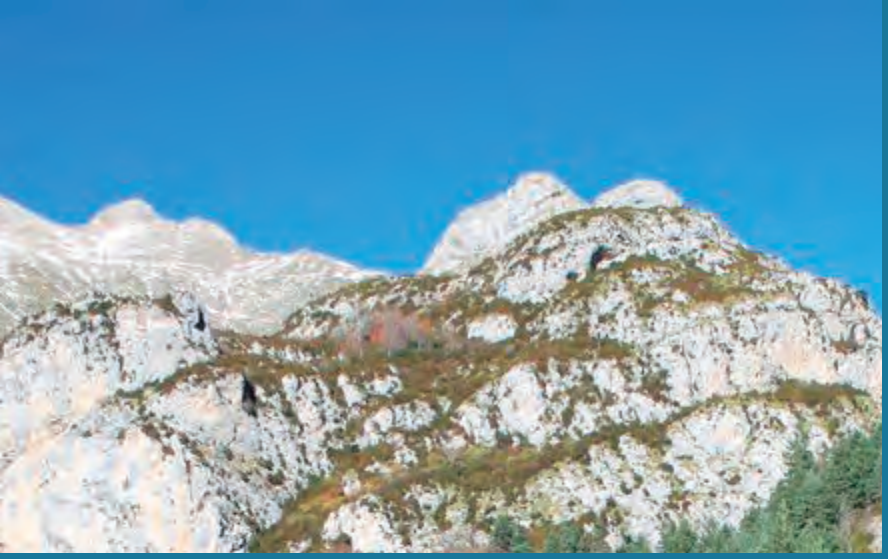
Strategic objective E: Improve implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Goal17. By 2015, each Party will have developed, adopted and started implementing an effective, participatory and up-to-date biodiversity strategy and action plan as a policy tool.

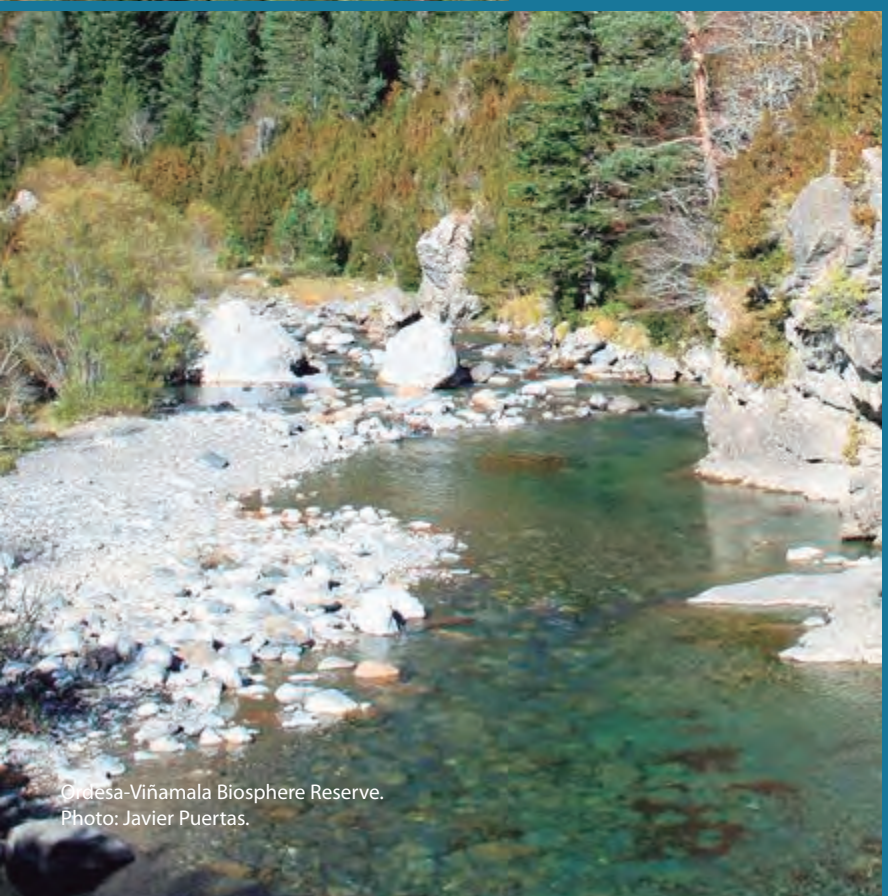
Goal18. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and their customary use of biological resources are respected, subject to national legislation and pertinent international obligations, and are fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of local and indigenous communities at all relevant levels.

Goal 19. Progress will have been made with the knowledge, scientific basis and technologies for biodiversity, their values and functioning, their status and trends and the consequences of their loss, and such knowledge and technologies widely shared, transferred and applied.

Goal 20. The mobilisation of financial resources to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the process consolidated and agreed upon in the Strategy for resource mobilisation should substantially increase in relation to current levels. This goal will be subject to change based on the evaluations of the necessary resources that the Parties will carry out and report.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES



Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

Spain shares many of the achievements and difficulties identified internationally. Its geographic location between Africa and Europe, its cultural diversity, its long history of land occupation and landscape modelling, along with its administrative complexity, is also reflected in the current situation of the protected area system. The analysis of the recent history of protected areas in Spain reflects the opportunities (Box 2), and their positive and negative aspects (Box 3).

Among the most positive aspects, which should be further developed, is the role that protected areas have played in protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, their landscapes and biodiversity, and as a consequence, the rich and varied flow of services that largely determine human well-being.

Protected areas have contributed to the conservation of biodiversity by preventing the deterioration of valuable or unique ecosystems, increasing the size and viability of populations of endangered species, and preserving services of economic interest (supply of timber or species of commercial interest related to logging or fisheries).

Today we can state that the most emblematic areas of the Spanish territory, which have been subject for decades to notable impacts and threats, have been essentially safeguarded by the declaration of protected areas, contributing not only to biodiversity conservation but also to human well-being through the services provided by the ecosystems they host. But protected areas are also areas of special social relevance, highly valued for their important use for leisure to the point that their benefits are beginning to be linked to the maintenance of health and other components of the well-being of society.

They are also dynamic elements of the social and economic fabric, particularly tourism. Their role as "exciting territories", spaces from where entrepreneurial projects that add socio-economic value to the territory are promoted, is also recognised.

Protected areas have proven to be good instruments for environmental awareness, communication and consciousness, helping to improve social partnership and participation processes. They are also privileged places for improving interaction between the world of research and decision-making.

After several decades of management, some protected areas have been able to equip themselves with management teams, integrate into consolidated administrative structures and acquire the ability to influence environmental policies, especially the majority of national parks and some natural parks (see EUROPARC-Spain Yearbooks since 2002).

In contrast to these achievements, the principal difficulties arise largely from unresolved structural problems. Despite the efforts of recent years, the implementation of planning and management tools has not been completed and new financing mechanisms have not been developed. In terms of the design of the protected spaces networks, the isolation and small size of many areas jeopardises their actual functionality in the medium and long term. Considering the territory in which they are inserted and the set of policies that affects them, insufficient integration in the planning tools of the territory and coordination with other sectoral policies or between different administration levels is common, all of which vital aspects for achieving the ambitious objectives of the protected areas.

In addition to their essential role for the conservation of biodiversity, protected areas benefit cultural services by improving health, social relations and social cohesion, generating spaces for intergenerational meetings that facilitate the recovery of local ecological knowledge, the meaning of belonging to the place and the enhancement of cultural heritage.

In many cases there has been little capacity to integrate local populations in the collective project that involves the declaration of a protected area, leading to conflicts that have generated distrust and should be avoided by improving mechanisms for participation and co-responsibility.

In addition to this, there is a lack of resources, especially in recent years, which in many cases has greatly hindered the development of the most basic actions in protected areas (monitoring and conservation actions). This is compounded by the challenges arising from the progressive expansion of objectives related to public use and socio-economic development, all within a context of global change, which increases the need for improvement, expansion and diversification of technical capacities and governance models.

Box 2. *Current opportunities: building on achievements made.*

• The ecosystems and biodiversity of Spain (its natural capital in terms of human well-being) are a social and economic asset to which 15 national parks, 150 natural parks, 273 nature reserves, 344 natural monuments, 56 protected landscapes, up to a total of more than 1,950 protected natural areas, among other places, all contribute.

• More than 27% of Spanish territory is included in the European Natura 2000 network. Spain is the European country that contributes most to the network as a whole.

• In recent years progress has been made in the declaration of marine spaces, going from less than 1% to about 8%.

• Spain is the country with the most Biosphere Reserves in the world, 48 in total. The Biosphere Reserve model, where the core areas are usually protected areas, are references for socio-economic development that is respectful of the workings of nature.

• 73% of the territory above 1,500 metres is protected, contributing to the conservation of essential and strategic regulation services such as erosion control and water regulation.

• 64% of the protected area is forests which are units that supply essential services for human well-being related to climate regulation, carbon storage and improvement of air quality.

• About 70% of wetlands, 63% of marshes and 14.3% of the river network have some designation as protected natural space, contributing to the conservation of what are considered the most threatened ecosystems in the country.

• Marine protected areas help increase the diversity and abundance of species, many of which are of fishery interest, and are very fragile and critical ecosystems for food supply and regulation services such as carbon storage or coastal erosion protection.

• Protected natural areas receive at least 21 million visitors a year, generating local employment in areas frequently economically depressed by rural abandonment.

• There are more and more protected spaces and companies, including travel agencies, committed to the quality of the tourism product. There are already more than 400 companies in Spain endorsed with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in protected natural areas.

***Box 3** . Positive and negative aspects related to protected natural areas in Spain. Source: Summary of conclusions of the most recent EUROPARC-Spain congresses.*

	NEGATIVE ASPECTS
ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION	Pressures that threaten the conservation of biodiversity persist. Knowledge gaps (especially in the marine environment). Insufficient development of systems for monitoring and evaluation of results.
TERRITORIAL DIMENSION	Incomplete representation (especially river, coastal and marine ecosystems). Insufficient territorial integration and coordination of sectoral policies. Lack of connectivity. Incomplete development of planning tools.
ECONOMIC DIMENSION	Isufficient social support (lack of integration of local knowledge, insufficient participation, perception of legal imposition). Little development of agreed management formulas. Lack of incorporation of intangible assets.
SOCIAL DIMENSION	Dependence on usually insufficient public budgets. Low use of other economic instruments, particularly taxation. Lack of training in technical teams to attract private funding.
POLITICAL DIMENSION	Low greening of sectoral policies. Insufficient municipal involvement. Conflict over areas of competence, coordination difficulties. Lack of relevance in the political agenda.
INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANITATIONAL DIMENSION	1.- Precariousness in management teams. 2.- Very rigid administrative mechanisms. 3.- Lack of inter-administrative coordination. 4.- Institutional framework not adapted to working with private partnerships. 5.- Bias towards regulatory tax instruments rather than agreed ones. 6.- Insufficient monitoring (particularly in marine areas) in times of economic crisis. 7.- Insufficient transfer of knowledge from research to management.

POSITIVE ASPECTS	
Habitats and species that would have disappeared or been degraded without protected areas have been conserved. Populations of threatened species or of special interest have been recovered.	ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION
They are effective tools for avoiding processes of irreversible land use (control of urban processes). They are core areas for connectivity in ecological networks.	TERRITORIAL DIMENSION
They are communication and awareness tools that promote conservation. They contribute important intangible assets and make for a healthier society. They help maintain traditional uses and knowledge.	ECONOMIC DIMENSION
They add value to the territories and support socio-economic development, tourism promoters linked to the natural and cultural values of the territory. Economic analysis with a broad perspective.	SOCIAL DIMENSION
Support from environmental groups and the scientific world. Spaces to improve scientific and technical knowledge. At certain times and in certain places, it has been a priority policy for conservation.	POLITICAL DIMENSION
Human teams with great work capacity, vocation and specialised technical training. Legal bases, planning and management tools of great potential and scope. Consolidated legal framework adequately structured at European level. Success stories and set of demonstrative good practices.	INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANITATIONAL DIMENSION

LINES OF ACTION AND MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Alpes-Maritimes Natural Park (Italy).
Photo: Santos Casado.

To promote the full potential of protected areas as tools for the conservation of nature in a broad sense, and therefore reinforce their role as tools for human well-being, the Society and Protected Areas Programme 2020 proposes 8 strategic lines of action resulting from a shared analysis in recent years.

The development of these lines of action will help advance in **3 major challenges:**

1. Incorporate the planning and management of protected areas as essential tools of the comprehensive planning of the territory.
2. Recognise protected areas as key territories for the well-being of society, thanks to the services generated by their ecosystems and the biodiversity they maintain.
3. Improve the management of protected areas from an interdisciplinary perspective which incorporates scientific knowledge from the integration of biophysical and social sciences (sustainability sciences).

In each strategic line the medium-term goals are set. These are deliberately ambitious but achievable goals, if there are enough partnerships to work collaboratively. 2020 will be only a milestone along the way that will allow us to assess the scope of the achievements made. In each line there are examples of actions to be promoted from the competent administrations and various interested public and private entities.

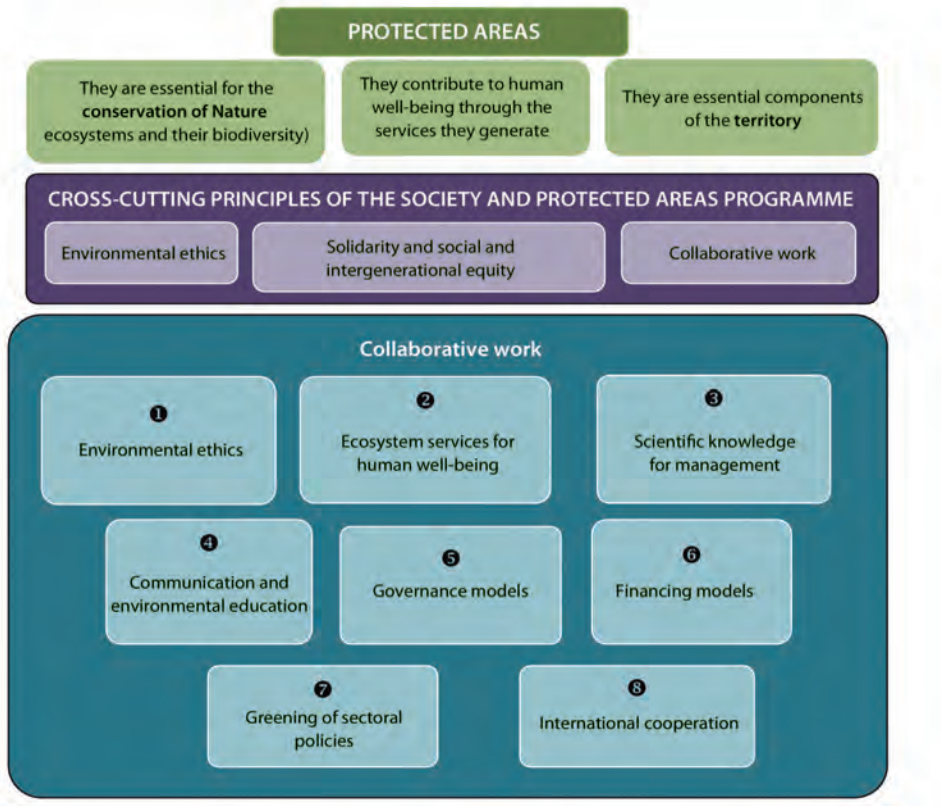
Partnerships are vital for the development of the strategic lines. In addition to continuing to carry out collaborative technical work, the key to EUROPARC-Spain's more than 20 years of experience, promoting the exchange of experiences and technical cooperation to solve the management challenges of protected areas, it is necessary to establish partnerships with diverse sectors to promote joint actions.

Programme 2020 is a call to ACTION to:

- Demonstrate the benefits of protected areas to society.
- Involve society to know and enjoy the tangible and intangible heritage of protected areas.
- Improve the management of more than 27% of the protected land area and 8% of marine land in the context of global change.
- Increase professional skills in the face of new challenges.
- Inspire more sustainable, equitable and supportive management formulas.

Mechanisms for implementing Programme 2020 include:

- Interdisciplinary work groups.
- Information and training actions.
- Exchange programmes.
- Pilot projects.
- Participation in sectoral forums.
- Compilation of inspiring cases (see Annex), live observatories, as demonstrative examples in the areas of conservation, socio-economic development, tourism associated with natural and cultural values, etc.
- Dissemination of all actions to reach the maximum possible audience.



General diagram of the Society and Protected Areas Programme promoted by EUROPARC-Spain.


JORNADA


NATURA 2000

1 INTEGRATION OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE TERRITORY

Lagunas de Laguardia Special Conservation Area.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

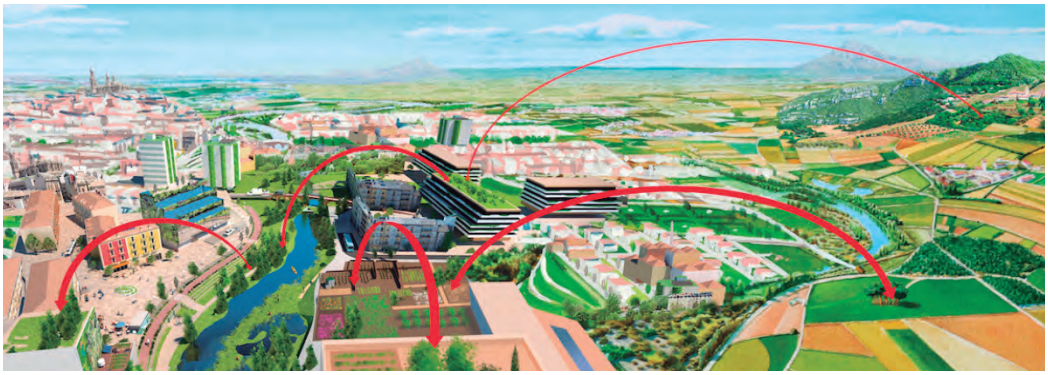
The protected area system must be effectively integrated into the territorial matrix, protecting key areas linked to the provision of ecosystem services, improving socio-ecological connectivity, developing planning tools that help build sustainable and resilient territories. The protection of marine ecosystems should continue to be promoted.

Goals for 2020:

- Protected areas are recognised as essential elements in territorial planning and are effectively integrated into regional planning tools.
- The demonstration effect of protected areas as management models respectful of the workings of nature in the whole territory is promoted.
- Integrated coastal areas management is the model to be promoted, including local ecological knowledge and, particularly, good practices in artisanal fishing.
- Management structures are adapted to territorial socio-ecological realities.
- Protected areas constitute the essential structural parts of the ecological networks of the territory connected with the urban green infrastructure to favour urban-rural integration.
- The Biosphere Reserve model, conceived as an integrative, dynamic and flexible model of regional planning, which highlights the cultural and identity of the population, is promoted.

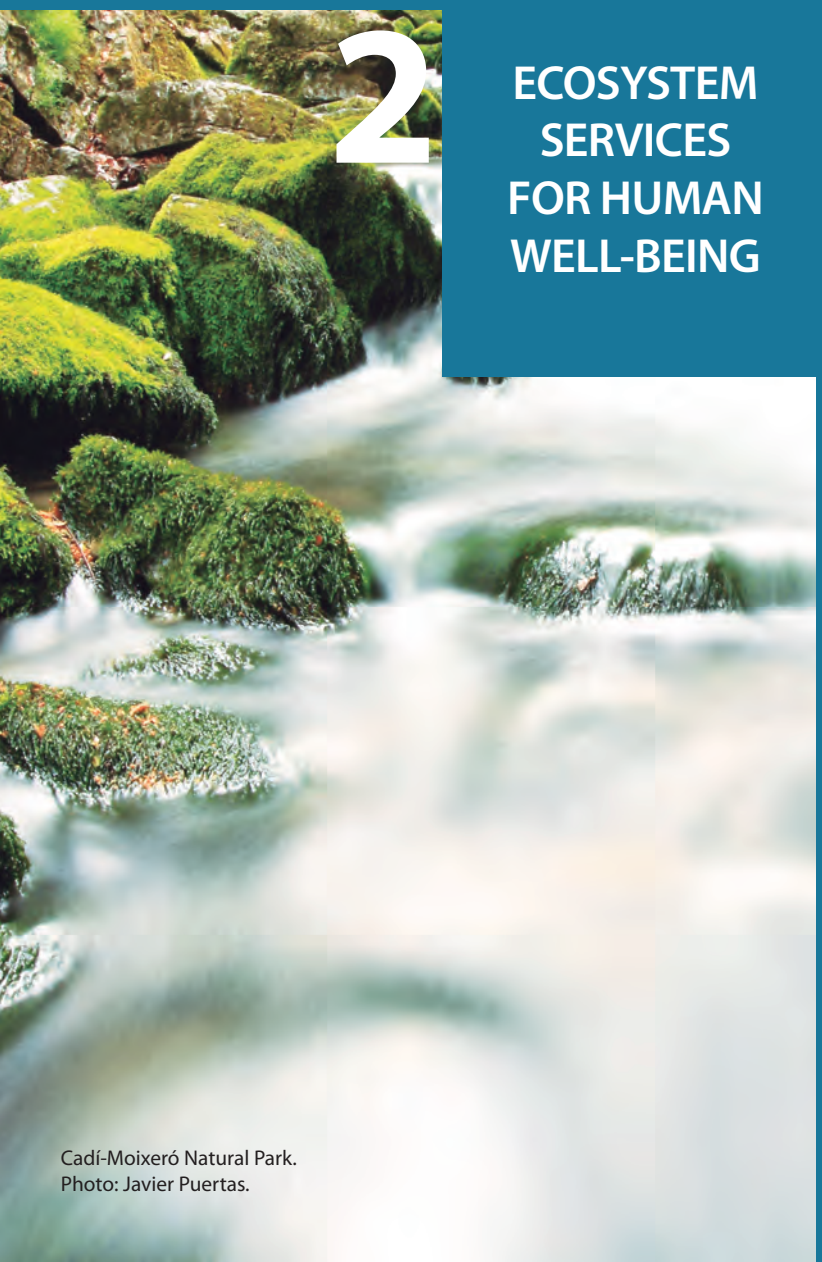
Types of actions:

- Develop tools for planning protected area systems and wider planning strategies at the eco-regional level.
- Develop partnerships that strengthen nature-society relationships to help reduce territorial imbalances.
- Incorporate protected areas as key elements of the ecological networks interpreted from a legal point of view as green infrastructure.
- Develop projects that integrate peri-urban areas as essential elements in urban-rural integration.



If protected areas are not part of the territory, who protects the protected areas? Source: UNIA Manifesto. 10th International forum knowledge for change. June 2014.

2 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING



Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

Protected areas are key to society because the ecosystems they protect, and their biodiversity, provide a range of supply, regulation and cultural services for the human well-being of local populations and society in general.
Support for the production of local products, conservation of local ecological knowledge, a sense of belonging to the place and conservation of the intangible heritage, the development of actions related to health and environmental education are beneficial lines of work not only for the conservation of biodiversity, but for the well-being of society.

Goals for 2020:

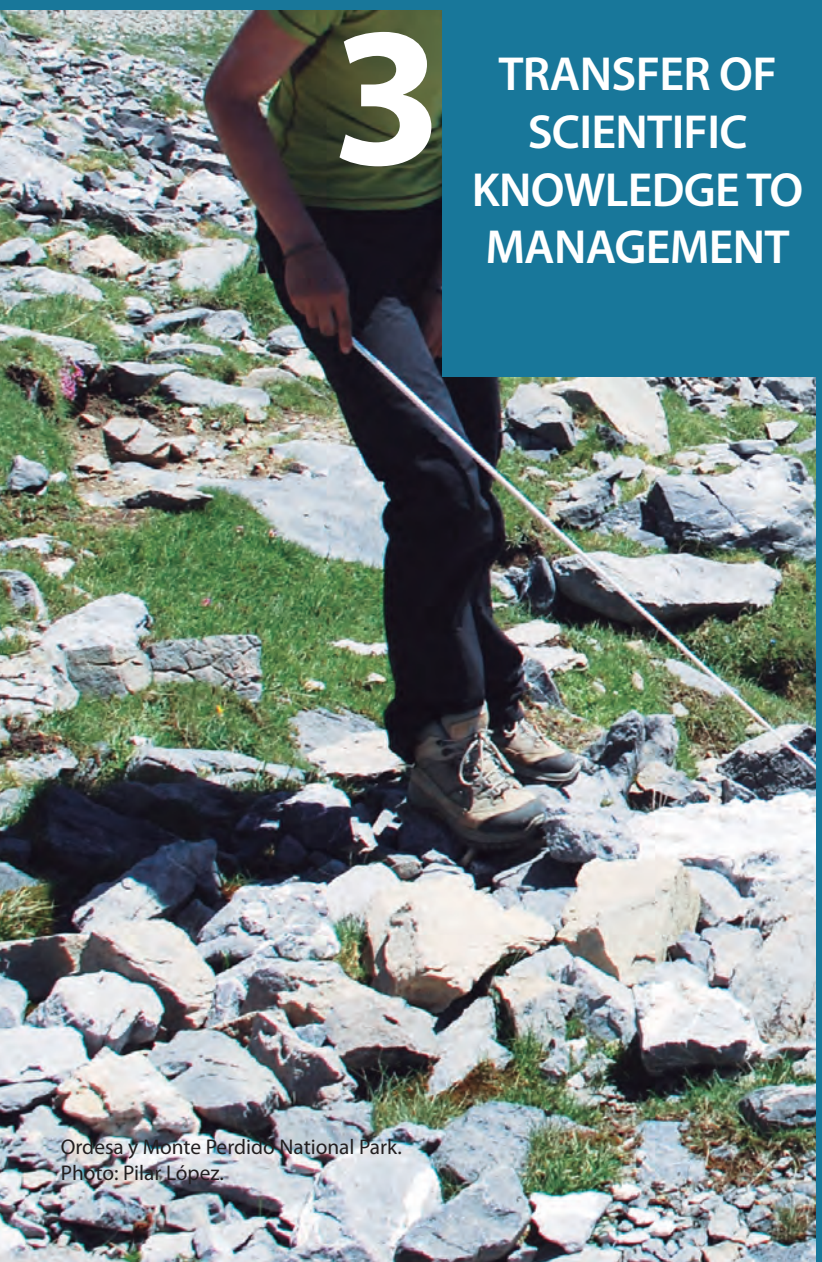
- Protected areas help maintain the biodiversity and agrobiodiversity of a multifunctional landscape, an expression of a diverse mosaic of uses linked to local ecological knowledge, both on land and sea.
- Increase the social importance of protected areas as tools that help improve the well-being of society in terms of health, education, life safety, basic materials, good social relations, by carrying out activities that respect ecosystem functions and the ability to generate services.
- The headwaters of water basins are protected to ensure, in particular, the regulation (erosion control, water regulation) and supply (water) services.
- The management objectives of protected areas are diverse and adapted to territorial and social realities, maintaining the objectives of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functions, and therefore their capacity to generate services for society.

Types of actions:

- Generate shared projects that serve as pilot tests to favour partnerships with sectors such as health, culture, education.
- Promote projects in agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries and work with the main players on the territory to facilitate the incorporation of local ecological knowledge and new efficient and adapted technologies.

Protected areas help maintain well-preserved ecosystem functions, allowing a varied flow of different types of services that partly determine human well-being (based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment of Spain, EME, 2011).

3 TRANSFER OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO MANAGEMENT



Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park.
Photo: Pilar López.

Management in a complex and changing context requires the full incorporation of interdisciplinary scientific knowledge focused on the interface between ecological and social systems (Sustainability Science). The development of research and monitoring programmes aimed at resolving management problems, scientific dissemination and scientific commitment, aligned with the broad objectives of protected areas, are key issues.

Goals for 2020:

- The transfer of scientific knowledge to management, promoting the joint work of researchers and managers is improved.
- The most recent trends and approaches in research for the management of protected areas in their territorial context are incorporated.
- Increase in the capacities of conservation professionals in cross-cutting issues and in all those related to the emerging process of Global Change.
- Protected areas are key to promoting a Global Change research and monitoring programme by taking different types of spaces as long-term observatories of the multi-scale effects of human activities on the ecosystem's essential ecological processes.

Types of actions:

- Promote the joint work of researchers and managers in problems associated with Global Change (platforms for accessing databases, jointly designed experimental projects, sectoral forums with specific or more vulnerable problems).
- Establish programmes for temporary exchange of work and experiences among professionals related to protected areas.
- Promote calls to research projects in protected areas based on the demands of management that favour the incorporation of the best existing scientific knowledge in decision-making.
- Promote training platforms that allow the updating of knowledge and the extension of technical capacities.

Sierra de Guadarrama National Park. Photo: José Antonio Atauri.

4 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION TO INCREASE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT

Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas Natural Park.
Photo: Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Regional Government of Andalusia.

All the technical effort will not be enough if key messages do not reach strategic players. There is a need to improve professional communication skills, prepare materials aimed at key sectors and enhance interaction with political institutions to increase the relevance of protected areas in the political agenda.

Goals for 2020:

- Society values the role of protected areas as tools for both the conservation of nature and providers of services that contribute to human well-being.
- The needs of the local population are reflected in the communication, education and participation processes.
- Nature conservation professionals work closely with communication and education professionals.
- Biodiversity conservation and the role of protected areas are explicitly part of the political agenda.

Types of actions:

- Adapt the message of the benefits of protected areas to different groups: from direct users (visitors, local people, land owners) to decision makers (national, regional or local political institutions).
- Know the perception and priorities of the different social groups, work together to solve, promote or lead changes detected as necessary and with possibilities of success.
- Encourage partnerships with the media, creating messages with attractive language, without unnecessary technicalities but no less rigorous therein, using communication tools to reach broad sectors of society.
- Generate and publicise discussion papers, as tools designed to influence directly or indirectly decision makers or those who influence them.

Communication and environmental education programmes include a range of actions from environmental information to participation through volunteer programmes. Original figure from María Muñoz.

5 DIVERSIFICATION OF GOVERNANCE MODELS

Sierra de Gredos Regional Park.
Photo: National Heritage Foundation | Regional Government of Castilla y León.

Public administrations are the guarantors of protected areas, and their role will be strengthened by the support and participation of organised civil society, improving and diversifying wherever necessary governance models (promoting land stewardship and other formulas), and improving transparency to get closer to society and guaranteeing social equity.

Goals for 2020:

- Governance is improved and different types of governance developed, adapted to each territorial and social reality, from a cross-cutting view of protected areas.
- The administration has a leadership role, being responsible for conservation policies, and promotes public policy participation and co-production processes.
- Increased involvement of civil society and greater citizen participation through different forms of co-management, private protected areas, land stewardship, volunteering, broad participation of sectors linked to the territory in collegiate bodies that improve its operation.
- Social equity is guaranteed from the moment a protected area is declared to all phases of its management.
- Information and communication technologies favour participation in the management of different agents and entities.

Types of actions:

- Incorporate new public and private actors and groups, from different professional sectors (for example, reinforce the work with municipalities and with local companies and business associations).
- Effectively apply new management models adapted to the objectives and territorial reality (study in particular the new needs in Natura 2000 Network sites).
- Foster a culture of transparency and accountability in the public administration in general, and in the management of protected areas in particular, as a means to obtain the necessary recognition and support, evaluating and publishing the results obtained and the quality of management.
- Promote social support through formulas such as clubs and associations of friends of parks, citizen science, volunteer programmes, etc.

Site of Scientific Interest of Janubio. Photo: Javier Puertas.

6 DIVERSIFICATION OF FINANCING MODELS

Sierra del Rincón Biosphere Reserve.
Photo: Nacho Ubeda.

The socio-economic benefits of protected areas far outweigh the costs of effective management. Progress must be made in both economic valuation, beyond monetary value, and the diversification of financing models, promotion of patronage, taxation and mixed financing models.

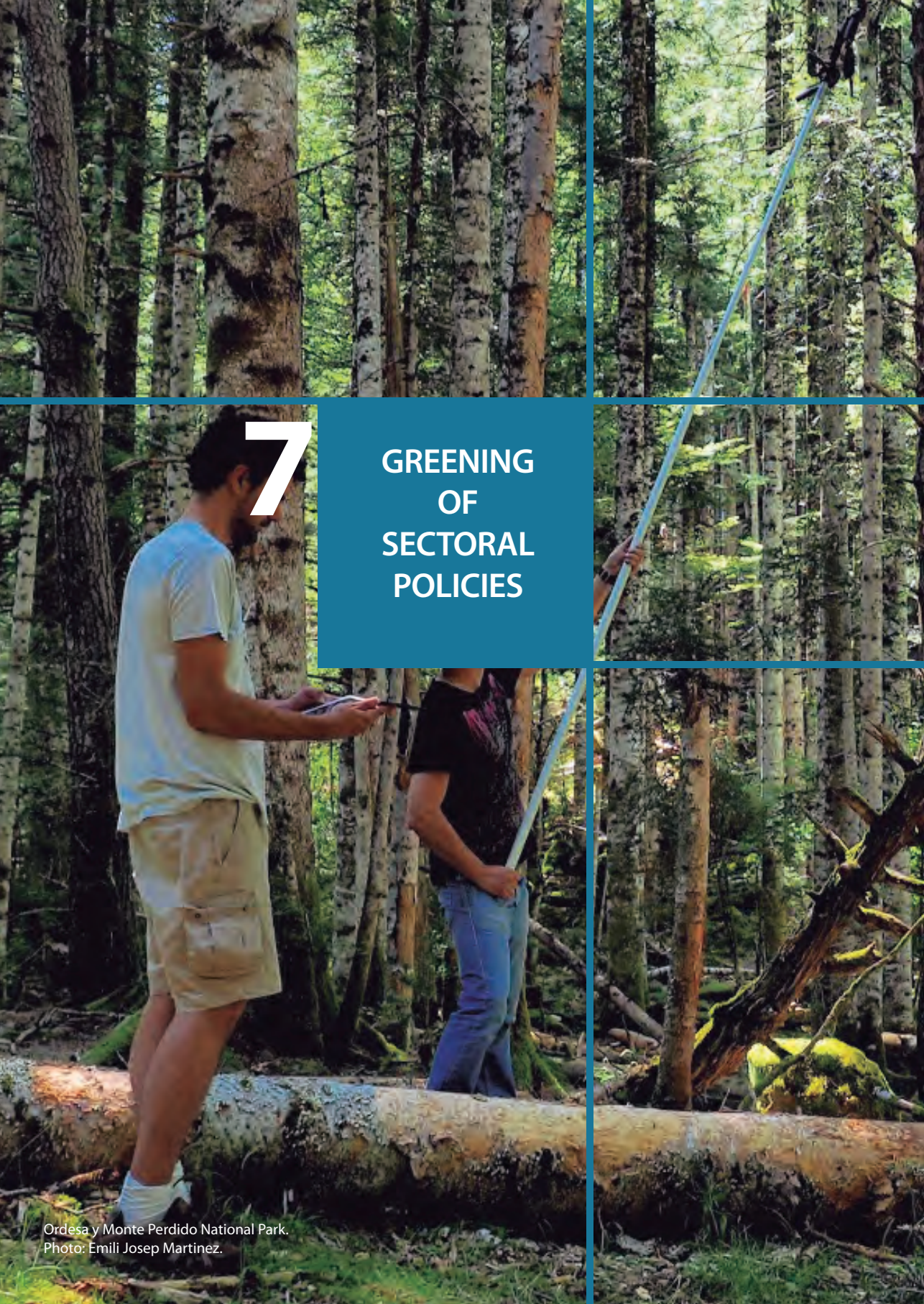
Goals for 2020:

- Protected areas are recognised as relevant tools for the economy of the territory, as well as the social and economic profitability of public investment in natural and cultural heritage conservation.
- The financing model is based on the diversification of financing sources, with sufficient public funding to guarantee basic services.
- More use is made of new tools and mechanisms to finance protected areas.
- Actions in favour of biodiversity are included in different European financing mechanisms.

Types of actions:

- Promote the value of protected areas in maintaining and creating jobs, generating new economic activity and maintaining ecosystem services on which key sectors depend (e.g., jobs linked to sustainable tourism in protected areas through the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, among other initiatives).
- Improve the efficiency of public management with experienced technical teams, and with new capacities when necessary, with mechanisms of transparency and cooperation between administrations to increase the positive impact of public policies on conservation.
- Further the application of new financial and fiscal mechanisms available for the conservation of biodiversity.
- Develop indicators to help monitor the use of public funds (European, national or regional) in conservation actions.

Delta del Ebro. Natural Park. Photo: Xavier Abril.



7 GREENING OF SECTORAL POLICIES

Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park.
Photo: Emili Josep Martinez.

Protected areas are in territories influenced by many other sectoral policies with which there must be more coordination and positive synergies. There is a need to improve the training of protected area managers on cross-cutting issues, promote cross-sectoral partnerships and policies, and increase cross-cutting.

Goals for 2020:

- Greening of sectoral policies, i.e. environmental aspects cross cut all sectoral policies that affect the territory.
- A high level of coordination between different policies is achieved.
- Protected areas help improve territorial socio-economic rebalancing.

Tipos de acciones:

- Identify and incorporate sustainability criteria in all sectoral policies, promoting inter-level interdisciplinary, integrated and inclusive forms of work.
- Increase the capacities of conservation professionals on cross-cutting issues.
- Create working groups or interdepartmental councils with co-decision capacity and favour hierarchical coordination in the environmental administration.
- Promote strategic environmental evaluation, including evaluation of policies.
- Develop cross-cutting projects to improve policy partnerships: sustainable tourism (e.g., European Charter for Sustainable Tourism), health, agricultural production, forestry and sustainable fisheries, among others.

Sierra de Ávila. Special Protection Area. Photo: Javier Puertas.

8 GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Iguazú National Park.
Photo: Javier Puertas.

Decisions and actions in our country are influenced by other countries and affect third parties. With regard to that global responsibility, conservation efforts and the fostering of international cooperation must be made internationally visible.

Goals for 2020:

- Protected areas are instruments for international cooperation beyond their value for the conservation of nature, proving their value as examples of international solidarity.
- Effective management of protected areas helps achieve the Aichi goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- International cooperation is coordinated among different entities to make it more effective.
- Actions promoted from protected areas linked to the conservation of agrodiversity, adaptation to climate change, responsible consumption, and environmental education help raise awareness of the consequences and global responsibility of our actions as individuals and organisations.

Types of actions:

- Analyse the role of protected areas in the global context of socio-economic changes.
- Implement projects in collaboration with development cooperation entities.
- Promote exchanges between professionals from different countries to encourage the exchange of good practices.
- Promote awareness of and our responsibility towards global environmental issues from protected areas.

Photo: María Muñoz.

GLOSSARY

Photo: Javier Puertas.

Glossary

Agrobiodiversity: This is biodiversity brought about by human uses. It includes cattle breeds, varieties of cultivated plants, varieties and semi-domestic ecotypes of grassland and grassland plants, and cultural landscapes associated with agricultural uses.

Biodiversity: Amount, variety and variability of living organisms as well as the relationships established between them. It includes diversity within a species (genetic diversity), between species (diversity of species) and between communities (diversity of communities).

Ecological network: Natural reserve systems and their interconnections that makes a fragmented landscape maintain more biodiversity than in its form without connections. The systems are composed of core areas (generally protected) and buffer areas connected by ecological corridors for the conservation of biodiversity.

Ecosystem: It is the basic functional unit of interaction of living organisms with each other and of said organisms with the environment, in a given space and time.

Ecosystem services: Direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems and the biodiversity they provide to human well-being. It includes other terms such as environmental services, ecosystem services or goods and services.

Global change: All environmental changes induced by human activity, especially those that affect the biogeophysical processes that determine the operation of the Earth system. It is related to the human control of the planet.

Governance: A set of interactions between structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are made and how the voice of citizenship is heard.

Green infrastructure: Strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental elements, designed and managed to provide a wide range of ecosystem services and protect the biodiversity of both rural and urban settlements (COM/2013/0249).

Human well-being: State of a person in whom, once the most essential material requirements that lead to the proper functioning of their somatic and psychic activity are met, a good, quiet, decent and accomplished life is achieved without exceeding the biophysical limits of the ecosystems.

Integrated heritage: The legacy we have received from our ancestors, both material and immaterial, which shapes our environment and our identity, is constantly adapting to natural and social changes. We use it during our life, it sustains us and contributes to our happiness. We must transmit it to our descendants in the best possible state. It involves the transmission of knowledge or know-how and responsibilities.

Land stewardship: It is a participatory tool of territory management. It is defined as the set of legal strategies or techniques through which land owners and users are involved in conservation and the use of natural, cultural and landscape values and resources.

Local ecological knowledge: A cumulative body of knowledge, practices and beliefs that evolve through adaptive processes and which is communicated by cultural transmission from generation to generation about the relationship of living beings, including humans, with one another and their ecosystems.

Natural capital: Those ecosystems with ecological integrity and resilience, and therefore capable of performing functions and providing services which contribute to human well-being. It refers to the socio-ecological dimension of the different components of ecosystems including biodiversity.

Protected marine area: Natural spaces designated for the protection of ecosystems, communities or biological or geological elements of the marine environment which, because of their rarity, fragility, importance or uniqueness, deserve special protection.

Protected area: According to IUCN (2008), it is a clearly defined geographical area, recognised, declared and managed by means of legal or other types of instruments to achieve the long-term nature conservation of its ecosystem services and associated cultural values.

Resilience: The ability of a system to deal with disturbances without collapsing, without changing to an unwanted state.

Social equity: Equity is synonymous with equality, equanimity, justice, rightness, balance. Applied to protected areas, social equity refers to the recognition and respect of the rights of populations, effective participation in decision-making processes, fair distribution of costs and benefits.

Socio-ecosystem: An ecological system which, in a complex way, links and interacts with one or more social systems through its institutions.

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Photo: Javier Puertas.

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In addition, all yearbooks, manuals and other publications of EUROPARC-Spain can be consulted on the website: www.redeuroparc.org

Annex. Standard form for collecting examples

TITLE of the INITIATIVE

SUMMARY (initial situation, objectives, highlighting novel aspects)

RESULTS OBTAINED / EXPECTED

SOURCE OF FINANCING

RESPONSIBLE ENTITY (promoter of the action)

PARTNERS / ACTORS INVOLVED (in the execution of the project)

RECIPIENTS / BENEFICIARIES (of the project actions)

CONTACT (personal, email)

MORE INFO (web...)

CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMME 2020 (line or lines to which it contributes)

- ☐ Integration of protected areas in the territory
- ☐ Ecosystem services for human well-being
- ☐ Transfer of scientific knowledge to management
- ☐ Strategic communication to increase social and political support
- ☐ Diversification of governance models
- ☐ Diversification of financing models
- ☐ Greening of sectoral policies
- ☐ Global responsibility and international cooperation

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This is the Spanish State section of the EUROPARC Federation, a pan-European organisation implemented in 40 countries, which since 1973 has worked for protected areas in Spain. EUROPARC-Spain is made up of public administrations responsible for protected natural areas in the Spanish State.

www.redeuroparc.org

Fundación Interuniversitaria
Fernando González Bernáldez
PARA LOS ESPACIOS NATURALES

The Fernando González Bernáldez Inter-University Foundation for natural spaces has the foundational objective to carry out research, training, promotion and dissemination activities of the functions of natural spaces.
Among its goals is the management of the Technical Office of EUROPARC-Spain

www.fungobe.org