

WORK Programme for Protected Areas 2009-2013





Parque Nacional de Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici.
Author: Javier Puertas





2009-2013



2009-2013

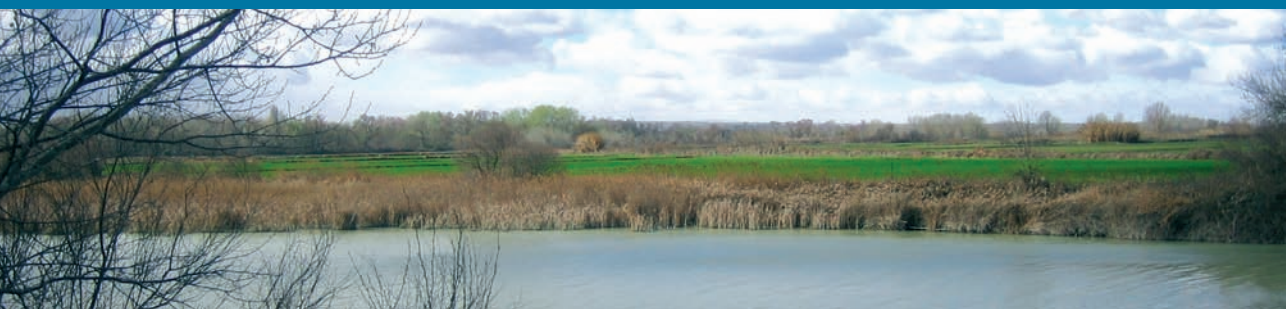
EUROPARC-Spain is the Spanish section of the Federation of natural and national parks of Europe (EUROPARC Federation). It is made up of the public administrations responsible for protected areas. The EUROPARC Federation is a pan-European organisation implemented in 40 countries that has been working for protected areas since 1973.

The founding aim of FUNGOBE (F. González Bernáldez Interuniversity Foundation for Natural Areas) is to carry out activities of research, training, promotion and dissemination of the functions of natural areas. In accordance with its Bylaws, it provides the head offices of the Technical Office of EUROPARC-Spain.

Fundación BBVA

collaborated with EUROPARC-Spain in publishing this document.

The main aim of the BBVA Foundation is to promote scientific research of excellence into the different areas of knowledge and to raise awareness of society as a whole of the challenge of conserving the natural environment at the beginning of the 21st century. The Foundation's work demonstrates the BBVA Group's commitment to working for a better future for people.



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Paraje Natural Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo. Author: Javier Puertas

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PRESENTATION

Hermelindo Castro Nogueira
President of **EUROPARC-Spain**

EUROPARC-Spain celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2008. In this period of time, natural protected spaces have duplicated in terms of surface area, now totalling 12% of the territory. This trend demonstrates society's growing awareness of and commitment to its natural heritage. The benefits of maintaining a system of protected areas are increasingly more evident to everyone. Sustainable rural development, conserving natural heritage and maintaining the services of ecosystems are favoured either directly by protected areas or as scenarios that demonstrate the responsible management of natural resources.

The Work Programme for Protected Areas is the result of joint work by numerous public and private organisations. Its basis is the agreement of the Conference of Parties of the Biological Diversity Convention that established the commitment of member states to drawing up a programme of these characteristics.

It is inspired by the experience of the first Action Plan for protected natural spaces in Spain, drawn up, implemented and evaluated by EUROPARC-Spain between 1999 and 2006.

This Work Programme, approved by the General Assembly in December 2008, contains priorities and actions that must be carried out by 2013. It has been drawn up in collaboration with numerous public and private institutions committed to looking after protected natural spaces.

The implementation of this Programme aims to consolidate the systems of protected areas in Spain, improve their effective management, develop all possible management formulas, achieve greater commitment on the part of society and contribute to the world system of protected areas. At the World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in October 2008, an early version of the Programme was presented that was recognised internationally, and the IUCN encouraged EUROPARC-Spain to afford the initiative greater international protection as a magnificent example of coordination for a network of protected natural spaces. We therefore have a great responsibility. The success of this ambitious Programme will depend on the efforts of the many organisations and people that are working together to improve our natural heritage to benefit future generations. The challenges are great and we have to be capable of demonstrating the many benefits that protected areas can bring to society, particularly given the situation of world crisis and change.

Finally, I would like to thank all the efforts made by the many people who have helped to produce this Work Programme and especially my predecessor as President of EUROPARC-Spain, Mr. Jorge Bonnet Fernández-Trujillo, who was the driving force behind this Programme and directed it until it was approved.





INTRODUCTION



Why a work programme for protected areas?

Protected areas have been created over the years in response to a significant need of society: to protect our natural heritage. A look at the map of protected natural spaces in Spain shows us that they account for 11.8% of the land, totalling almost six million hectares, to which we should

also add a further 250,000 hectares of marine area.

Spanish Act 42/2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity classifies the different types of protected areas. Together with the traditional national and natural parks, reserves, protected landscapes and natural monuments, for the first time protected marine areas are also included, as is the Natura 2000 network, resulting from a European Directive, and the different kinds of protected areas resulting from international instruments. Of note are the biosphere reserves declared by UNESCO and the wetlands of international importance covered by the Ramsar Convention.

Different institutions are involved in administrating protected areas. The Spanish government, via the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, the 17 autonomous communities, provincial administrations, regional and island councils ensure the planning and management of protected natural spaces. There is therefore a great need, recognised by all, to unite their efforts to protect a nature that does not understand administrative boundaries.

EUROPARC-Spain is an organisation made up of numerous administrations that was created as a professional forum to progress in consolidating and improving the systems of protected areas. FUNGOBE (Fernando González Bernáldez Interuniversity Foundation for Natural Spaces) provides the scientific and technical foundation for the Technical Office that serves EUROPARC-Spain.

As the section for Spain EUROPARC-Spain, is related to the EUROPARC Federation, a pan-European organisation implemented in 40 countries that has been working for protected areas since 1973.

What goals does the programme have?

The purpose of the Work Programme is to promote the consolidation and development of protected natural spaces in Spain, as well as to demonstrate and reinforce the benefits they provide to society.

The 2009-2013 Programme represents a joint view for tackling current and future challenges in the sphere of protected areas. The diversity and administrative and territorial complexity of Spain provides the chance to continue developing the collaborative work to which the forum of EUROPARC-Spain has contributed so much since it was set up in 1992.

It also provides a framework of reference that can be developed at different scales and involving different agents.

The Programme aims not only to consolidate the protected areas in our country but also to contribute to advances at an international level. Implementing the Programme will help to meet world commitments resulting from the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European institutional commitment to stop the loss of biodiversity.

To help ensure actions are carried out effectively, an intermediary evaluation will be carried out in 2011. The fundamental aim of this evaluation will be to rate how far the actions have been implemented. It will be external in nature and form the basis for revising the actions to be promoted during 2011-2013. At the end of 2013 an overall evaluation will be carried out of the planned actions, as well as assessing their institutional and social repercussions.

In addition to reporting to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity via the relevant channels, the results will also be presented at the next World Park Congress, planned for 2013.

What is a protected area?

A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed via legal or other kinds of effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature and its ecosystem services and associated cultural values. IUCN, 2008

What are our protected areas like?

The extensive network of Spanish protected spaces contains the best examples of our varied nature, although mountains are best represented: 73% of the territory above 1,500 metres is covered by some kind of legal protection. More than half the protected area, specifically 64%, is covered by woods (Holm, cork and other types of oak as well as pine and beech) and mountain pasture. More than 40% of the most scarce and rare ecosystems also come under this protection, often of great scientific relevance, such as salt marshes, glaciers, inland wetlands or coastal marshes.

36% of the coastline, where we find ecosystems of dunes, sand plains, beaches and cliffs, are also included under some kind of legal protection.

Rivers are not sufficiently protected, as although 15% of the headwater sections coincide with some protected space, secondary and primary sections account for only just over 10%. In addition to their lineal nature, these are usually small areas that are highly dependent on the processes occurring around them (pollution and regulation of water upstream, alteration in hydro-geological flows, intensive farming), so they are particularly complex to manage.

Spanish protected areas in figures

In Spain we have 14 national parks aimed at conserving nature and for the enjoyment of society. The current 155 declared natural parks aim to make conservation and sustainable rural socio-economic development compatible. The 290 natural monuments cover places of exceptional geo-morphological and geological value, the 265 nature reserves are aimed at conserving singular species and habitats and the 53 protected landscapes are aimed at preserving traditional cultures essential to the character of a territory.

In total, protected natural spaces account for 11.8% of the land area (almost 6 million hectares), to which we should add a further 250,000 hectares of marine areas.

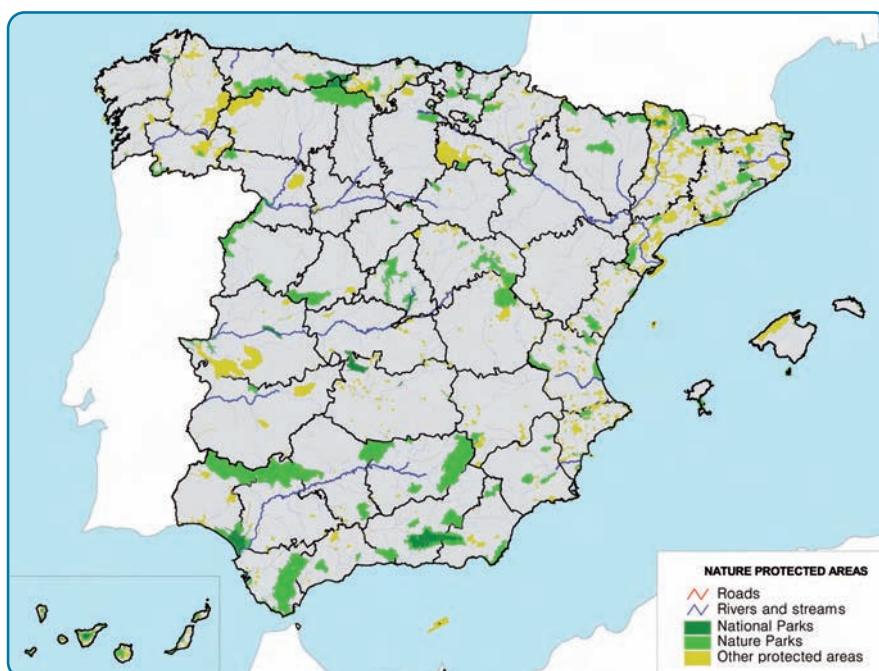
Spain is the country that provides most area in absolute terms to the Natura 2000 network (more than 14 million hectares, 28% of the Spanish territory), followed at

some distance by Sweden, Germany, France, Finland and Italy. Almost 42% of this area coincides with protected natural spaces already declared as such by national and regional legislation.

The total number of visits to our protected spaces is close to 36 million annually. The national parks alone receive almost 11 million visits each year.

A total of 1,081 municipalities contribute to the parks with their territory. These municipalities total a population of almost 17.5 million inhabitants and occupy a fifth of the land in Spain. 73% of these municipalities are rural.

The total number of people working directly in Spanish parks is over 4,000.



Why do we need protected areas?

Protected natural spaces are the key instruments for conserving nature, as a modern way to administer natural resources where the primordial aim is to guarantee the services provided by ecosystems, together with the conservation of their value as natural heritage.

Protected spaces offer services to society both in terms of supplies (food, water, wood, genetic resources) as well as regulation (control of the composition of atmospheric gases and the climate, regulating the hydrological cycle and floods, controlling erosion and retaining nutrients; soil formation and bio and geo-chemical cycles; pollination, biological control of populations, among others) and cultural services (aesthetic, spiritual, educational and recreational). Natural and semi-natural ecosystems produce essential benefits for the economy, public health and the overall wellbeing of humans.



Parque Natural Glaciares de Neila.
Author: Carlota Martínez

How has this programme been drawn up?

The 2009-2013 Programme is the result of a participative process involving several professionals from different public and private administrations.

The experience of the Action Plan for protected natural spaces that was conceived in 1999, approved in 2002 and evaluated in 2006 served as a reference for starting a new process. It was necessary to update the diagnosis of the state of affairs, the advances made in the systems of protected areas and the new challenges to be tackled. The approval in 2004 of the Work Programme for Protected Areas at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity provided the keys to designing the new programme.



The working documents were discussed and ratified at the Assembly of EUROPARC-Spain and other public administrations, social agents and public and private organisations were invited to take part, such as groups for rural development, public foundations, associations of conservationists, sports, hunting and fishing, businessmen, agricultural and forestry organisations, organisations that defend the territory, professional colleges, research centres, bank and savings bank foundations and international aid organisations, as well as in the academic and professional spheres. These documents were also sent to the parliamentary groups.

As a result of this process, contributions were received from public and private organisations for all lines of work, these being taken into account when drawing up the definitive Programme.



The international context

The 5th World Parks Congress, held in Durban in 2003 under the title “Benefits Beyond Boundaries”, aimed to consolidate the role of protected areas in conserving biodiversity, as well as encouraging debate on their role in human development, in the fight against poverty and in moderating the effects of global change. Protected areas have brought together social awareness and the need to establish synergies with other policies.

In 2004 we witnessed a historical event on the adoption of the Work Programme on protected areas within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. One of the global objectives for 2010 is to significantly reduce the current pace of loss of biological diversity, to help mitigate poverty and benefit all forms of life. This commitment was acquired in 2006 by the European Union and recognised in Spain through Act 42/2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. The United Nations, through the initiative known as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, also stresses the importance of conserving natural ecosystems as providers of environmental services for the wellbeing of society and contributes elements to investigate further the role played by protected natural spaces.

2008 saw the 5th World Nature Congress and the 9th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, events that represent new stages in progressing towards a world system of protected areas.



How far have we come and how far do we have to go?

Whether protected natural spaces achieve their goals depends on many factors, some internal regarding the administration itself of the conservation of nature, and other external factors related to different aspects that influence the territory, resources and ecosystems. Protected natural spaces must perfect their capacity to manage the complex systems they contain. The dimensions of management capacity are governability (political support, legislation and government capacity), social support (involvement and support of the local community, owners and other social groups), planning instruments (strategic plans, executive plans) and resources (human, financial, infrastructures, knowledge).

These are the challenges over the next few years, identified in the Work Programme:

- Complete the systems of protected areas, with particular emphasis on marine areas
- Improve the territory's ecological connectivity
- Develop the management of the Natura 2000 network
- Improve the integration of conservation actions and territorial and social policies
- Harmoniously integrate initiatives aimed at rural development and nature conservation
- Improve the effectiveness of management structures for protected areas
- Improve management quality in the spheres of conservation, public use and socio-economic development
- Progress in assessing the effectiveness of protected areas
- Progress in new management formulas involving owners, the local population and social agents
- Try out innovative financial mechanisms that contribute towards the economic sustainability of protected areas
- Develop strategies and actions aimed at reducing the harmful effects of global change (including climate change)
- Highlight the value of protected areas for society
- Convey to society the importance of conserving nature for its wellbeing and development
- Contribute actively to the international panorama in the sphere of protected areas



Figure 1. Summary of the capacities for effective management based on the model proposed by Carabias et al, 2003. Since the Action Plan was approved in 2002, the EUROPARC-Spain forum has produced reference manuals and training programmes and has set up specific working groups to contribute to many of these aspects.





THE FIVE KEY ASPECTS OF ACTION

Overall objectives of the key aspects of the 2009-2013 Programme and lines of work

Key aspect 1. Complete systems of protected areas

Complete the systems of protected areas, integrated within the matrix of the territory and representing both land-based and marine ecosystems.

Lines of work

- 1.1. Identifying gaps in the systems of protected areas
- 1.2. Protected marine areas
- 1.3. Ecological connectivity
- 1.4. Development and application of the Natura 2000 network
- 1.5. Integration of protected spaces within sector policy

Key aspect 2. Instruments to guarantee the effective management of protected areas

Improve the means and processes that help to achieve effective management and attain conservation targets.

Lines of work

- 2.1. Adjusting management structures
- 2.2. Quality in management for conservation
- 2.3. Quality in management of public use and tourism
- 2.4. Quality in management for socio-economic development
- 2.5. Evaluation of management effectiveness
- 2.6. New approaches or management strategies

Key aspect 3. Governability and financial and fiscal instruments

Facilitate and intensify participation among all stakeholders, as well as promote equity and participation in the benefits and guarantee financial sustainability.

Lines of work

- 3.1. Structures of government and participation in systems of protected spaces
- 3.2. Incentives and fiscal system to sustain protected areas
- 3.3. Innovative financial mechanisms for management

Key aspect 4. Social support by demonstrating the benefits and services of protected areas

Provide a favourable environment for protected areas from a political, institutional and socio-economic point of view, as well as strengthen communication, education and social awareness.

Lines of work

- 4.1. Environmental services of protected areas and benefits for society
- 4.2. Cultural and spiritual values of protected areas
- 4.3. Disseminating the benefits in society of protected spaces
- 4.4. Role of protected spaces in a changing world

Key aspect 5. International cooperation

Promote international cooperation in the sphere of protected areas via participation in technical programmes and cooperating with development

Lines of work

- 5.1. International cooperation strategy via participation in technical programmes and projects
- 5.2. Development cooperation strategy via support for protected natural spaces



KEY ASPECT 1

**Complete systems of
protected areas**

Protected areas must not be islands within a territory. They must be connected, allowing the continuity of ecosystems and the dispersion of species. They must also suitably represent all the values of our natural and associated cultural heritage.

In order to strengthen the systems of protected areas, ensuring both land-based and marine ecosystems are represented and integrated within the matrix of the territory, the following lines of work will be carried out:

1.1. Identifying gaps in the systems of protected areas

Although a lot of progress has been made in declaring protected areas over the last few decades, it is still necessary to achieve functional, coherent systems. To this end, a methodology will be developed to suitably integrate these zones and permit the maintenance of essential ecological processes (particularly those related to the water cycle), as well as those elements that guarantee, among others, the conservation of geodiversity.

ACTION	Analysis of gaps to complete the systems of protected areas
Expected result	Methodological tool to apply common criteria in order to identify gaps in the systems of protected areas
Planned activities	Develop a methodology that includes criteria beyond the representation of ecosystems

1.2. Protected marine areas

Both at an international level and in the case of Spain, a historic deficit has been recognised in the declaration of protected marine areas. International commitments to complete the network of marine areas by 2012 and explicit recognition in the law as a category of protection necessitate the declaration, planning and management of marine areas as well vital institutional cooperation. Conservationist organisations, scientific organisations and government bodies have put forward proposals that will have to be consolidated over the next few years. The principles of the integrated management of coastal areas must also be incorporated, placing particular emphasis on the particular nature of land-sea ecotones.

ACTION	Action strategy for protected marine areas
Expected result	Document of diagnosis, recommendations and actions, as well as living observatories
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a working group • Draw up a database of planning and management, research and professional experiences in marine and coastal areas and an associated online forum • Produce a management and planning manual for protected marine areas

1.3. Ecological connectivity

Maintaining and promoting connectivity is a primordial aim in conserving nature. The fragmentation of the countryside is one of the main causes behind the loss of functionality in systems and the decline in biological and geological diversity. International and national legislation reflect the importance of promoting connectivity and methodological and instrumental advances help assess the territory and identify priorities for action.

ACTION	Analysis of ecological connectivity to improve the effectiveness of systems of protected spaces
Expected result	Monograph (collection of initiatives and mechanisms to increase territorial connectivity, opportunities of the system of protected spaces to increase connectivity).
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carry out an up-to-date diagnosis of the state of affairs, gathering together experiences of public and private organisations• Implement that provided for in Act 42/2007

1.4. Development and application of the Natura 2000 network

The process of designating Natura 2000 locations having been completed, now it's time to tackle the appropriate planning and management of a very high percentage of the territory. Although progress has started in designing management guidelines, it's necessary to encourage the exchange of initiatives and to agree common models.

ACTION	Effective management of the Natura 2000 network.
Expected result	Common guidelines for the effective management of Natura 2000
Planned activities	Draw up a series of instruments to implement and manage Natura 2000, at the level of system and space

1.5. Integration of protected areas within sector policy

In a changing world with fast, intense transformations, it is increasingly important for conservation policies to coordinate with other sector policies, especially with policies for water and for organising territory. It is also necessary to ensure coordination with agricultural, fishing, energy, transport and tourism policies, and to improve the role of peripheral urban environments within the dynamic of protected natural spaces.

ACTION	Programme of alliances between organisations responsible for different sector policies to ensure the integration of protected natural spaces
Expected result	Joint actions between sector administrations
Planned activities	Encourage interrelations between public administrations responsible for protected spaces with those of other sector policies



Parque Natural del Moncayo.
Author: Raúl Ayala

A photograph of a forest floor covered in fallen leaves and moss. Several large tree trunks are visible in the background. A large white number '2' is overlaid on the left side of the image. To the right of the number is a blue rectangular box containing white text.

2

KEY ASPECT 2 Instruments to guarantee effective management

Protected areas are instruments in order to achieve the goals of conserving nature. As such, they require suitable human, material and financial resources, as well as procedures to achieve their goals.

In order to improve the resources and processes that help to achieve effectiveness in management, the following lines of work are carried out:

2.1. Adjusting management structures

Success in achieving the objectives declared for protected areas depends on many factors, some internal to the systems for conserving nature themselves and many other external factors. Adjusting the management structures of the areas and systems of protected spaces is fundamental to achieving these objectives effectively

ACTION	Analysis of the adjustment of management structures for systems and protected natural spaces
Expected result	Simple methodological tool to monitor protected natural spaces
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the impediments to improving the effectiveness of management structures • Classify protected areas, their management needs in accordance with the objectives. • Propose guidelines and actions for change where necessary

2.2. Quality in conservation management

Conserving nature is the main priority of protected natural spaces. As active management progresses, it is even more vital to develop instruments that help to improve the exchange of information, standardise procedures and evaluate the effectiveness of actions.

ACTION	Good practices in conservation
Expected result	Apply and consolidate the standard for quality in conservation management
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a manual to apply the conservation standard • Publish a catalogue of good practices in conservation • Develop a mechanism to recognise conservation actions in accordance with the conservation standard

2.3. Quality in management of public use and tourism

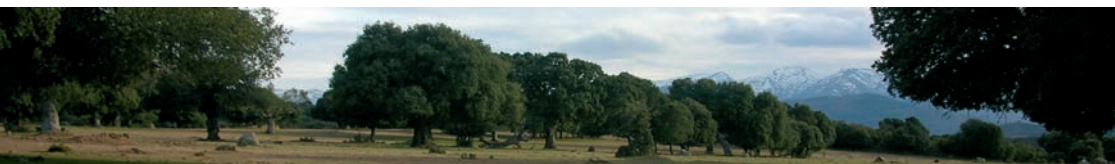
A lot of progress has been made in improving the quality of public use and tourism in protected areas (two good examples are the Q label for the tourism quality of services offered to visitors and the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism as a joint project between tourism managers and professionals). There are several manuals that serve as guidance and to establish reference criteria for managing public use. It is now time to consolidate and improve, where necessary, the quality of these services.

ACTION	Encourage good tourism practices in protected natural spaces and quality in the management of public use in protected spaces
Expected result	Consolidate initiatives such as the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism and the Q quality label for public use
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disseminate the advances of ECST and Q projects• Promote follow-up and technical assistance• Develop the methodology for implementing the 2nd Phase of the ECST• Support the Iberian network of parks with the ECST

2.4. Quality in management for socio-economic development

Integrating socio-economic development within the objectives of protected areas has progressed over the last few years by carrying out development plans and starting up initiatives with the business fabric of the territory, such as quality labels for products and services associated with the parks. The laws on rural development and biodiversity provide a favourable scenario for encouraging good development practices related to sustainability.

ACTION	Encourage good practices for socio-economic development that is compatible with the goals of conservation
Expected result	Guidelines to enhance opportunities for rural development via protected areas
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse opportunities of the Rural Development Act• Identify development groups related to rural development in the sphere of protected areas• Collect and disseminate experiences• Study the socio-economic repercussions in municipalities influenced by protected areas





2.5. Evaluation of management effectiveness

Protected areas have gradually incorporated follow-up as an essential part of evaluating management effectiveness, as well as to systemise the gathering of information and to disseminate this in society through management reports. This is a suitable moment to progress in the evaluation of management effectiveness as an essential step towards assessing how far objectives have been reached.

ACTION	Promote the evaluation of management
Expected result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual of management effectiveness indicators • Model of management reports • Training programme for evaluation
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather together evaluation experiences • Develop a model management report • Promote the use of effectiveness evaluation indicators • Promote a training programme

2.6. New approaches or management strategies

The increase in area protected, the growing involvement of society and the new legal framework (e.g. Act 42/2007 recognises, for the first time, the concept of safeguarding territory and urges public administrations to promote this) mean that new management models need to be developed that are better adapted to the current circumstances. In Spain, contractual or private management experiences are still in their early stages but there are many opportunities to analyse and foster their development.

ACTION	Analysis of management strategies of a contractual or private nature
Expected result	Document and dissemination
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise legislation and experiences • Draw up an analysis document (opportunities, examples) • Observatory of experiences • Hold a three-yearly meeting on public-private conservation



3

KEY ASPECT 3 Governability and financial and fiscal instruments

Public administrations have the legal obligation to guarantee the systems of protected areas. The growing involvement of groups from society opens up new opportunities to improve the involvement of society in all aspects of planning and management.

In order to improve the governability of protected areas, improve the effectiveness of government structures and strengthen the participation of all stakeholders, as well as promote equity and participation in the benefits and guarantee financial sustainability, the following lines of work have been proposed:

3.1. Structures of government and participation

All the possibilities for reinforcing the involvement of society and institutions effectively within the management structures of protected natural spaces have yet to be developed. Moreover, the complexity of the different types of areas requires forms of government that are adapted and suitable for each situation.

ACTION	Analysis of government structures in the systems of protected spaces: composition, effectiveness, participation, decision-making powers
Expected result	Document of diagnosis and recommendations
Planned activities	Diagnose the diversity of current government and participation structures, with recommendations concerning the advantages and drawbacks of each one

3.2. Incentives and fiscal measures

One of the new elements provided by Act 42/2007 is the promotion of incentives for positive external factors of protected spaces, or where custodian agreements have been drawn up. Some of the services of ecosystems have already been recognised (the conservation per se of biodiversity, geodiversity and countryside, fixing CO₂, conserving soil and the water system or the refilling of aquifers and preventing geological risks).

ACTION	Develop incentives and fiscal benefits for conservation
Expected result	Guidelines for applying incentives and fiscal mechanisms
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the opportunities of Act 42/2007 • Collect experiences • Seminar with experts or working group

3.3. Innovative financial mechanisms

Managers of protected natural spaces are still not fully aware of the instruments available to obtain private funding and therefore there is hardly any experience in this area. An analysis is required of the effectiveness of currently available funds. Particularly in times of financial crisis, in addition to improving the efficiency of public resources there is also a need to investigate further the application of mechanisms that are already being tested in other countries.

ACTION	Analysis and application of new financial instruments for managing protected areas
Expected result	Manual and start-up of pilot cases
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce an informative document on financial instruments, collecting together international experiences• Encourage the application of new financial mechanisms in pilot areas• Pass on new financing proposals to those in charge of conservation policy at a state level





Parque Natural Ses Salines d'Eivissa i Formentera.
Author: Javier Puertas



4

KEY ASPECT 4
Social support by
demonstrating the
benefits and services
of protected areas

Protected areas provide benefits to society in terms of health and wellbeing by fulfilling objectives to conserve natural and associated cultural heritage. Communicating these benefits will bring society closer to protected areas, increasing support for the efforts made to conserve them.

In order to provide a favourable scenario for protected areas from a political, institutional and socio-economic point of view, as well as to strengthen communication and education and raise social awareness, the following lines of work will be carried out:

4.1. Environmental services and benefits for society

The management of protected areas fosters the functions of natural and semi-natural systems and therefore provides protection against floods, fires, air pollution, the spread of epidemics and the generation of clean, good quality water. There is also evidence that nature is a source of physical and mental health. In Spain, further study is required of the opportunities to reinforce all the benefits and services offered by protected areas.

ACTION	Highlight the value of the environmental benefits and services of protected areas
Expected result	Increase knowledge and social recognition of the benefits of protected areas
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the role of protected areas to improve health and wellbeing in society • Apply to pilot cases

4.2. Cultural and spiritual values

Recognising the intangible, spiritual and cultural values related to protected natural spaces, and the need to include these in their planning, management and promotion, has gradually been consolidated since the World Park Congress in 2003, now being incorporated in several action programmes and strategies of the IUCN, of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and of the EUROPARC Federation itself. In Spain, the explicit recognition of these values is still in its infancy, however.

ACTION	Incorporating the intangible values of protected areas in management
Expected result	Guidelines to incorporate intangible values in planning and management documents
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish synergies with the Delos initiative of the IUCN via the agreement of understanding with the association promoting this in Spain (Silene) • Draw up a discussion document • Promote pilot cases

4.3. Disseminating the role of protected areas in society

The institutional and technical efforts made to conserve protected areas must be conveyed to society in order to achieve its involvement and support. Identifying the most suitable messages, means of communication and language in order to reach the target requires investigation of the social perception of protected areas in order to be able to provide effective instruments for dissemination.

ACTION	Disseminating the benefits in society and services provided by protected spaces
Expected result	Document with guidelines and examples to develop dissemination strategies
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the social perception of protected areas• Develop instruments for communication and dissemination

Paraje Natural Serra de Tramuntana.
Author: Javier Puertas



Parque Natural de la Cumbre, Circo y Lagunas de Peñalara.
Author: Javier Puertas



4.4. Role of protected areas in a changing world

According to the predictions of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Spain is going to suffer severely from the effects of climate change, which will affect the conservation of its biodiversity both directly and indirectly. The need has also been recognised internationally to make institutions more adaptable to climate change (changes in land use, climate change, pollution, invasive species, rise in CO₂). It is necessary to develop preventative and adaptive strategies where protected spaces can adapt their management models. Some proposals already exist at an international level but the Spanish situation needs to progress.

ACTION	Analysis of the opportunities represented by the system of protected areas for tackling global change
Expected result	Monograph with proposals to adapt current models of protected spaces in terms of global change
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise international initiatives • Produce a working document for discussion with a group of managers of protected spaces and organisations related to climate change • Identify the factors of change that will impact (positively or negatively) protected areas in Spain, analysing and proposing methodologies and guidelines to develop capacities to adapt in terms of future changes.



5

KEY ASPECT 5 International cooperation

The achievements made in the last few years in systems of protected areas in Spain are a very valuable reference for other European countries, as well as for the Latin American and North African regions.

In order to promote international cooperation in the sphere of protected areas, both via participation in technical programmes and also via cooperation in development, two broad lines of work are carried out:

5.1. International collaboration strategy via participation in technical programmes and projects

The participation of administrations that manage protected areas in international projects related to technical cooperation (principally in the European Union) is still insufficient, given the huge potential and extensive experience available. Progress must be made in the instruments and platforms that facilitate greater involvement, as well as encouraging the participation of Spanish members in EUROPARC Federation projects.

ACTION	Technical and scientific international collaboration strategy related to protected natural spaces
Expected result	Guidelines to promote international collaboration, technical collaboration and the exchange of experiences
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a document diagnosing the current situation • Organise a seminar for organisations responsible for protected areas and international cooperation organisations

5.2. Development cooperation strategy

All international conservation programmes highlight the need to improve cooperation with developing countries. Spanish public institutions implement a wide range of programmes and projects for cooperation in the sphere of protected areas, but it is possible to increase their size and effectiveness by establishing synergies and international mechanisms of coordination.

ACTION	Development cooperation strategy in the sphere of protected areas
Expected result	Guidelines to promote development cooperation and the transfer of knowledge and resources (principally in Latin America and countries bordering the Mediterranean)
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a document diagnosing the current situation • Organise a seminar for organisations responsible for protected areas and international cooperation organisations



**THE
PROGRAMME
IS UNDERWAY.
WILL YOU
JOIN US?**

We have made a lot of progress but there is still a lot to be done. The speed of changes in territory, society and the environment mean we have to rethink strategies to conserve nature. Our goal is to conserve nature and the services provided by ecosystems to society, achieving wellbeing and human development. And, at the same time, to extend the success of protected areas to the territory as a whole.

The Work Programme for Protected Areas 2009-2013, promoted by EUROPARC-Spain, identifies the main challenges in order to achieve effective systems of protected spaces. A large number of areas need to lend a hand and, although public administrations are responsible in legal terms, they cannot do it on their own. The response given to the participative process used to draw up the programme makes us hopeful: scientists, NGOs, sports federations and associations of farmers and stockbreeders, among other groups of people, have all answered the call to develop real strategies in the field.

Joining the Work Programme for Protected Areas 2009-2013

I, **Person's name and position**, on behalf of **organisation's name**, hereby express support for the Work Programme for Protected Areas 2009-2013 drawn up by EUROPARC-Spain, and I declare our interest in making an active contribution to carrying out the lines of action

(optional paragraph for the corresponding organisation to explain
who they are and their points of interest)

In place, on date,

Signed

Person's name and position and institution

Send to oficina@redeuroparc.org

The living Programme

The complete technical document can be downloaded at www.redeuroparc.org

The Work Programme is a living process that runs from 2009 to 2013. Its evolution can be followed via the EUROPARC-Spain website. Among other information, you will find the status of actions, calendar of events and a list of associated organisations.

You can also find all the documentation resulting from the 2002 Action Plan. The following documents are included, among others:

- 2002. EUROPARC Spain. Action Plan for Protected Natural Areas of the Spanish State. Ed. Fundación Fernando González Bernáldez. Madrid, Spain. 168 pp.
- 2005. Diseño de planes de seguimiento en espacios naturales protegidos. Manual para gestores y técnicos. 176 pp.
- 2005. Integración de los espacios naturales protegidos en la ordenación del territorio. 120 pp.
- 2005. Manual sobre conceptos de uso público en los espacios naturales protegidos. 94 pp.
- 2006. Evaluación del papel que cumplen los equipamientos de uso público en los espacios naturales protegidos. 96 pp.
- 2007. Catálogo de buenas prácticas en materia de accesibilidad en espacios naturales protegidos. 343 pp.
- 2007. enREDando. Herramientas para la comunicación y la participación social en la gestión de la red Natura 2000. 216 pp.
- 2008. Planificar para gestionar los espacios naturales protegidos. 120 pp.
- 2008. EUROPARC Spain. Procedure for Assigning IUCN Protected Area Management Categories. Ed. Fundación Fernando González Bernáldez. Madrid, Spain. 140 pp.

You can also consult the minutes (in Spanish) from the ESPARC Congresses. Below are the areas covered by the Congresses held since 2002 related to the implementation of the Action Plan.

- 2002. Espacios protegidos: oportunidades para el desarrollo sostenible. 8th ESPARC Congress.
- 2003. Red Natura 2000: la integración de redes de conservación. 9th ESPARC Congress.
- 2004. Alcanzar la eficacia en la gestión de los espacios naturales protegidos. 10th ESPARC Congress.
- 2005. Comunicar los beneficios de los espacios naturales protegidos a la sociedad. 11th ESPARC Congress.
- 2006. Trabajar juntos por la conservación de la biodiversidad. El futuro del Plan de Acción para los espacios naturales protegidos del Estado español. 12th ESPARC Congress.
- 2007. Áreas protegidas: diversidad y bienestar social. Contribución al Convenio de Diversidad Biológica. 13th ESPARC Congress.
- 2008. Avances en la gestión eficaz de las áreas protegidas: retos hasta el 2013. Contribución de EUROPARC-España al Programa de Áreas Protegidas. 14th ESPARC Congress.

Participants in drawing up the technical document

The process of producing the Programme was initially directed by a working group of EUROPARC-Spain, coordinated by the Technical Office and made up of the following people:

Antonio Javier Lucio Calero. Government of Cantabria
Antonio López Hernández. Region of Murcia
Carles Castell Puig. Barcelona provincial administration
Cristóbal Rodríguez Piñero. Tenerife council
Federico Zamora Martínez. Community of Madrid
Gonzalo Puerto Arribas. Government of Galicia
Guifré Diego Vives. Government of Catalonia
Ignasi Rodríguez Galindo. Board of EUROPARC-Spain
Javier Gómez-Limón García. FUNGOBE/ Technical Office EUROPARC-Spain
José Perea Romero. Government of Andalusia
José Vicente de Lucio Fernández. FUNGOBE/ Technical Office EUROPARC-Spain
Kiko Álvarez Dávila. Basque government
Marta Múgica de la Guerra. FUNGOBE/ Technical Office EUROPARC-Spain
Marta Rozas Ormazabal. Basque government
Pere Bonet Bonet. Government of the Balearic Islands
Plácido Antonio Brotons Floria. Government of Aragón
Salvador Grau Tort. Government of Catalonia
Santiago González Pérez. Government of Cantabria

The following public and private organisations helped with their comments and experience in drawing up the technical document. The development of the Programme is still open to all public and private organisations that are interested:

Asociación EuroEume
Cabildo de Tenerife (Dirección Insular de Medio Ambiente y Paisaje)
Comunidad de Madrid (Dirección General de Medio Ambiente)
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales)
Diputación de Barcelona (Area de Espacios Naturales)
Federación de Asociaciones de Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente
Federación Española de Deportes de Montaña y Escalada (Comisión de accesos y naturaleza)
Federación Española de Espeleología
Foro Asturiano para el Conocimiento y Desarrollo del Medio Rural
Gama Alternativas Medioambientales S.L.
Generalitat de Cataluña (Dirección General del Medio Natural)
Generalitat Valenciana (Dirección General de Gestión del Medio Natural y Dirección General para el Cambio Climático)
Gobierno de Aragón (Dirección General de Desarrollo Sostenible y Biodiversidad)
Gobierno de Cantabria (Dirección General de Biodiversidad)
Gobierno Vasco (Dirección General de Biodiversidad y Participación Ambiental)
Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Geólogos
Instituto Geológico y Minero de España
Junta de Andalucía (Dirección General de Sostenibilidad de los Espacios Naturales Protegidos; Espacio Natural Doñana)
Junta de Castilla y León (Dirección General del Medio Natural)
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino (Dirección General para la Sostenibilidad de la Costa y del Mar)
Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (equipo de Biogeografía y Cambio Global)
Parque Nacional de Garajonay

Programa de voluntariado ambiental en Espacios Naturales de Murcia
Región de Murcia (Dirección General de Patrimonio Natural y Biodiversidad)
Silene (Asociación para la promoción de los valores inmateriales de la naturaleza)
Sociedad Española para la Defensa del Patrimonio Geológico y Minero
Sociedad Geológica de España (Comisión de Patrimonio Geológico)
Unión de Pequeños agricultores y ganaderos
Universidad de Lleida (ETS d'Enginyeria Agrària, grupo de investigación PlanForBio)
Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Escuela Politécnica Superior de Lugo)
Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori (en representación del Foro estatal de custodia del territorio)
Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori (grupo de trabajo de custodia marina)
Xunta de Galicia (Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza)

Board of EUROPARC-Spain

Up to December 2008

President: Jorge Bonnet Fernández-Trujillo
Vice-president: Rosario Pintos
Secretary-Treasurer: Carmen Olmos
Members:
Ignasi Rodríguez
Xosé Benito Reza
Juan Garay
Juan del Nido
Carles Castell
José Vicente de Lucio
Antonio López Lillo. Honorary President

Since December 2008

President: Hermelindo Castro Nogueira
Vice-president: Carmen Olmos
Secretary-Treasurer: Carles Castell
Members:
Ignasi Rodríguez
Xosé Benito Reza
Juan Garay
Cristóbal Rodríguez
Juan del Nido
José Vicente de Lucio
Antonio López Lillo. Honorary President

In order to carry out its activities, EUROPARC-Spain has a Technical Office at the Fernando González Bernáldez Interuniversity Foundation for Natural Spaces (FUNGLOBE). The Foundation was originally set up by the University of Alcalá, the Autonomous University of Madrid and the University of Complutense in order to help develop protected natural spaces.

FUNGLOBE personnel working at the Technical Office of EUROPARC-Spain:

José Vicente de Lucio. Director
Marta Mugica. Coordinator
Javier Gómez-Limón. Tourism and public use
José Antonio Atauri. Conservation
Javier Puertas. Communication and website services
Carlota Martínez. Databases and cartography
Loli Gómez. Administration





Parque Nacional Marítimo-Terrestre de las Islas Atlánticas de Galicia.
Author: Javier Puertas



**PROGRAMA
de TRABAJO**
para las
Áreas Protegidas
2009-2013



Fundación Interuniversitaria
Fernando González Bernáldez
PARA LOS ESPACIOS NATURALES