



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

**TransParcNet**  
European network  
of transboundary areas



Case studies:  
Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland  
Krkonoše/Karkonosze  
National Parks

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Promoting cross-border cooperation  
in nature conservation

<http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/transboundary-parks>



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

# From DURBAN to SYDNEY



## EUROPARC's basic standards

A unique tool for improving cooperation efforts and awarding best practice

1.  
1.1

### 1.2 Fields of Work

All fields of work of the cooperation should be determined jointly. They should be within the frame of a mid-term work plan and include work in the secondary fields indicated below, administrative capacity-building and staff from the partner protected areas. The fields of work should also take into account national objectives and work schemes.

### 1.3 Official Agreement

An official agreement should have been signed at the appropriate management or political decision-making levels for facilitating the creation and promotion of a transfrontier protected area within a given time frame. Where appropriate, bilateral agreements and conventions should be used to support the framework for transfrontier cooperation.

### 1.4 Staff

Permanent communication involving all levels of staff in a process of exchange of information should have been established and (a) facilitator/s for collaboration in the field with responsibility for cooperative activities should meet regularly to coordinate management, evaluate progress and exchange knowledge and experience. In addition, staff should periodically carry out joint field trips and on-site visits to partner areas. A joint steering committee is recommended.

implementation of agreed management aims and plans, joint projects for species conservation, habitat restoration etc.

## 4. Secondary Fields of Work

### 4.1 Education and Communication

Transfrontier cooperation in the field of 'education and communication' should include a range of joint activities providing information, raising awareness and promoting the message of the transfrontier protected area as a whole. For example, the development of a common identity, the production of multilingual publications, maps, and video / internet presentations, guided visits for different target groups on both sides of the border, or of multilingual events for pupils and schools, as well as periodic cooperation with the media. This field of work also includes the development of a serviceable strategy for a cross-border system of ranger service.

### 4.2 Recreation and Sustainable Tourism

Transfrontier opportunities for people to experience nature and enjoy the landscape should be developed. This includes, for example, coordinated visitor management systems, visitor facilities and trails, and transfrontier public transport systems. This field of work also includes the development of sustainable transfrontier tourism initiatives covering, for example, the contribution of tourism to regional development, or the support of protected areas for marketing of local ecological products.

### 4.3 Research and Monitoring

The partners should develop and implement common mutually agreed research activities and monitoring programmes.

### 4.4 Mutual Understanding and the Promotion of Peace

The partners should stimulate and support joint activities which promote cultural

## Following nature's design

Promoting cross-border cooperation  
in nature conservation





# From DURBAN to SYDNEY

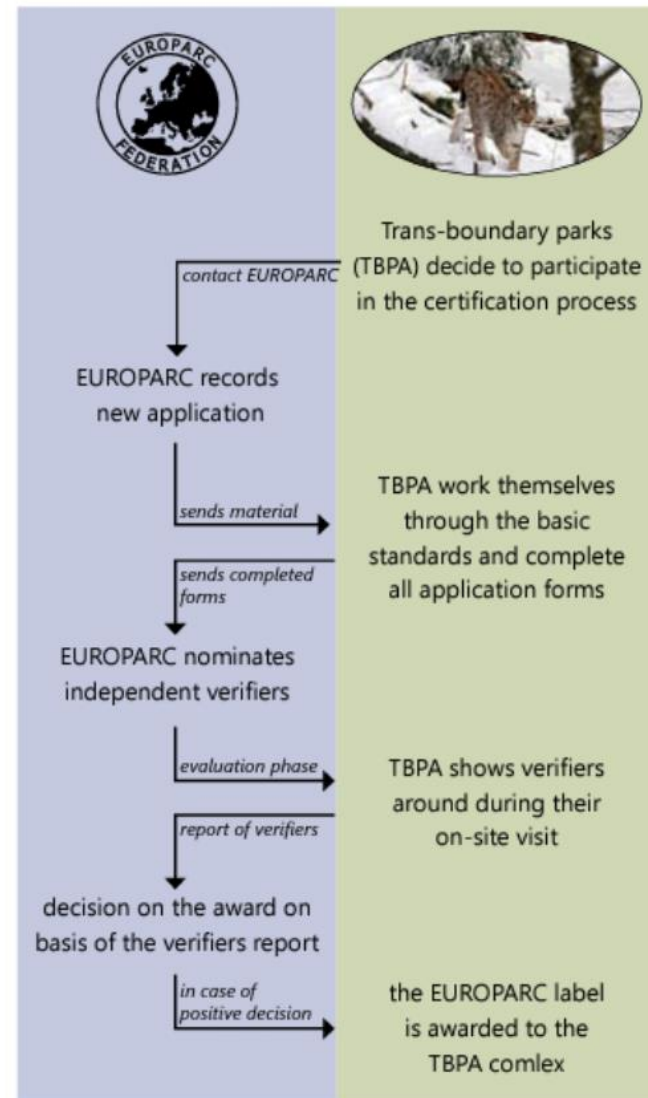
## Certification process

### Steps for implementation

If neighbouring parks consider working towards achieving a trans-boundary award, they are asked to:

- > Formally register their application with EUROPARC;
- > Work through the basic standards, assessing what has already been achieved and where action is still required;
- > Complete and submit the full application documents, illustrating how the neighbouring parks are fulfilling each of the basic standards criteria;
- > Cover the costs for the administration and the verification process.

EUROPARC Federation provides a manual to accompany the certification process. Independent verifiers evaluate each application, including an on-site visit in the protected areas. Trans-boundary protected area complexes fulfilling a minimum of ten out of 14 criteria can be awarded with the EUROPARC label. The final decision is taken by EUROPARC upon



# From DURBAN to SYDNEY

## TransParcNet

Europe's platform for unifying ecosystems and people across borders

Neusiedler See National Park (AT) and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU) were the first two parks to be awarded by EUROPARC Federation in 2003. Meanwhile eight further trans-boundary protected areas have been characterised as best practice. They are the founding members of the TransParcNet. Its members meet annually in different trans-boundary areas to exchange best practice and look to the future development of trans-boundary cooperation.

- ① Neusiedler See National Park (AT) and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU)
- ② Krkonoše National Park (CZ) and Karkonosze National Park (PL)
- ③ Oulanka National Park (FI) and Paanajärvi National Park (RU)
- ④ Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park (DE/NL)
- ⑤ Thayatal National Park (AT) and Podyjí National Park (CZ)
- ⑥ Inari-Vätsäri Wilderness Area (FI), Øvre-Pasvik National Park (NO) and Pasvik Zapovednik (RU)
- ⑦ Prealpi Giulie Natural Park (IT) and Triglav National Park / Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (SL)
- ⑧ Bavarian Forest National Park (DE) and Sumava National Park (CZ)



The TransParcNet - Unifying ecosystems and people



82 of worldwide 227  
trans-boundary protected area  
complexes are found in Europe.

(Source: UNEP-WCMC 2007)

# TransParcNet: Certified parks



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

1. **Neusiedler See National Park** (Austria) and **Fertő-Hanság National Park** (Hungary)
2. **Krkonoše National Park** (Czech Republic) and **Karkonosze National Park** (Poland)
3. **Oulanka National Park** (Finland) and **Paanajärvi National Park** (Russia)
4. **Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park** (Germany/Netherlands)
5. **Thayatal National Park** (Austria) and **Podyjí National Park** (Czech Republic)
6. **Vätsäri Wilderness Area** (Finland), **Øvre-Pasvik National Park** (Norway), **Øvre-Pasvik Landscape Protection Area** (Norway), **Pasvik Nature Reserve** (Norway) and **Pasvik Zapovednik** (Russia)
7. **Prealpi Giulie Nature Park** (Italy) and **Triglav National Park/ Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve** (Slovenia)
8. **Bavarian Forest National Park** (Germany) and **Sumava National Park** (Czech Republic)
9. **Saxon Switzerland National Park** (Germany), **Bohemian Switzerland National Park** (Czech Republic) and **Elbe Sandstones Protected Landscape Area** (Czech Republic)
10. **Escaut Plaines Nature Park** (Belgium) and **Scarpe-Escaut Regional Nature Park** (France)



# **TB PAs Europe: historical background**

First TB area:

1932 Pieniny Nature Reserve (today National Park) between  
Czechoslovakia (today Slovakia) and Poland





# TB PAs Europe: historical background

Challenging time: 90th of the 20th century

Political changes: End of the iron-curtain

Splitting to smaller countries (Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia)

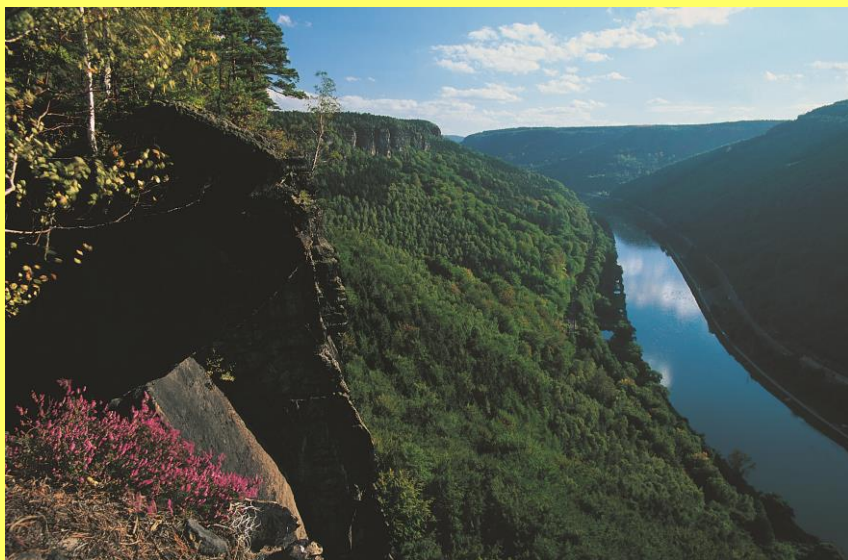




# Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland

synonym: Elbe Sandstones

The largest sandstone rock landscape in Europe





# 3 pillars of cooperation

- (i) Nature and Landscape, (ii) Formal basis of cooperation,
- (iii) Personal basis

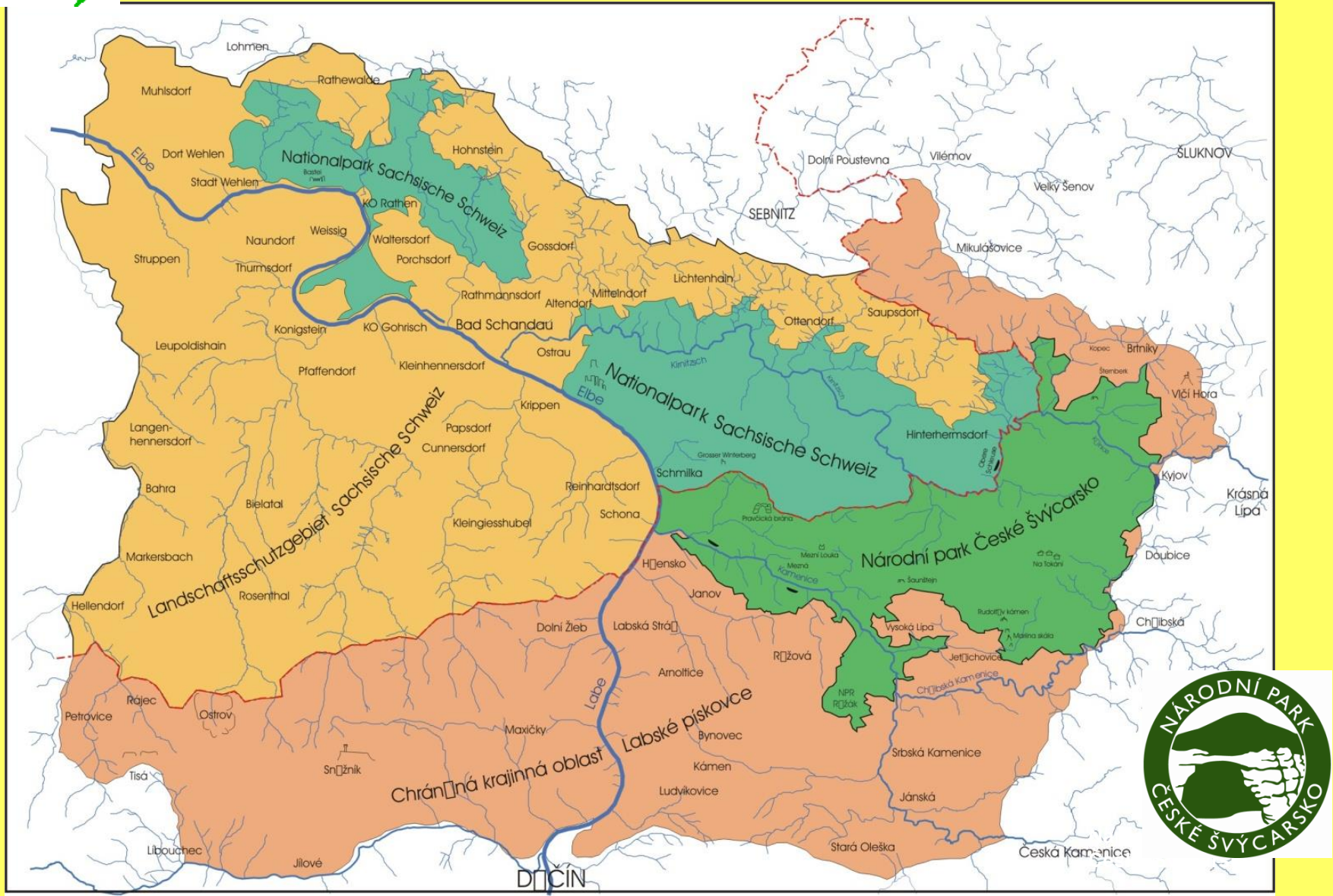


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# 1. Shared nature heritage





## 2. Formal basis



1991: Agreement  
between the MoE of  
the Czech Republic and  
the MoE of Saxony  
about the cooperation  
in nature conservation

1994: Joint Strategy

2010: Joint Vision

2012: Transboundary  
Certificate



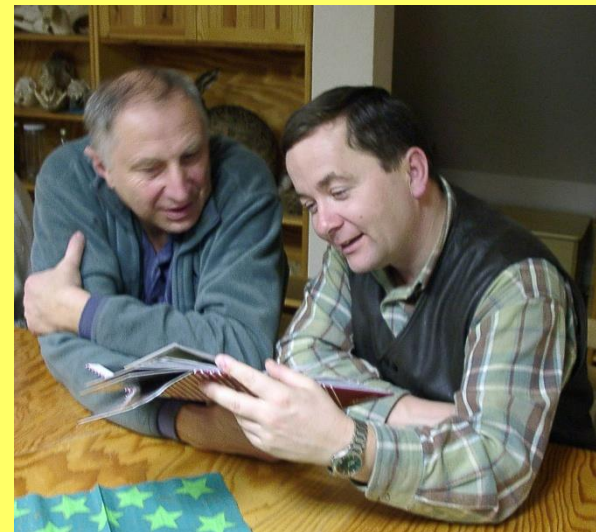




### 3. Personal level Working Groups



1. Research and monitoring
2. Forest management
3. Sustainable tourism and environmental education
4. Rangers





# Joint reintroduction projects: Elbe-Salmon Peregrine Falcon



1994 the Sächsische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft started with the implementation of the Elbe-Salmon 2000 Program (Elblachs 2000)

The new salmon population is supported by the release of 200.000 to 250.000 salmon fry every year. In 1998 the first salmon was caught in the Saxon Switzerland

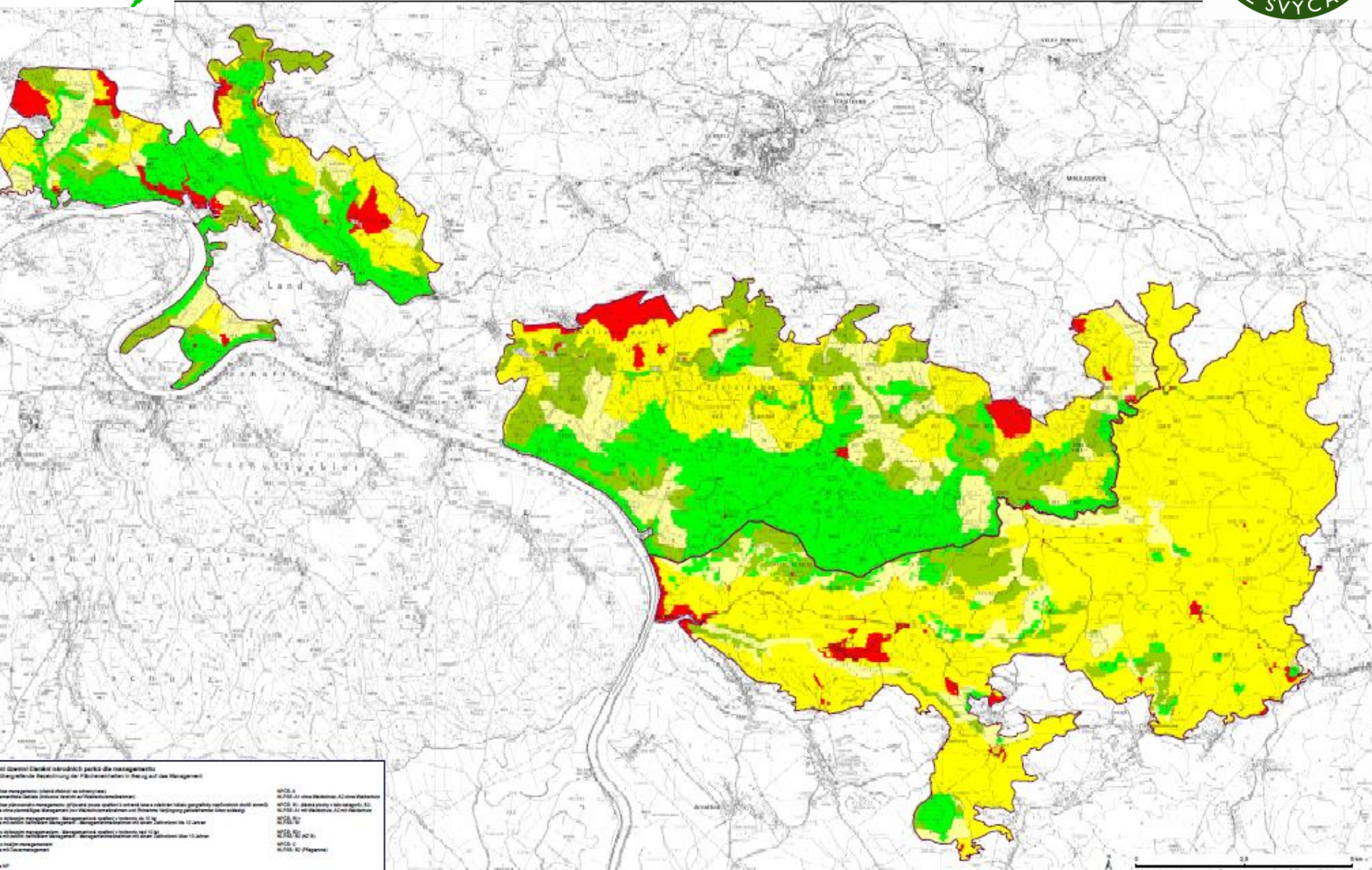


Within seven years 77 young falcons were released in the Saxon Switzerland

Today the falcon population in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland is stabilized and there are regularly about 30 pairs in the whole area











# Joint PR concept



Two bilingual national park centres  
Krásná Lípa (CZ) and Bad Schandau (DE)



## Joint corporate design



- České Švýcarsko
- Sächsische Schweiz



# Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. NPs

Cooperation since 1960's – problematic politically. After 1989 real cooperation has started, systematically based since 2000. Certified by EUROPARC Federation in 2006.



# Main means of cooperation

1. Harmonization of management plans and management practice
2. Everyday work – working “twins”
3. Joint projects (financed mainly by EU Funds)

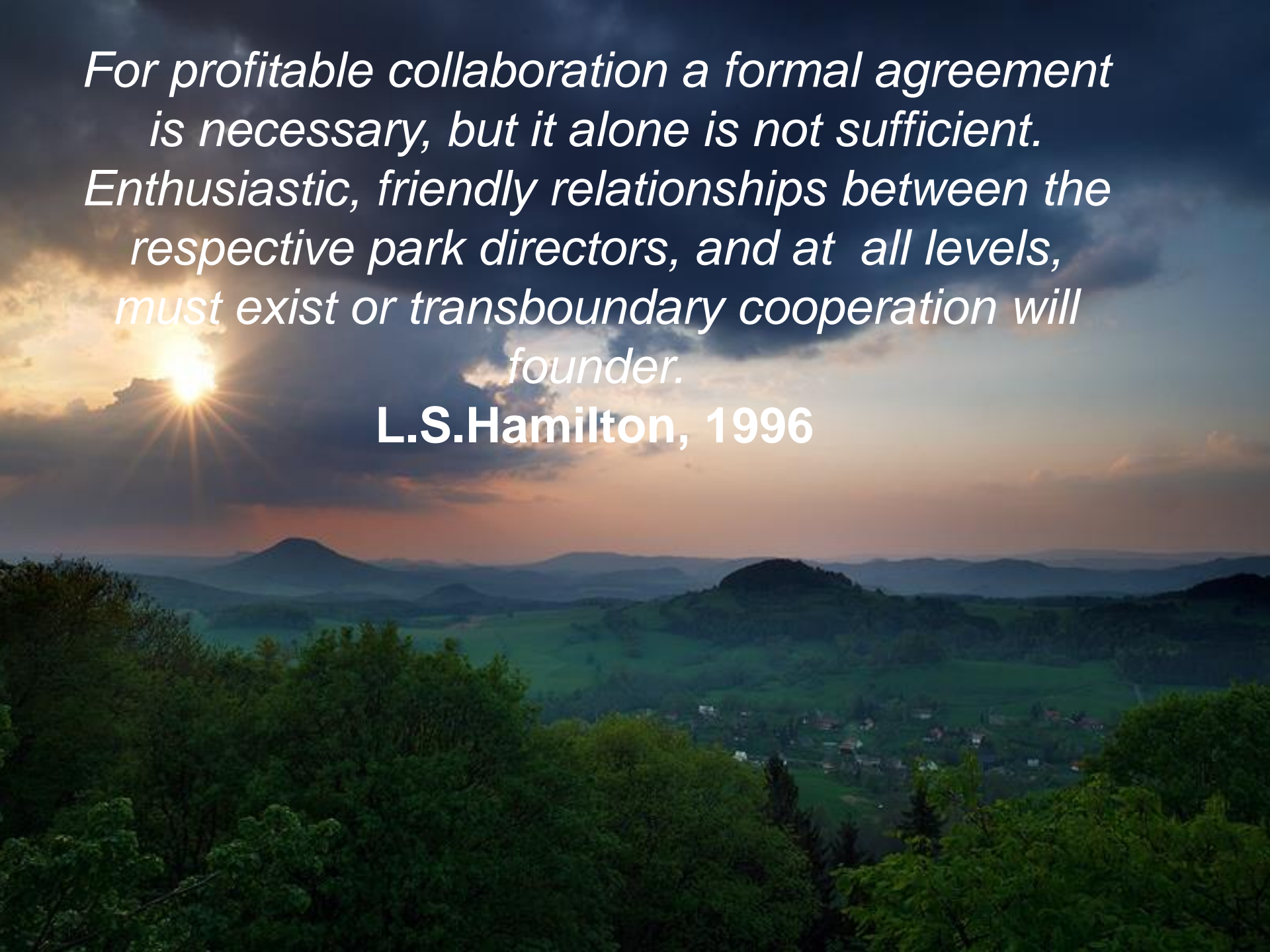




# Main outcomes

1. Joint identity (common logo signaling that we are in fact one National Park)
2. Coordinated field work, monitoring and research
3. Coordinated educational and promotional work as well as work with visitors
4. Better approach to project money





*For profitable collaboration a formal agreement  
is necessary, but it alone is not sufficient.  
Enthusiastic, friendly relationships between the  
respective park directors, and at all levels,  
must exist or transboundary cooperation will  
founder.*

**L.S.Hamilton, 1996**