



Project Working Group

A project working group accompanies the project throughout the entire project duration and gives advice on the practical implementation.

Through the working group, experiences and ideas from parks in Germany and 6 other European countries are integrated in the project (AT: Franz Handler, Association of Austrian Nature Parks; CH: Christian Stauffer, Swiss Parks Network; FR: Olaf Holm, French Regional Nature Park Montagne de Reims; HU: Béla Báthty, Hungarian Nature Park Association; LU: Christian Kayser, Luxembourgian Nature Park Our; UK: Richard Blackman, EUROPARC Atlantic Isles).



Project aims and working steps

The project aims at:

- Gathering information on the work of European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks and supplying this information to all national umbrella organisations
- Fostering knowledge exchange between European countries
- Communicating the value of European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks towards European policy makers and other decision makers

Working steps:

- Survey amongst European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Park associations (2015)
- Study visits to selected countries (2016)
- Publication of a book on European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks
- Publication of study results (detailed final report and executive summary)
- Presentation of the results in Brussels and Berlin (2017)

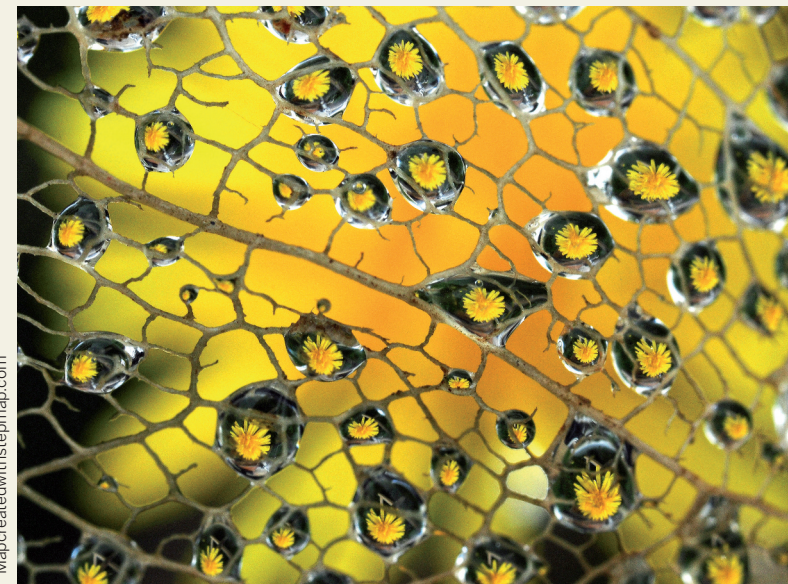


Contact:

Verband Deutscher Naturparke e.V. (VDN)
 Association of German Nature Parks
 Katharina Denking / Ulrich Köster
 Holbeinstraße 12
 D-53175 Bonn
 Tel: +49 228 921 286-4
 katharina.denking@naturparke.de
 www.european-parks.org
 www.naturparke.de



EUROPE'S NATURE-, REGIONAL-, AND LANDSCAPE PARKS



Text: Katharina Denking, VDN; Pictures: VDN / T. Hinsche, M. Schmichels, R. Robra, R. Jacobs, S. Kotz, H. Esser, S. Plewinski; Map created with stepmap.com

... a project to share knowledge & experience



Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks in Europe

Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks exist in many European states and play a vital role in the wide network of protected areas across Europe.

They comprise outstanding landscapes with a special wealth of natural and cultural heritage. As integrative protected areas for humans and nature, Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks play a forward-looking role in the conservation of biological diversity, nature and the countryside, in nature-oriented recreation and sustainable tourism, and in the sustainable development of rural areas.

Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks make up an important part of national protected areas and include many Natura 2000 sites. With their manifold conservation activities, they help to implement international policy strategies as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the European Green Infrastructure.



About the project

The project seeks to strengthen European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks by gathering up to date information on their tasks, achievements and activities, providing this information to park associations throughout Europe and promoting the value of these parks towards European decision makers.

The project "Europe's Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks" is implemented by the Association of German Nature Parks (VDN) in collaboration with EUROPARC Federation. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation supports the project with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. The project runs from October 2014 to July 2017.

Collecting knowledge

In 2015 we carried out a survey amongst European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Park associations and assigned administrations. The online questionnaire included questions on the working areas and objectives, realized projects and management of the parks and their associations. In total, 24 European countries joined the project by participating in the survey.

Study tours

To promote the direct exchange between European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks, in 2016, the VDN will visit several European park associations and parks. During these study tours, more detailed information and examples will be gathered and good-practice examples will be shared.

The results of the survey and the visits will be published in various publications in English and German. Bringing together good examples from across Europe this project will provide precious information for parks and park associations as well as highlight their value to decision makers.



Strengthening the profile

Despite their vital importance for the sustainable development of rural areas in Europe, the value and potential of European Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks is largely untapped. Therefore, a key issue of this project is to highlight the importance of these parks for nature conservation, environmental education, sustainable regional development and environment-friendly tourism to politicians and decision makers. The VDN and EUROPARC Federation will present the results of the study to members of the European Commission, the European Parliament and other stakeholders in Brussels, as well as to German policy makers in Berlin. Furthermore, together with the participating countries, we will publish a book to show the variety of outstanding work of the Nature-, Regional-, and Landscape Parks in Europe.

Verband Deutscher Naturparke (VDN)

The Verband Deutscher Naturparke (VDN) is the Association of German Nature Parks, representing 100 of the 103 Nature Parks in Germany. Since 1963, the VDN acts as advisor, expert panel and initiator to promote further development of German Nature Parks. The VDN has implemented numerous projects in the field of nature conservation, environmental education and sustainable tourism.