

**EUROPARC**  
FEDERATION



EUROPEAN CHARTER  
FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN  
PROTECTED AREAS

 **Federparchi**

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA PARCHI E RISERVE NATURALI



**EUROPARC**  
SEZIONE ITALIANA

# *The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas - ECST*

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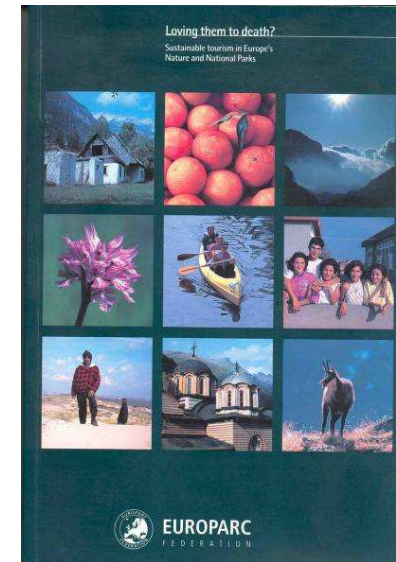


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Conservation

OR

Development ?



The European Charter emanated from a report by the EUROPARC Federation in 1993 called *Loving them to death*, which demonstrated the important and sensitive relationship between tourism and protected areas.

The Charter was also one of the priorities defined in the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) action programme for protected areas in Europe, "Parks for Life" (1994).

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To put into practice  
Sustainable Tourism  
in a Protected Area, it is necessary:

to have a **global view** of tourism in and  
around the protected area,

to engage in a process of  
**wide consultation**,

and to strengthen the positive **interactions**  
between tourism, other economic sectors  
in the area and nature conservation.

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## **THE EUROPARC CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PAs**

The Charter is, at the same time:

- A practical management tool
- A voluntary agreement
- A methodology
- A certification (Diploma)



The Charter and the Charter Network is managed by the EUROPARC Federation

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## Vision of the Charter

- To increase awareness of and support for protected areas as a ***fundamental part of our heritage*** that should be preserved for and enjoyed by current and future generations.
  - To improve the sustainable development and management of tourism in protected areas, which takes account of the ***needs of the environment, local residents, local businesses and visitors.***
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## 10 CHARTER PRINCIPLES

1. Partnership
  2. Common Strategy
  3. Conservation, protection of natural resources
  4. High quality of tourism
  5. Effective, realistic, correct communication
  6. Typical local tourism products
  7. Good knowledge, training of all actors involved
  8. Not negative impact of tourism on local residents
  9. Economical advantages for local residents
  10. Monitoring the impact of tourism
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# ECST Process

Creation of a **Forum** : working table with Park and all local stakeholders (local authorities, tourism operators, associations, etc...) to discuss the diagnostic report, to identify the strategy, to elaborate the action plan, to monitor the implementation of the action plan, etc...

Realization of the **Diagnostic Report**, a study about social, economical, environmental and tourism aspects of the territory.

Identification of a common **Strategy** and elaboration of an **Action Plan** for the next 5 years. The Action Plan must contain actions to be implemented by all different actors of the Forum. All actions must be based on the 10 Charter Principles.

**Verification** by Europarc Federation.

If positive verification, ECST official **Certification**.

Next 5 years: **implementation** of the Action Plan + regular **meetings** of the Forum

Afer 5 years: **re-evaluation...**





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107 awarded Protected areas in Europe (in 2012):

**Finland (2)**

**France (24)**

**Germany (4)**

**Italy (13)**

**Netherlands (3)**

**Norway (1)**

**Portugal (5)**

**Spain (38)**

**United Kingdom (13)**

**Denmark (1)**

**Latvia (1)**

**Lithuania (1)**

**Slovakia (1)**

**A LARGE  
EUROPEAN  
NETWORK**







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## KEY ASPECTS

- Not fixed standard / flexibility
  - Medium/long term process
  
  - Analysis
  - Participation
  - Strategy / Plan
  - Time
  
  - All actors involved at the same level
  - 10 Principles accepted and signed by all actors
  
  - Certification
  - External Evaluation
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## Advantages :

- Improvement of relations among park, local actors and tourism sector
  - Opportunity to influence the tourism development of the area
  - High visibility as park engaged in sustainable development and community participation
  - Awareness of visitors, public, media about sustainability
  - International networking, to learn each other
  - External evaluation for new ideas and improvement of the process
  - More credibility for external donors, more opportunities of funding
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# Certificate



The European Charter is a contribution to Agenda 21, the sustainable development programme of the United Nations agreed at Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Its aim is the promotion of sustainable tourism in protected areas, particularly in nature and national parks. Tourism in these areas should be both nature and landscape friendly, respect the needs of visitors and the local population, and contribute to the economic development of the region.

Prerequisites for adherence to the European Charter are: an analysis of the current situation in all fields relating to tourism, the elaboration of a strategy and the formulation of an action plan for the forthcoming five years by the respective park.

The European Charter attaches particular importance to the continuing integration of all players concerned with tourism in the drafting and implementation of tourism policy.

The Park is committed to following the principles of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and to the implementation of the agreed strategy and action plan.

*José Luis Juárez*  
José Luis Juárez  
President, Páramo Natural Aventura de Sierra Nevada  
Sierra Nevada, 23 September 2006

Recognized by EUROPARC the Páramo Natural Aventura de Sierra Nevada fulfills the requirements for adherence to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. The award is valid for five years.

*Enrique Esteban*  
Enrique Esteban  
President, EUROPARC Federación  
Madrid, España, 23 September 2006



<http://www.european-charter.org>