The Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserves

Let’s protect nature, the inheritance of the future

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PARKS IN ITALY

- 24 National Parks ha 1,450,000
- 142 Regional Parks ha 1,250,000
- 145 National Natural Reserves ha 120,000
- 30 Marine Protected Areas ha 170,000
- 371 Regional Reserves ha 215,000
- 430 other Protected Areas ha 60,000

Total Italian Protected Areas ha 3,265,000 (more than 10% of the national territory)
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THE NATURE IN ITALY

More than 57,000 animal species
(56,168 of which invertebrates and 1,254 vertebrates)

5,600 plant species
(50% of the European species, 13% endemic)
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THE ECONOMY

- **80.000 employed**
  (4.000 direct, in parks administration; 16.000 in many activities and services, research and projects; 60.000 in economic activities as tourism, agriculture, farming, crafts, trade)

- **2.000 visitor centers, cultural structures, tourist areas, facilities**

- **700 cooperatives and NPO associations involved**

- **30.000.000 visitors per year**

- **500 million Euros of investments**

- **1 billion Euros the total turnover**

- **2675 involved Municipalities**
The Italian Federation of Parks and Natural Reserves represents an original experience of association among the protected areas management bodies, which want to work together for the conservation of nature. It has the purpose to coordinate the activities and to create a System including parks and natural reserves, both terrestrial and marine.

The actions of the Federation are based on the involvement of local communities, convinced as we are that the protection of nature and cultural heritage can be more easily achieved with the consensus of the people living in the parks, who can exploit social and economic opportunities. Thanks to the work of Federation and parks, nowadays in Italy it has been demonstrate that conservation and sustainable development can go hand in hand promoting traditional activities such as tourism, agriculture, and craftsmanship.

The Federation participates in the management of International projects with several partners, dealing in particular with the transnational issues. It is also engaged in the elaboration of cooperation initiatives for developing countries.
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STAGES

1989 – Coordination of Parks and Regional Reserves

1993 – Coordination of Parks and Natural Reserves

1998 – Italian Federation established
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**AIMS**

- Promoting the conservation and the enhancement of the natural environment
- Promoting the creation of the national system of protected areas
- Representing the Managing Authorities in front of other institutions
- Developing the collaboration and the exchange of experiences
- Coordinating research and study activities
- Developing national and international relationships
- Elaborating and participating in national and community projects
- Organizing events and promotional activities
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On the whole, 313 protected natural areas for a surface of 2,750,000 hectares, of which 180,000 at sea

MEMBERS

20 National Parks
75 Regional Parks
23 Marine and Land Reserves
5 Regions
10 Provinces
10 Associations and Agencies
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**ACTIONS**

- Promotion and accomplishment of studies, researches, and projects for the safeguard and management of the protected areas.
- Development of good practices for the safeguard and the enhancement of traditional activities and local productions.
- Support for the enforcement of measures promoting a sustainable tourism in the protected areas, according with the community directives.
- Promotion of initiatives with Institutes, Universities, and Agencies.
- Organization of workshops, stages, meetings, seminars, training and courses.
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STUDY CENTERS

• “Valerio Giacomini”
  Region of Lombardia, Alto Garda Bresciano
  Centro Studi Valerio Giacomini

• Sulla tutela marina
  Region of Liguria, Acquario di Genova
  Centro Studi sul Mare

• Coste Italiane Protette
  Region of Marche, Parco del Conero
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INFORMATION SERVICES

- “PARCHI” quarterly magazine
- “ParchiNews” – Agency and Newsletter
- Series of the “E-Quaderni”
- Giornale dei Parchi – online
- Publications and brochures
- Television programmes
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**REPRESENTATION**

Relationships with Ministries, Regions, Provinces, Comunità Montane, Municipalities, and associations

- Legislation
- Resources
- Agreements
- Legal status
- Projects and Programmes
- Seminars, Meetings, and Events
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- IUCN (The World Conservation Union)
- European Community Inhabited Parks Association
- Europarc
- Fedenatur
- Federation of French Regional Nature Parks
- National Park Service U.S.A.
- Transnational activities for community projects
- European meetings
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INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

- International and European commitments
- National Programmes and Strategies (RedLists)
- European and International meetings
IDEAS AND PROJECTS FOR ITALY

THE ITALIAN PARKS BEST PRACTICES
Management with passive policies
The importance of participation and of active policies
Creation of a system for the integrated management of the territory
Federparchi input
Necessity for the parks to get out from a simple monitoring role

Face dynamic reality

Not only maintenance of specific ecosystem

Testing sustainable management models
“Tomorrow parks will have a model role for the economy of the territory” (v. Giacomini e V. Romani - 1982).
The originality of the Region Role

Regions as protagonists

The experience of French Regional Parks

The bureaucracy limits the management
The achievements

Citizens and Institutions changed attitude
The best practices of Parks
Parks as management model
Parks as Laboratories of Innovation

Valorization of the engagement of the Italian natural protected areas:
Best practices:
✓ in developing high know-how and experience
✓ in the safeguard of natural, cultural and historical values
✓ in the promotion of compatible human activity
✓ in developing education, training and research
The originality of the Italian “way” in the management of protected areas is in the inclusive approach of traditional activities which characterized the territory. Special attention to the identification of methodologies and typical practices marginalized by global economy.

In such a way conservation measures have been linked to economical activities creating economy.
Habitat and Species plundered by birds of prey

Usual Production of typical products

CONSERVATION

ECONOMY
**THE BEST PRACTICES**

- **Dolomiti Bellunesi Park**
- **Synergy with business**
- Park linked its image to “Lattabusche”, an important historical and local enterprise working since 50 years in milk and cheese sector, dealing also with the breeding of “Razza Bruna Alpina”.

In such a way, Lattebusche products, commercialized in all the world, extended the imagine and the spirit of the Park and at the same time Lattebusche products benefit of the quality and wellness messages, typical of a Protected Areas.
Adamello Brenta Natural Park
Support to local economy
In an area with high winter skiing vocation, the Park reinvented local economy creating chances for a fruition in all the seasons thanks to a smart management of mobility, enriched by a strong support to tourist structures through the European “Charter of Sustainable Tourism”, EMAS certification and the brand “Park Quality”.

THE BEST PRACTICES
THE BEST PRACTICES

- Campi Flegrei Regional Park
- Catalyst of financing

The Park is the catalyst and the animator of several regional and European funding for an area beyond its borders. Thanks to participated and shared targets, projects and strategies, the Park has been identified for the drafting of announcements and procurements allowing to use in a compatible way resources which otherwise would have been lost.
Gran Sasso Laga National Park

Breeding

The Park realized the project “Shepherds and Shepherds: Abruzzi-Sardinia, young shepherds meet each other”, sharing experiences to re-launch a quality agriculture. The initiative valorizes young producers of Slow Food of Abruzzi and Sardinian cheese. The reduction of zoo technical heritage is evident with a decrease of 45% of the numbers of heads.
THE BEST PRACTICES

- Po’ Alessandrino Vercellese Regional Park
- Support to SMBs
- The Park has identified an original process to sustainable development to business through the system of supplier of environmental quality. Every company which respects the requirements defined by the park can use the brand of territorial quality which certifies that the productive processes give environmental quality to the territory with great return of prestige and image.
THE BEST PRACTICES

- Cinque Terre National Park
- Sustainable Tourism
- To rationalize the tourism, it has been drafted a specific Chart “Cinque Terre Chart” with the railway company.
- The Chart can be valid for one day, three days or seven days and you can use train (or boats) from Levanto to La Spezia, walk in all the pay-paths, have access to internal mobility (electric buses in historical centers). Except the costs for the employment necessary for the management of services, all the money is reinvested in the territory.
Aspromonte National Park

Fight to forest fires

The Aspromonte National Park, traditionally one of the most affected by fires, tried to remedy through an announcement to identify voluntary associations. The Park has awarded every association with a contribution according to the hectares supervised and to an indicator of fire-risk of the concerned area, linking the delivery to an innovative mechanism.

The first 50% is common to all while the remaining half, per season over, is paid only if in the territory of its competences there has been no fires greater than one hectare and half. Only one association has been penalized while all the others had the entire contribution and the fired hectares drastically decreased from 359 to 120 per season.
Alpi Marittime Park
International Cooperation
Without waiting Schengen and Maastricht, the ungulates trespassed freely in the French National Park of Mercantour. The twinning between the two parks has always been in the natural order of things. Among the most relevant experience there is the re-introduction of vulture, since 80s, the project “Mountain without frontiers”, in 1995, which produced also a bilingual guide on paths and many actions on fruition, last June many bilingual panels have been installed along the 35 km of common border, at Colle di Finestra.
Gola della Rossa and di Frasassi Regional Park

Management of boars

The Park announced an invitation for the slaughter and commercialization of boars killed and/or captured. For each boar killed, half is assigned to the hunter with criteria of controlled selection and the other, after the processing, goes to the super market. In such a way the damages to the farmers have been reduced and it was a big commercial success. In the local shop, at Fabriano, the shelf of Park boar salami empty soon.
Maremma Regional Park

Externalization of Services

The Park has put out to tender the management of services for the valorization, touristic promotion and management of structures of the Park like the management of visitor centers, guesthouses, guides, itineraries, sales of publication, gadgets and typical products, transports, parking management of the Marina of Alberese beach, sponsorship. In such a way the Park provides a guaranteed quality of services against an annual fee that increases over the years.
Lazio Parks Agency realized a project to recover the cultural and natural heritage of Lazio Protected Areas, also through the creation of a network of Ecomuseum “identity museum” and naturalist museums. The project develops and creates a system of “minor museology”, made of spaces to witness the material culture, floristic and species values.
THE BEST PRACTICES

Vesuvio National Park

From Illegality to Nature

The presence of the Park allowed to transform the Mediceo Palace of Ottaviano from a symbol of illegality to the center of the Park for the culture, protection and local valorization.

In 1991 the castle has been confiscated by the law and assigned to Ottaviano Municipality.

After a long process, the Raffaele Cutolo mansion, former boss of Camorra, the Neapolitan Mafia, become a place of legality and environmental valorization.
EUROPARC Federation

Umbrella organisation of more than 500

• National Parks
• Nature Parks and
• Biosphere Reserves

in 38 European countries.
EUROPARC Federation

- Founded in 1973 as a politically independent non-governmental organisation (NGO).

- More than 380 member organisations in 38 European countries.

- Protected area administrations, national and regional government bodies, nature NGOs, academic institutions.
EUROPARC Sections

Atlantic Isles
www.europarc-ai.org.uk

España
www.europarc-es.org

Nordic-Baltic
www.metsa.fi/europarc

Ceská Republika
www.europarc.cz

Deutschland
www.europarc-deutschland.de

Italia
www.europarc.it

Serbia and Montenegro
www.natureprotection.org.yu

France
EUROPARC Federation

Voice of Europe’s protected areas.

International network devoted to the promotion of best practice in protected area management (exchange of expertise and experience).

Development and implementation of programmes and pilot projects at national and European levels.

Increase awareness for common aims of the European protected area network.

Increase public support and acceptance of protected areas.
EUROPARC Federation Work Programme

- Training through networking “Working together, learning from each other”.
- Improving protected area management.
- Promoting and supporting youth work and environmental education in protected areas.
- Fostering cooperation between protected areas on state borders; Transboundary Parks: Following Nature’s Design initiative
- Promoting sustainable tourism in protected areas.
The Italian System of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Tavolara Island
The Italian System of Marine Protected Areas

40 Protected areas related to marine ecosystems, of which

30 MPAs

2 Underwater Archaeological sites

1 Cetaceans' Sanctuary (with France and Monaco)

2 Terrestrial National Parks with jurisdiction on marine ecosystems

For a total of 640 km of coastline and 3,000,000 hectares of seabed Protected (2,670,000 of which are within the Sanctuary)
These areas include:

✓ Seabed and shorelines which are of interest for their natural, geo-morphological, physical and biochemical characteristics.

In particular, marine and coastal flora and fauna are considered for their scientific, ecological, cultural, educational and economical importance.
The policy for MPAs management

⇒ TO PROTECT:

✓ the coastal and marine environment
✓ the biological and cultural heritage
✓ threatened species and vulnerable habitats
  ✓ local small communities
  ✓ historical and archeological features on land and sea

⇒ TO PROMOTE:

✓ Education and public awareness, scientific research
✓ local development opportunities in a sustainable way
  ✓ High quality tourism (pescaturismo)
  ✓ Typical local products
  ✓ Revival of ancient traditions
Growing experience on integrated ocean policies at national and regional levels
Regional marine planning and governance

PELAGOS is the first Mediterranean International protected area, devoted to the conservation of marine mammals. Created and managed by Italy, France, and Monaco.

It has been presented by the CBD as one of the three existing experiences of protected Area in the high seas.
THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

Although all the difficulties of the sector, the Italian experience in MPA could be positively evaluated:

- The number of MPAs is one of the most elevated in Mediterranean

- There is a good experience on the management and protection of the different management models

- Marin tourism has a strong impact. The research of «compromise» between this industry, very strong, and the conservation of natural resources trough MPAs is crucial
Italian MPAs are established by the Italian Ministry for the Environment who delegates their management to:

- Municipalities
- Universities
- Associations
- Management body of National Parks

According to their nature, management bodies can have different ways to deal with self-financing.
ACHIEVING SUSTAINED COLLABORATION AMONG NATIONAL COMPETENT AGENCIES

- Marine Protected Areas are managed through a participatory process between groups of interests.

- Local communities and Regional Authorities are made responsible of the different steps:
  - Identification and designation
  - Zoning
  - Management and Sharing of benefits arising from sustainable utilise of natural resources

- Strengthened liaison between people and their territory, often by encouraging the recovery of ancient traditions on farming and fisheries.
THE GOVERNMENTAL FINANCING

The government provides an ordinary budget which is set out among the MPAs independently of their dimension.

This budget is devoted to:

- Ordinary administrative expenditures

- Director salary

MPAs have no personnel in permanent staff (they use the personnel of the management bodies or external and consulting services).
The State devotes also a budget for the projects, which can be:

- Initiatives directly managed by the Ministry for the all system (e.g. communication and promotion)

- Initiatives requested by the Ministry and developed by each MPA according to its own priorities

- Initiatives directly suggested by each MPA

- European Union co-financing and international projects
OTHER FINANCING RESOURCES

For the function and achievement of their objectives, MPAs must look for additional funds, through:

1) Resources generated outside

- Contributions moved by socio-environmental policies
- International programs
- NGOs actions
- Research funding

Font: UICN, Selfpas Project
2) Resources generated inside MPAs by the self-financing.

- Payment of the tourist services (tickets of entry, carpark, allowed of diving and navigation, gadgets and products local, …)

- Use tariffs (right of image, extractive activities of natural resources e.g. fishes, label of the park, …)

- Payment of environmental services

Sources: UICN, Projet Selfpas
OTHER FINANCING RESOURCES

Italian MPAs often use the instruments of European Union and International projects

In Italy tourism is crucial for the question of self-financing:

- the payment of tourist services can be the principal instrument of collection of new resources

- problem of no continuity in time of these kinds of entry (especially projects, because the entries by tourist services can be planned more easily)

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EXAMPLES OF PAYMENT OF TOURISTIC SERVICES

The ticket of entry (e.g. Tremiti and Maddalena):

Communication with visitors, tourist operators and even local people: so that payment is accepted and perceived well by all

Need for deciding well where the money of tickets goes: if it is not directly to the MPA, there is the risk is to fail in the moment of the communication and the visibility of the MPA

Administrative and countable difficulties of the budgets for the management of these typologies of entries

Source: Projet Selfpas
Tariffs on the activity of diving (e.g. Miramare, Portofino):

One of the principal sources of self-financing Italian MPA

Well accepted by the plungers, which are generally informed tourists/conscious

Communication is less crucial: for the plungers the existence of MPA has an obvious added value

This tariff can be also a way of control and manage the flows of visitors

Source: Projet Selfpas
The challenge for the system is now a new concept of management focused on the sustainable use of the sea resources and involvement of local Communities and Regional Authorities.
LET'S PROTECT NATURE, THE INHERITANCE OF THE FUTURE

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