



# Introduction

## Transboundary in Europe

### Future of the TransParcNet

Handrij Härtel

Bohemian Switzerland NP,

Czech Republic

[h.hartel@npcs.cz](mailto:h.hartel@npcs.cz)



First transboundary protected area:  
1932 Pieniny nature reserve (today a national park) between Czechoslovakia (today Slovakia) and Poland



# Background

Challenging time: 1990th of the 20th century

Political changes

- end of the iron-curtian

- splitting to smaller countries  
(Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia).

- New bilateral PAs: Bílé Karpaty/Biele Karpaty



Challenging time: 1990th of the 20th century

## **Political changes enabled**

1) New level of cooperation between existing transboundary PAs (Karkonosze 1959 / Krkonoše 1963)



## Political changes enabled

### 2) New transboundary PAs

a) Completely new PAs

b) Or up-grade from Protected Landscape to National Park:

ba) **at one side:** example:

Bavarian Forest NP / Šumava PLA → NP



## Political changes enabled

### 2) New transboundary PAs

a) Completely new PAs

b) Or up-grade from Protected Landscape to National Park:

bb) **at both sides:** example:

LSG (PLA) Sächsische Schweiz → NP Sächs. Schweiz

CHKO (PLA) České Švýcarsko → NP České Švýcarsko





## Political changes in 1990<sup>th</sup>

Mutual support through establishment of new NP:

- 1990 Saxon Switzerland (Sächsische Schweiz) NP



- 2000 Bohemian Switzerland (Böhmisches Schweiz) NP



Mutual support through establishment of new NP:

- 1991 Podyjí NP (CZ)



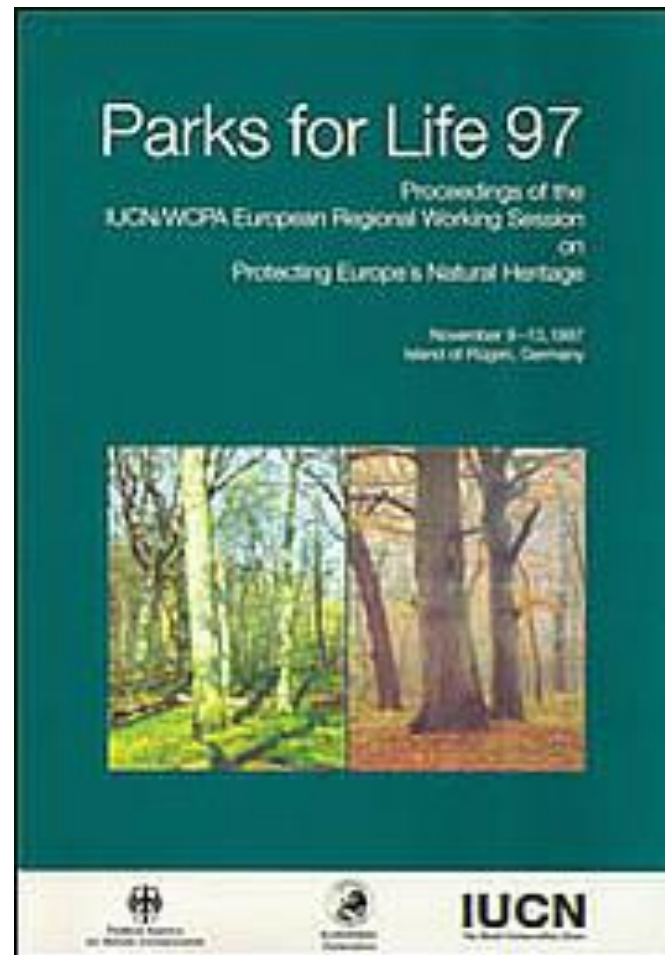
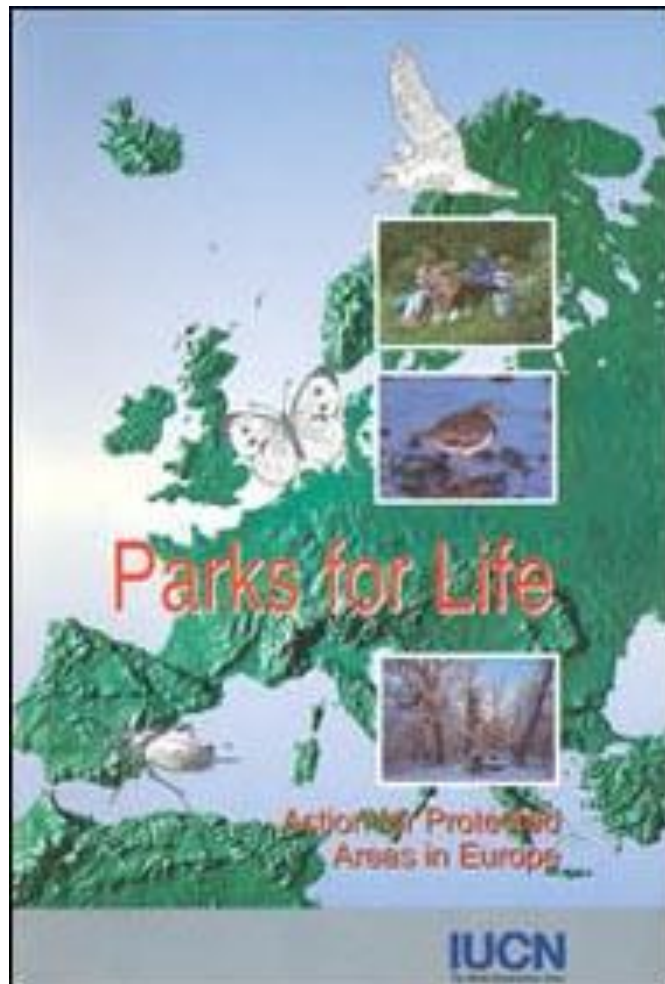
-2000 Thayatal NP (A)





# Several crucial documents

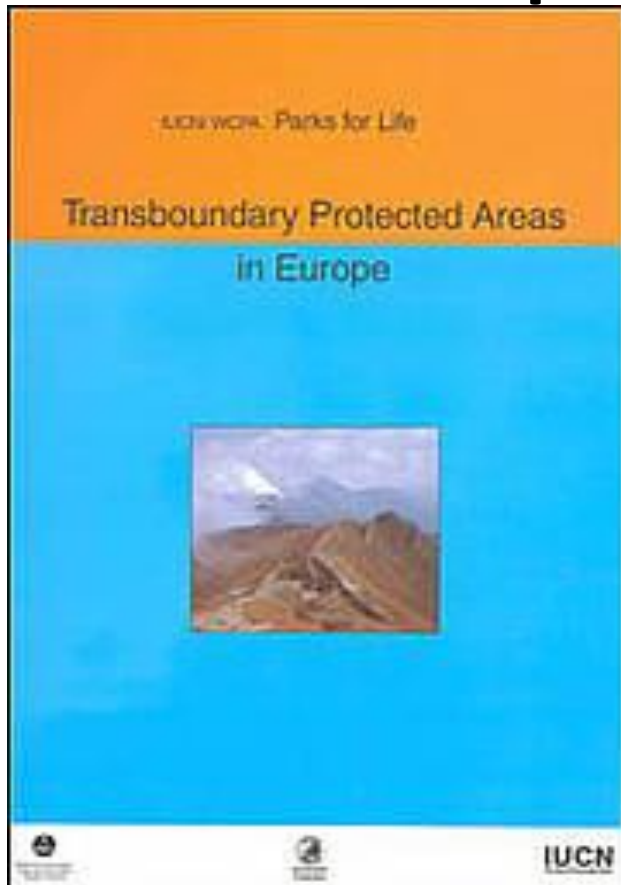
1994 Parks for Life – transfrontier protected areas: priority project 22



Several crucial documents

**Brunner R. (1999):**

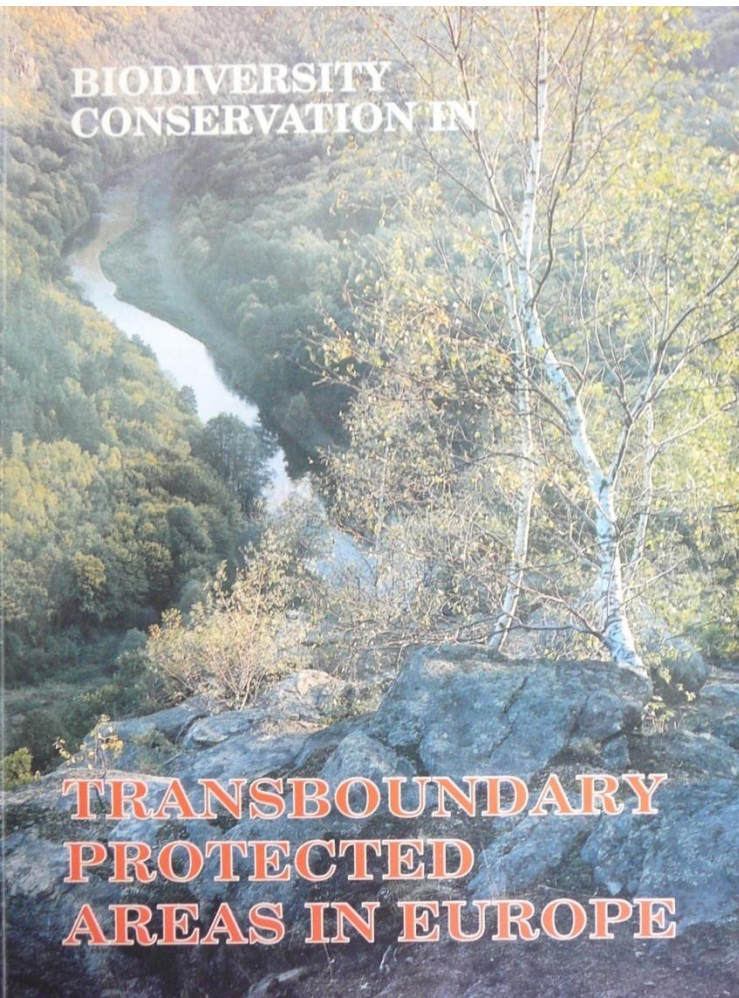
**Parks for Life: Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe. IUCN & EUROPARC**



# Several crucial documents

**Čeřovský Jan (ed): Biodiversity conservation in Transboundary protected areas in Europe.**

Chřibská , Czech Republic, 1996



*Participants of the pan-European Conference on "Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe" in the Bohemian-Saxonian Switzerland, June 1996.*

Photo V. Sojka



## Hentschel W. & Stein J.: Experience from the Bohemian-Saxonian Switzerland – Suggestions for a transfrontier cooperation in Europe (1996)

1. *Transfrontier cooperation in nature conservation cannot be prescribed by decree „from above“, but should grow step by step „**from below**“*
2. *Transfrontier cooperation in nature conservation has to be wanted and supported **politically**.*
3. *Transfrontier cooperation is feasible only when **equal partners are involved***
4. *Transfrontier cooperation requires **mutual understanding in one language***

## **Hentschel W. & Stein J.: Experience from the Bohemian-Saxonian Switzerland – Suggestions for a transfrontier cooperation in Europe (1996)**

*5. Transfrontier cooperation should involve the **entire scope of the protected area objectives** and has to be oriented towards constructive results*

*6. The acceptance of sustainable transfrontier development of tourism by the nature conservation authorities **should not necessarily lead to the opening of border-crossings in the core zone of the protected areas***

*7. Transfrontier protected areas should **unite not only nature, but also nations***

# L.S. Hamilton: Transborder Protected Area Cooperation (1996)

Benefits

Problems

- *Language barriers* may have to be overcome for effective communication
- The same **level of political commitment** may not exist on both sides of the border, and this will foster a „weaker partner-dominant partner“ situation
- The **structure and degree of professionalism** existing in the different agencies may make for difficulty in achieving a real twinning of equal partners
- When two countries are at **different stages of economic development** there can be some incompatibility of goals (e.g. Strict nature protection versus sustainable development)



# EUROPARC's 2nd TransParcNet Meeting

27 to 30 April, 2010 in Illmitz, Report by Sigrun Lange

- HOW TO OVERCOME BARRIERS (BARRIERS IN PEOPLE'S MINDS, LANGUAGE)?



# •HOW TO INCREASE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE?





# HOW TO OVERCOME DIFFERENT LEGAL REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A JOINT MANAGEMENT?





# HOW TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING?



# What has changed, what is the progress in transboundary conservation in Europe since 1994 (launching Parks for Life)?

- External changes: EU enlargement,





What has changed, what is the progress in transboundary conservation in Europe since 1994 (launching Parks for Life)?

- External changes: Schengen area

- 





What has changed, what is the progress in transboundary conservation in Europe since 1994 (launching Parks for Life)?

- New transboundary PAs have been established
- Some PAs became higher protection status thanks to the transboundary cooperation
- Transboundary cooperation became more sophisticated, formalized, intensive, etc.

- EUROPARC's '[Transboundary Parks - Following Nature's Design](#)' initiative as a unique evaluation, verification and certification system that aims to promote and facilitate transboundary cooperation between European protected areas

- TransParcNet



Some challenges persist...

Incompatibility in law, zoning, management plan...

However, as was said already in 1996:

Tranfrontier cooperation has to grow step by step „**from below**“.

**Important is to built a „joint identity“ accepted by general public, regional municipalities, etc.**

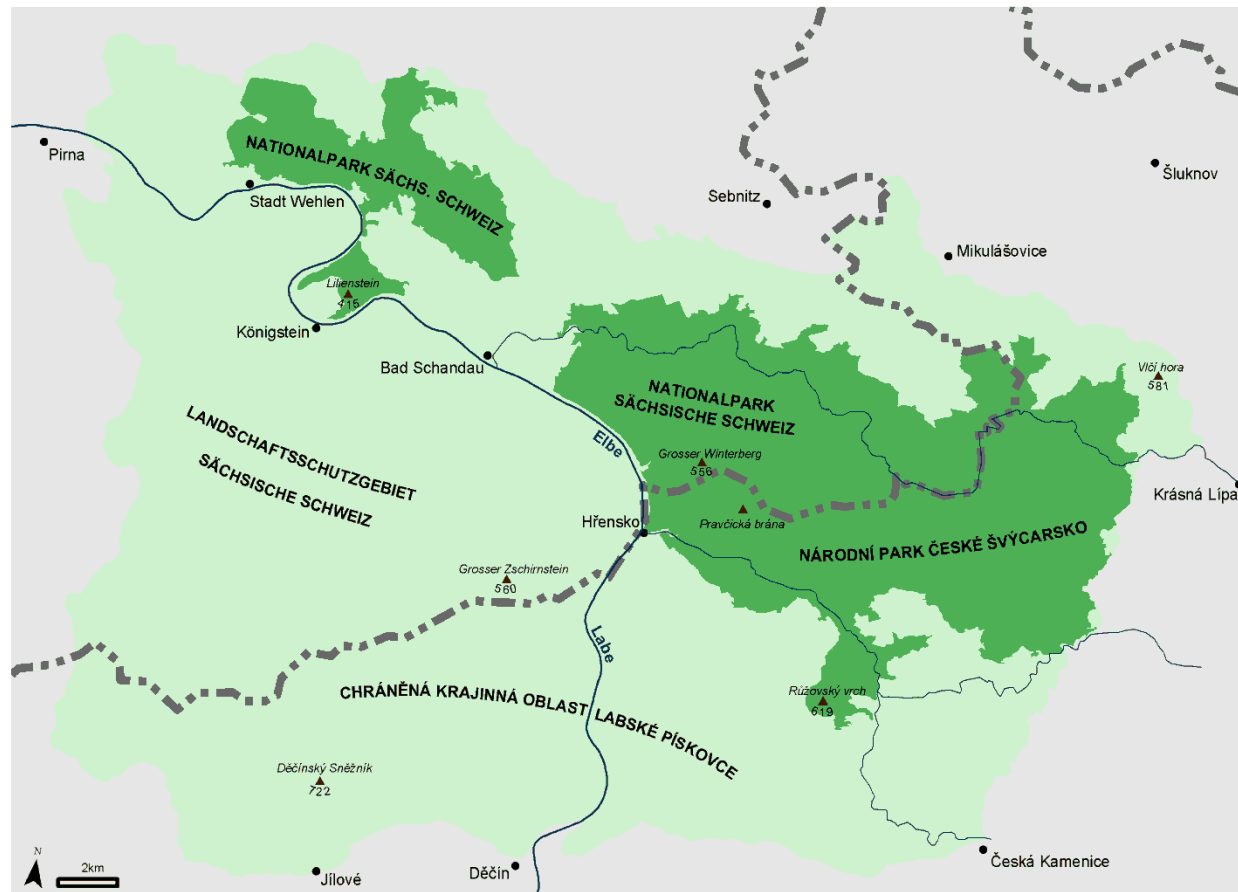


Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :

## Joint corporate design

Accepted by:

- Both NPs
- Both PLAs





Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :

Joint corporate design

Accepted by:

- **by tourist associations:**

- Tourismusverband Sächsische Schweiz, Klub českých turistů



Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :

## Joint corporate design

Accepted by:

- by both NP Centres
- Bad Schandau (DE)
- Krásná Lípa (CZ)



1. Bilingual Exhibition
2. Bilingual Events
3. Bilingual Staff

Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :

Joint corporate design

Sigrun ´s report:

- *Cooperate with the educational sector (schools, Non-Profit-Organisations)*
- *Work together with local and regional authorities (even in projects);*
- *Participate in projects which are not only related to nature conservation but also to cultural values;*
- *Make local businesses your partners (wine makers, restaurant, hotel owners);*



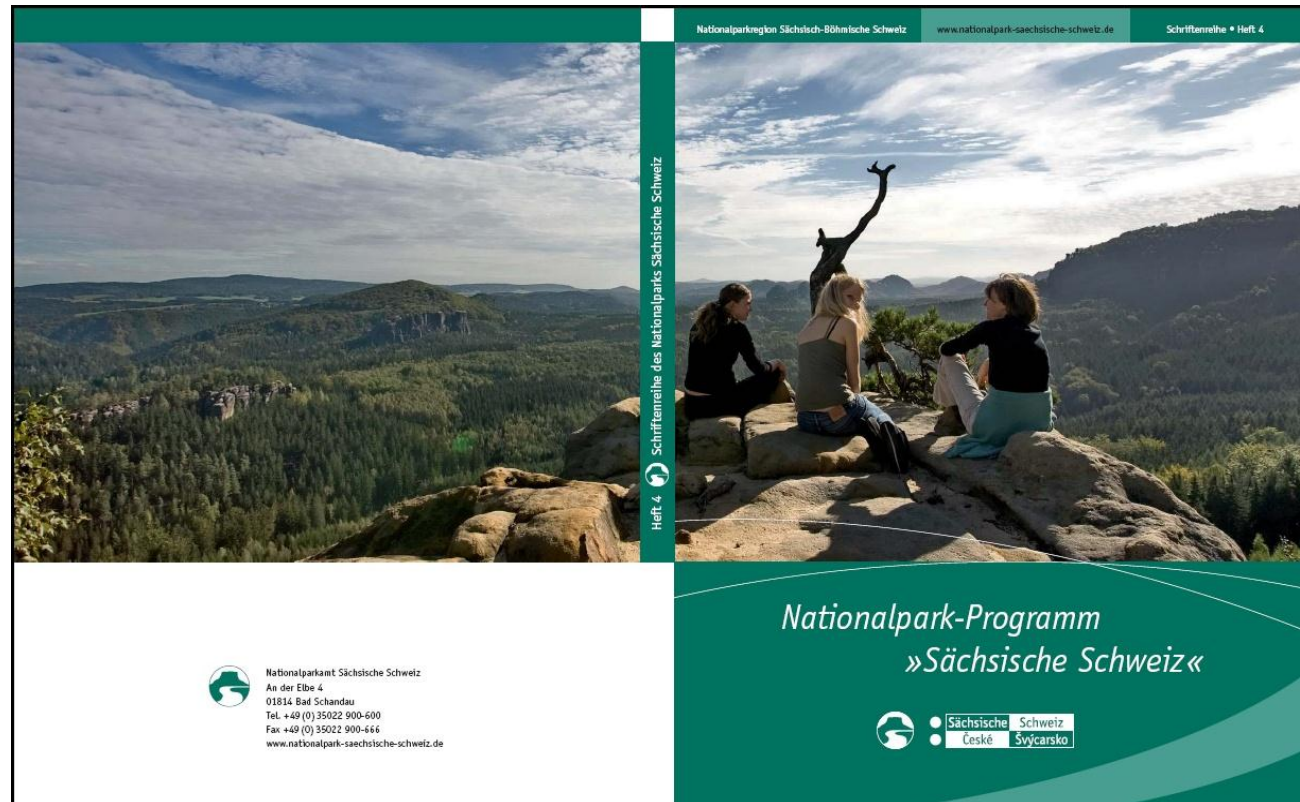
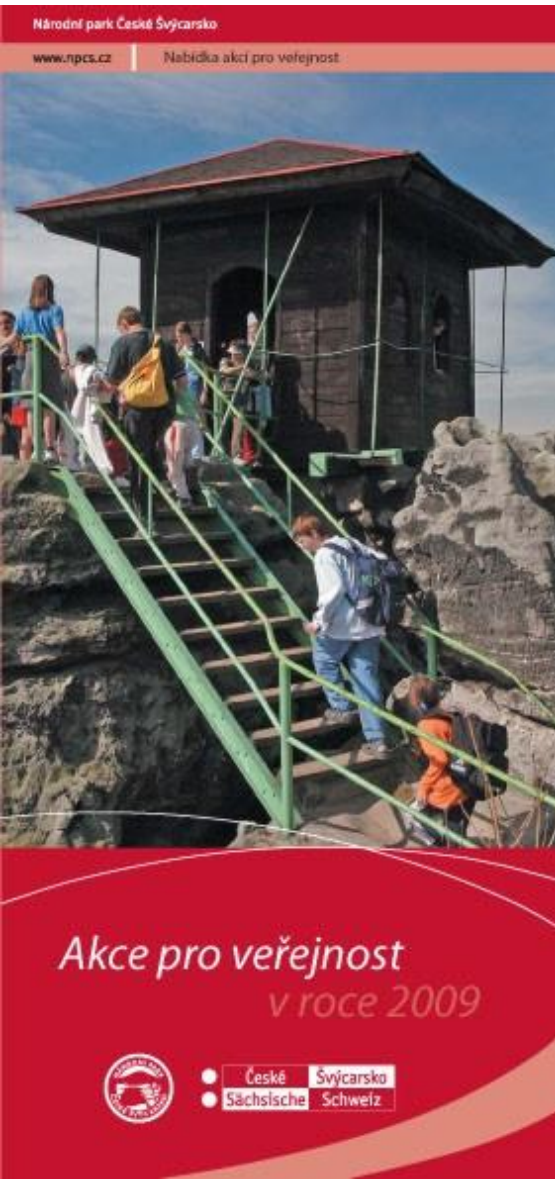
Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :

## Joint corporate design

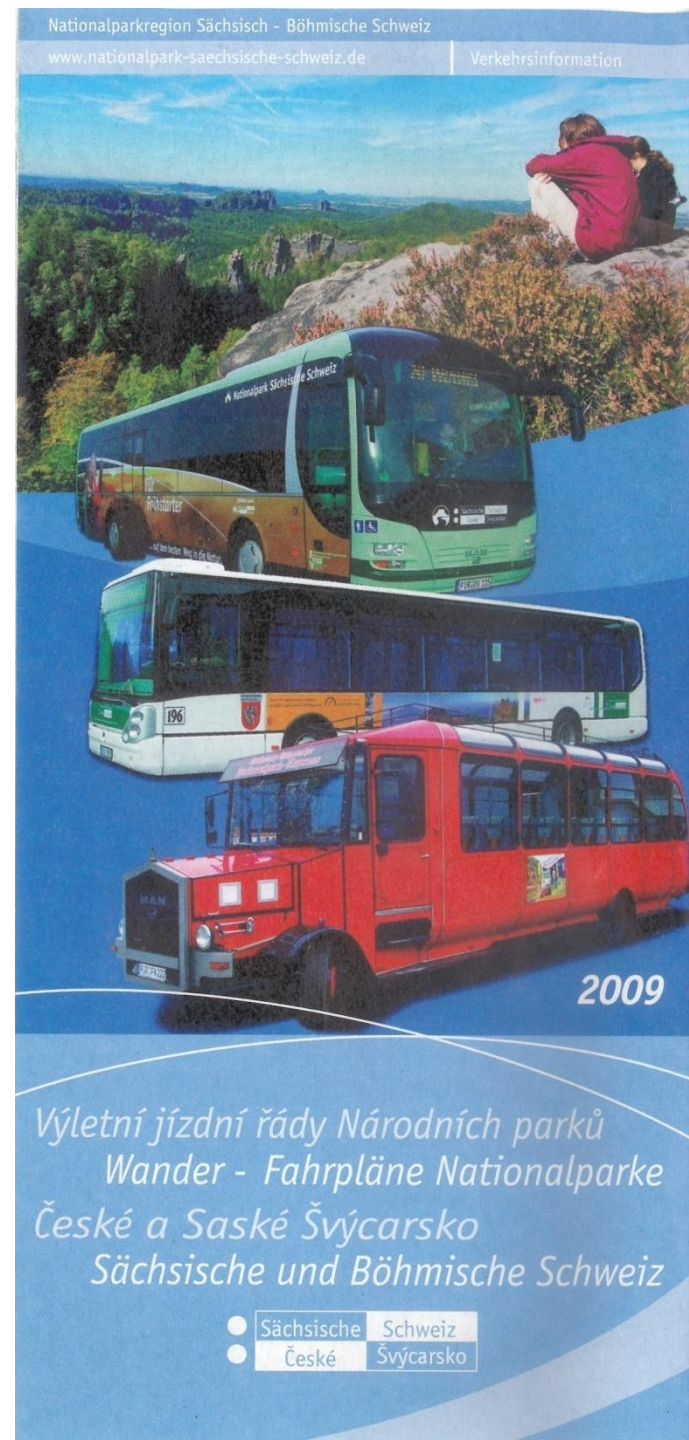
Joint logo:



# Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland : Joint corporate design



Example from  
Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :  
**Joint corporate design**





Example from

Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland :

## **Joint corporate design**

**2010:**

**20 years of Sächsische Schweiz NP**

**& 10 years of České Švýcarsko NP**



# Joint corporate design

## 2010: 20 + 10



Správa Národního parku České Švýcarsko / Nationalparkverwaltung Böhmisches Schweiz  
a Správa Národního parku Saské Švýcarsko / und Nationalparkverwaltung Sächsische Schweiz

ve spolupráci se / in Zusammenarbeit mit  
Správou CHKO Labské pískovce / LSG-Verwaltung Elbsandsteingebirge  
a České Švýcarsko o.p.s. / und Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft Böhmisches Schweiz

Vás srdečně zvou na / laden herzlich ein zur

### MEZINÁRODNÍ KONFERENCI INTERNATIONALEN FACHVERANSTALTUNG

ČESKOSASKÉ ŠVÝCARSKO:  
ČTYŘI CHRÁNĚNÁ ÚZEMÍ - JEDNA KRAJINA

SÄCHSISCH-BÖHMISCHE SCHWEIZ:  
VIER SCHUTZGEBIETE - EINE LANDSCHAFT

18. a 19. března 2010 / am 18. und 19. März 2010

v prostorách Děčínského zámku / in den Räumlichkeiten des Schlosses Děčín

*Beuda*

Ing. Pavel Beuda, Ph.D.  
ředitel Správy NP České Švýcarsko  
Direktor der Nationalparkverwaltung Böhmisches Schweiz

*Sein*

Dr. Jürgen Sein  
ředitel Správy NP Saské Švýcarsko  
Leiter der Nationalparkverwaltung Sächsische Schweiz

Konference se koná u příležitosti společných oslav 10. výročí založení Národního parku České Švýcarsko a 20. výročí založení Národního parku Saské Švýcarsko pod záštitou JUDr. Jana Duška, M.Sc.,  
ministra životního prostředí České republiky a Ing. Vladimíra Rašky, primátora Statutárního města Děčína

Die Fachveranstaltung findet aus Anlass der gemeinsamen Feierlichkeiten zum 10. und 20. Jubiläum des Entstehens der Nationalparks Böhmisches und Sächsische Schweiz unter der Schirmherrschaft des  
Umweltministers der Tschechischen Republik, Dr. Jan Dušek und des Oberbürgermeisters der Stadt Děčín Vladimír Raška statt.

● České Švýcarsko  
● Sächsische Schweiz



Národní park  
České Švýcarsko

- **Sobota, 3. 7. 2010**  
**Slavnostní otevření nových cyklotras**  
Mezná (točna autobusu), sraz v 10. 00
- **Sobota, 3. 7. 2010**  
**Historická exkurze s Natalií Belisovou**  
hotel Zámeček (Vysoká Lípa), sraz v 10. 00
- **Úterý, 13. 7. 2010**  
**Výlet se strážcem přírody NP**  
Brníky (osada Kopec), sraz v 10. 00
- **Sobota 17. 7. 2010**  
**Botanická exkurze**  
Jetřichovice (u hotelu Lípa), sraz v 9. 00
- **Úterý, 20. 7. 2010**  
**Výlet se strážcem přírody NP**  
Mezní Louka (před hotelem), sraz v 10. 00
- **Úterý, 27. 7. 2010**  
**Výlet se strážcem přírody NP**  
Brníky (ÚSP) sraz v 10. 00

Akce pro veřejnost  
**Červenec 2010**

Bližší informace  
na [www.npcs.cz](http://www.npcs.cz)

● České Švýcarsko  
● Sächsische Schweiz

# Management plans

- When one joint management plan is not real option, two compatible (harmonised) management plans could be solution
- or a „higher level“ of joint management rules for both (or part of) NPs:
- Wild Heart of Europe: Bavarian / Bohemian Forest NPs





# Research / Monitoring

*Therefore, the transboundary cooperation should be integrated into the annual work plan of both parks. Funding should be secured not only for short term projects, but also for **long term** activities. (Sigrun Lange report 2010)*

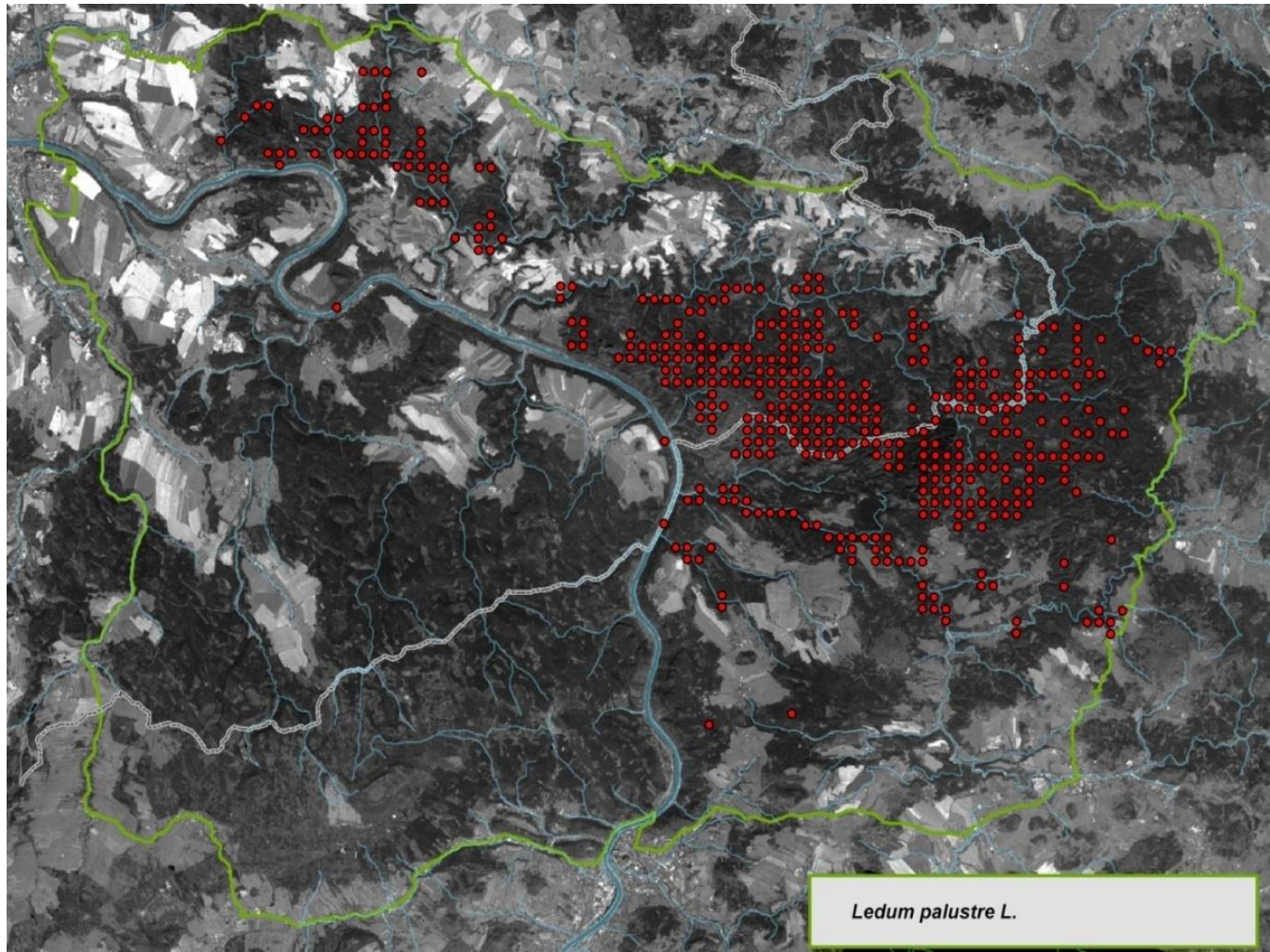
- Very important for transboundary approach
- However, long-term issue, difficult for applying for grants
- Sometimes an agreement in methodology in order to achieve compatibility is sufficient

# Example: Flora of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland 1991-2011

300 000 records

more than 1000 joint species distribution maps

No international project



# Future of the transboundary initiative in Europe

## VISION

*Transboundary protected area (TBPA) cooperation in Europe is an effective and widely recognized means to tackle common conservation and other TBPA challenges. The quality of the cooperation is based on EUROPARC's criteria and indicators on well managed TBPAs. The network of certified TBPAs, TransParcNet, forms an **innovative platform** for further development of European TBPA management cooperation, for safeguarding cross border biodiversity ecosystem services, culture landscape and its heritage and also for inspiring and encouraging people for better understanding of the importance of the TB cooperation*



# Further considerations / challenges

## For further development of transboundary cooperation in Europe

- **Geographic expansion of certified parks network**

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 Paanaajärvi 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)



# Further considerations / challenges

## For further development of transboundary cooperation in Europe

- To encourage not only NPs, but also further IUCN categories (in particular V) to apply for certificate

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.

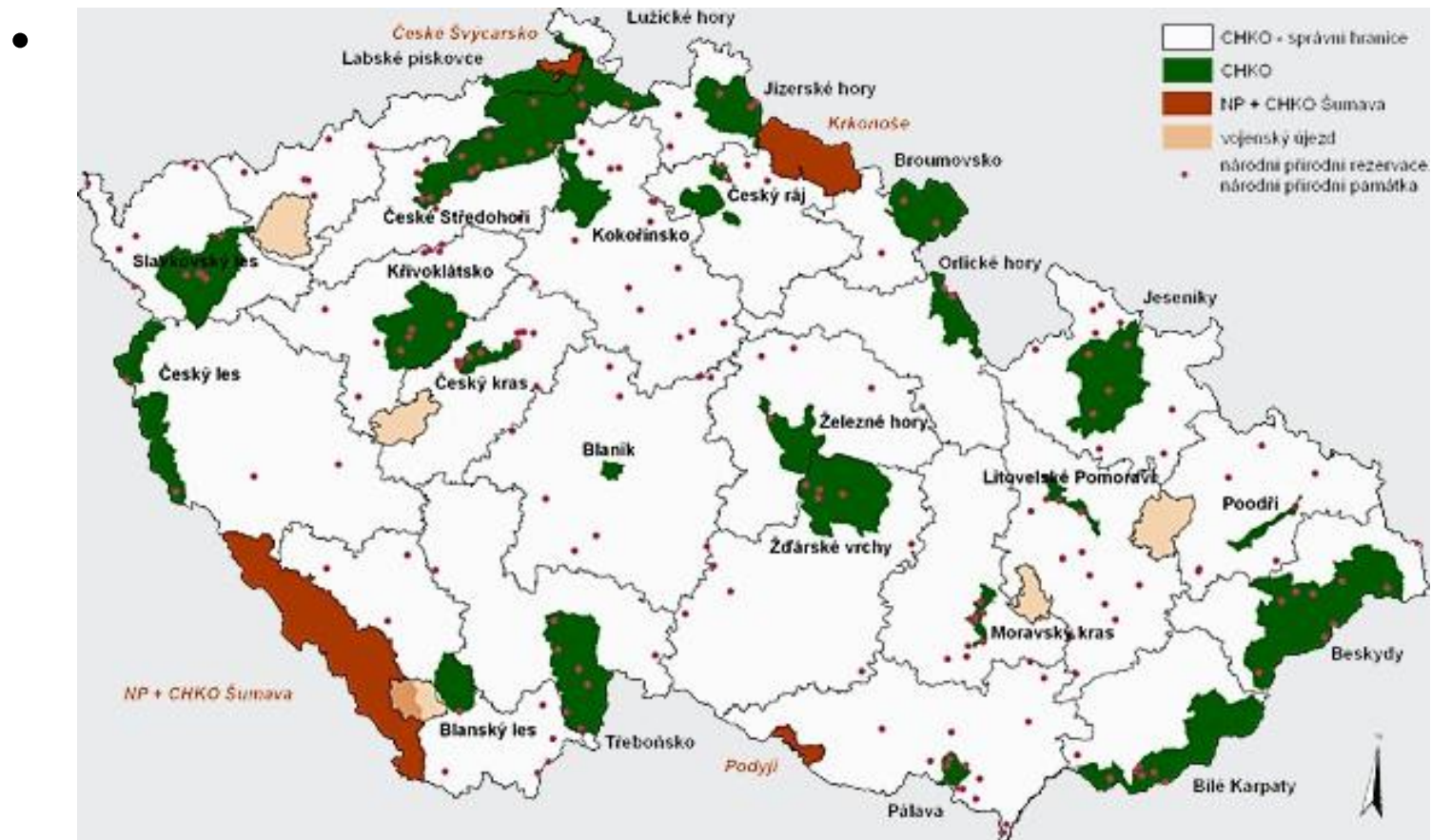
- 1 Neusiedler See National Park (AT) and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU)
- 2 Krkonoše National Park (CZ) and Karkonosze National Park (PL)
- 3 Oulanka National Park (FI) and Paanajärvi National Park (RU)
- 4 Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park (DE/NL)
- 5 Thayatal National Park (AT) and Podyjí National Park (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)



# Further considerations / challenges

For further development of transboundary cooperation in Europe

- To encourage not only NPs, but also PAs of further IUCN categories (in particular V) to apply for certificate

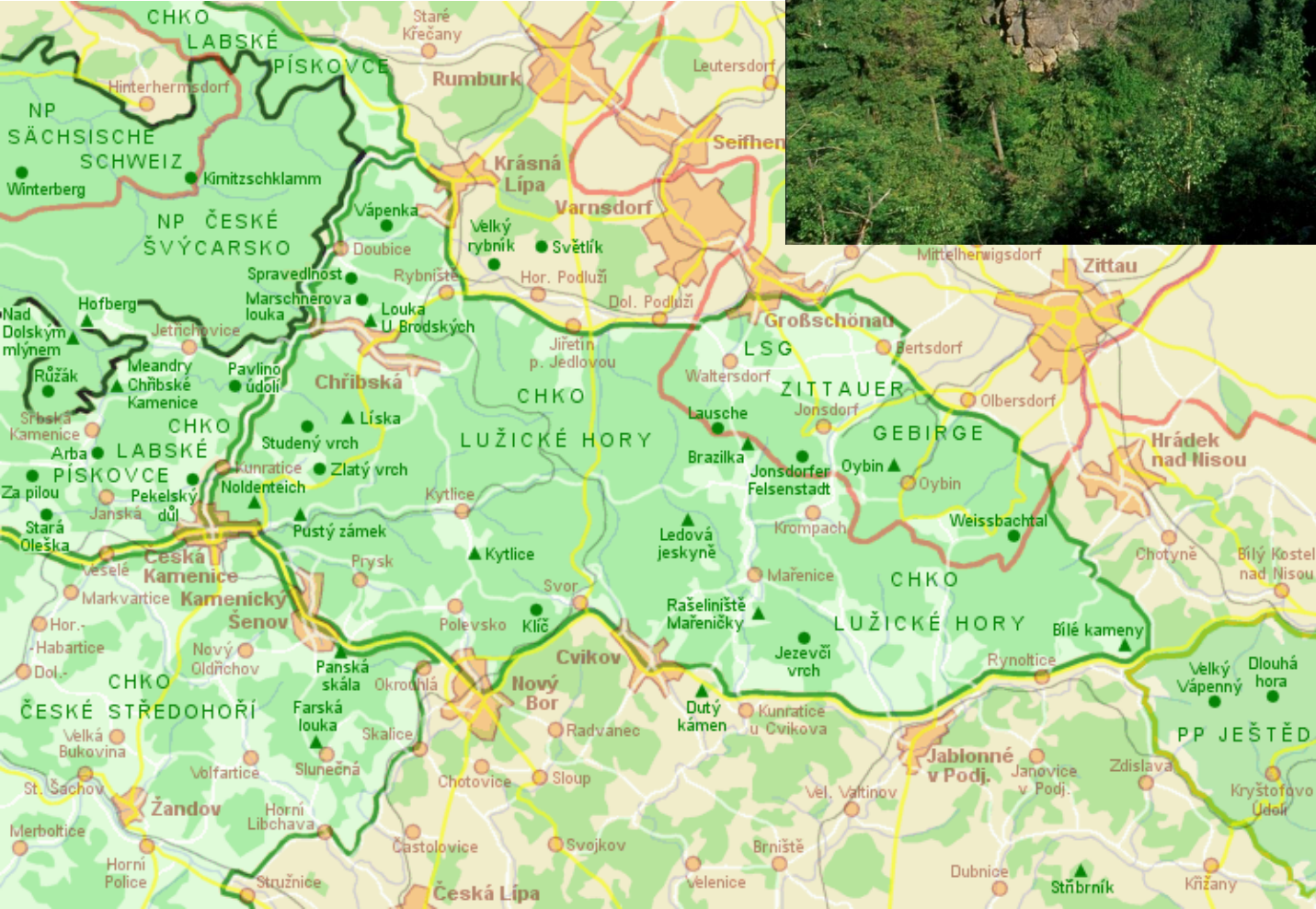




## Further considerations / challenges

- **Some transboundary areas will probably never reach the standards for Transboundary parks – following nature's design certificate,**
- However they are important for European biodiversity
- Various reason, e.g. :
  - both areas managed by very different agencies
  - both parts vary significantly in area:
- Should be such transboundary areas at least somehow registered internationally in order to support the transboundary cooperation, even at lower standards than for TBP ?

• Example Lužické hory PLA (CZ)  
+ Zittauer Gebirge (D)



# Further considerations / challenges

## **Possible funding sources (R. Blackmann 2010):**

- *Current format of TransParcNet can be maintained without additional funding;*
- *For activities between annual meeting and for greater dynamism, need for additional funding;*
- *Possible sources include: Interreg, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), global funds (e.g. UNEP), foundations, national governments;*
- *Experience exchange on financing cross-border projects*



# Further considerations / challenges

## Institutional framework

Hamilton (1995):

- *cooperation with NGOs from both sides*
- *agreement at the national level between the competent governments or authorities in support of transboundary cooperation*
- ***the appointment of a body for the handling of all issues of common interest***
- ***the long-term appointment of a full-time coordinator***

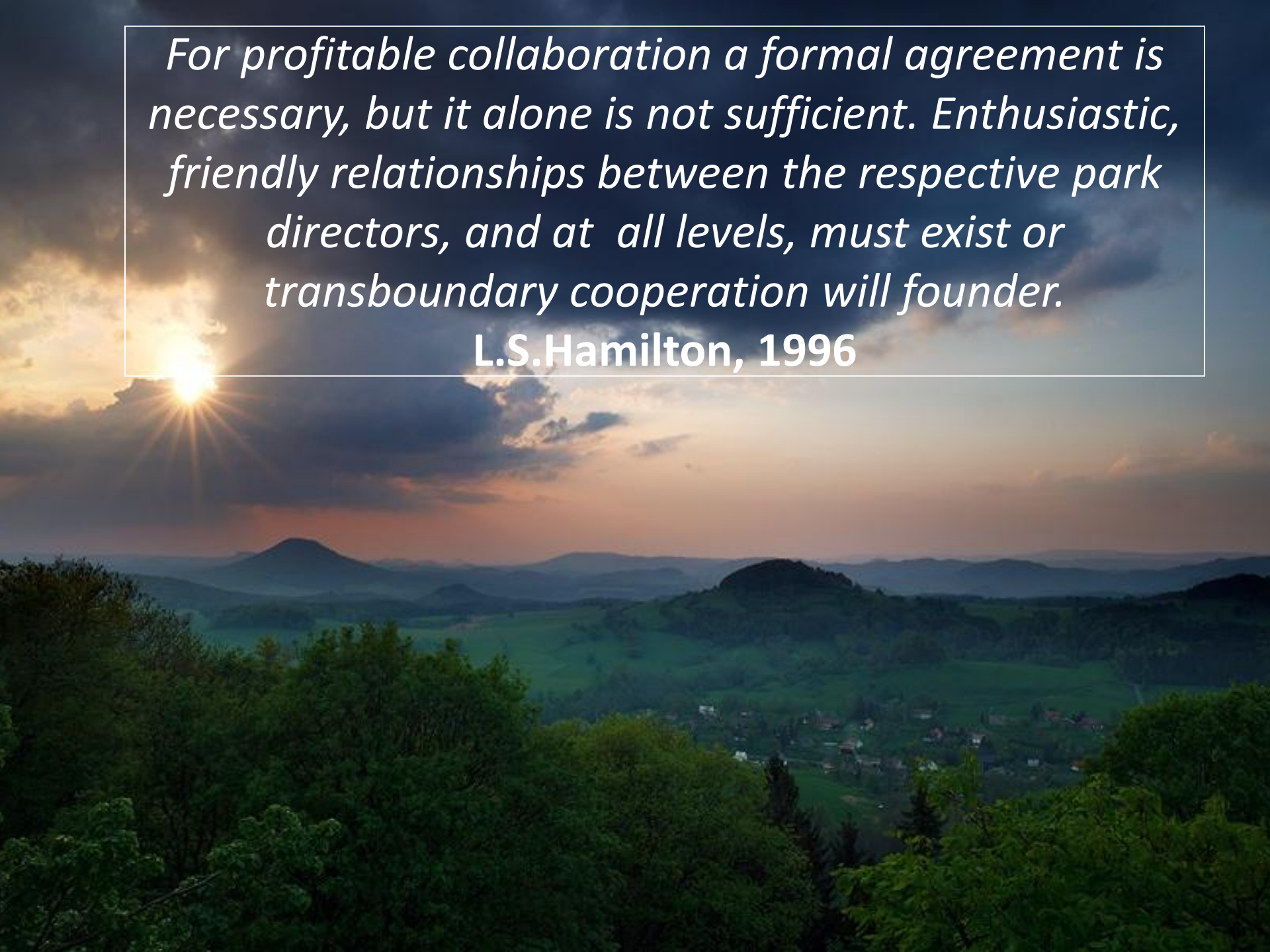
# Summary for discussions

Further expansion of  
TransParcNet:

## Several dimensions

- **institutional** (more TBP, various IUCN cat.)
- **geographic** (review?, regional coverage)
- **financial** (projects...)
- **legal / formal**
- **internal**





*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**