

**TOURISM AND NATIONAL
PARKS: AN INTERNATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE
ROGER CROFTS**

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines 8 2002
Sustainable Tourism in protected areas

IUCN WCPA 1996 Tourism, ecotourism and protected areas

IUCN Parks 12(1) 2002 Tourism and protected areas

IUCN Parks 16(2) 2006 The visitor experience challenge

Europarc 1993 Loving them to death: sustainable tourism in Europe's
nature and national parks

Ingredients of success are an all-inclusive package of action

1. Develop multiple objectives
2. Assess opportunities and constraints
3. Implement management on the ground
4. Devise use and capacity constraints
5. Develop formal plan
6. Use external appraisal
7. Implement process of engagement
8. Implement modern governance

1. Develop multiple objectives

1. Ecological health and integrity
2. Aesthetic, spiritual and related values
3. Tangible use values: recreation, access, and ecotourism activities and supporting infrastructure

BUT 3 must be subservient to 1 and 2

2. Assess opportunities and constraints

Undertake objective assessment of opportunities and constraints in relation to fragility, rarity, uniqueness, cultural value, aesthetic appeal,

And assess carrying capacity for different levels of activity, eg. recreational and perceptual carrying capacity such as Limits of Acceptable Use

3. Implement management on the ground

Define primary management objectives for different parts of the protected area using

IUCN Guidelines for Protected Areas Management Categories

4. Devise use and capacity constraints

Using assessment of opportunities and constraints develop series of practical measures to constrain types and levels of use to ensure twin primary purposes are achieved:

1. Limit numbers through license and permit systems
2. Develop recreation areas

6. External appraisals can help

Bring independence, objectivity and integrity by applying well tried and tested methods

1. EUROPARC Federation Charter for Sustainable Tourism
2. WWF PANParks
3. WCPA Europe Verification and Certification and expert volunteer advisers

EUROPARC European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Requirements

- Developing and implementing a local strategy for 'sustainable tourism'
- Establishment of a permanent forum or equivalent arrangement for partnership between the park authority, local municipalities, conservation and community
- Independent assessment and decision making
- **BUT** no Charter protected areas in Nordic or Baltic countries

www.europarc.org

WWF PAN Parks

www.panparks.org

Goals

- Promoting wilderness and visitor management in Europe's national parks
- Monitoring management effectiveness
- Increasing public and political support of Europe's national parks
- Facilitating sustainable development through fiscal mechanism and fundraising
- Developing and marketing high quality nature-based products

Assessment

- Parks must meet 5 comprehensive principles: Rich Natural Heritage, Nature Management, Visitor Management, Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy, Partnerships
- Objective assessment and verification by trained experts
- Already certified 5 including Fulufjället National Park, Sweden and Oulanka National Park, Finland