

Nature Conservation in Europe: Approaches and Lessons

Annex FR.1. Regional Nature Parks, Examples of the Contractual Approach of Managing Protected Areas in France

Pierre Commenville

Based on the German approach to landscape management, French Regional Nature Parks aim to conserve fragile environments and regenerate rural economies, as well as offering relaxing spaces for urban citizens to visit. In such areas, all conservation and development activities are regulated by a contractual document known as 'the charter'. This is a contract endorsed and signed by the local authorities and private and public partners who have a stake in the future of the area. The charter is based on a participatory planning and implementation process that supports local sustainable development, whilst respecting other national and international programmes; thereby acting as a useful mechanism for policy coherence at a number of levels and across various sectors.

With the signing of a charter, the local authorities and other partners agree to respect and follow the rules and agreements they have themselves developed and laid out in a democratically negotiated contract. Success chiefly depends on the inclusion and participation of all actors that depend on the relevant area for their livelihoods and culture, but also the leverage of public funding, especially EU funds (see NCE Section 15.6, Commenville, 2023). The charter should be revised regularly and, in absence of an agreement, the park authority can no longer function and is dissolved. There is also a process of approval by the state authorities of the charter, and standards are available.

Source

Adapted from Borrini-Feyerabend, G., Pimbert, M. Farvar, M.T., Kothari, A. & Renard, Y. (2004) *Sharing Power. Learning by doing in co-management of natural resources throughout the world*. Tehran: IIED & IUCN/ CEESP/ CMWG & Cenesta.

For further information on the approach see:

The web portal of the structures supporting Regional Nature Parks at www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr

Baron, N. & Lajarge, S. (2015) *Les parcs naturels régionaux, des territoires en expérience*. Versailles Cedex, France: Quae eds.

References

Commenville, P. (2023) France. In *Nature Conservation in Europe: Approaches and Lessons*, ed. G. Tucker, pp. 311–330. Cambridge, UK / New York: Cambridge University Press.

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