

Costs and conditions¹

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas brings varied benefits to participating protected areas. Besides opportunities to strengthen relationships with tourism stakeholders and influence tourism development at the local level, these benefits include:

- A higher profile in the European arena as an area devoted to sustainable tourism
- Public relations and awareness-raising opportunities with visitors and local and national media
- An opportunity to work with and learn from other European “Charter protected areas” in a network
- Helpful internal and external assessment, leading to new ideas and improvements
- Greater credibility amongst potential funding partners

However, the process of running and coordinating the Charter carries considerable costs, which participating protected areas are required to contribute to.

All Charter protected areas are required to be members of the EUROPARC Federation. Protected areas which are not already EUROPARC members will be requested to join the Federation upon registering as candidate protected areas.

Clarification on this requirement:

A protected area needs to be a full member of the Federation to apply for the Charter as long as the protected area is its own legal entity and has its own budget. A protected area that does not have its own legal entity can however also apply to the Charter if it is represented by its higher authority at the Federation (i.e. the higher authority needs to be a full member to the Federation for a protected area to receive the Charter.

The costs² for participating protected areas are summarised as follows:

Candidate Charter protected areas

- Registration fee (for registration as a candidate protected area): **EUR 500**
- Verification fees (for administration of the application and verification process);
standard fee: **EUR 5000 + VAT³**
In addition, the protected area authority is required to cover the costs of:
travel, accommodation and board for the visiting verifier.

Full Charter protected areas (following successful verification)

- Mid-term monitoring/evaluation visit (after 2 ½ years) – optional, upon request by the protected area, fees subject to extent of work required.
- Evaluation for renewal of Charter membership (after 5 years): **EUR 5000 + VAT³**
In addition, the protected area authority is required to cover the costs of **travel, accommodation and board** for the visiting verifier.

¹ Updated May 2010

² Please note that cheques are not accepted as a method of payment.

³ Process administered by EUROPARC Consulting GmbH, VAT subject to clarification on where this is due in each individual case.

Becoming a member of the
European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Networking

Networking fee will only be due when the network will be fully activated.

Networking fee (minimum contribution towards on-going co-ordination and facilitation of the Charter protected areas' network) **EUR 500 per year**