

**Protected Areas and  
Human Health and Well-being**

**Some concluding remarks  
for  
EUROPARC-Spain**

**José V . De Lucio. EUROPARC-Spain  
Public Health and Experience of Nature – the Role of Protected Areas  
Denmark, Naturpark Maribosoerne. May 27 – 30, 2008**



## SWOT analysis notes

### Strengths

Increasing experience in management

Better trained staff

### Weaknesses

Weak administrative structures

Lack of integration into other policies

### Opportunities

International context (CBD, MEA)

More ecological knowledge

### Threats

Rapid land use changes

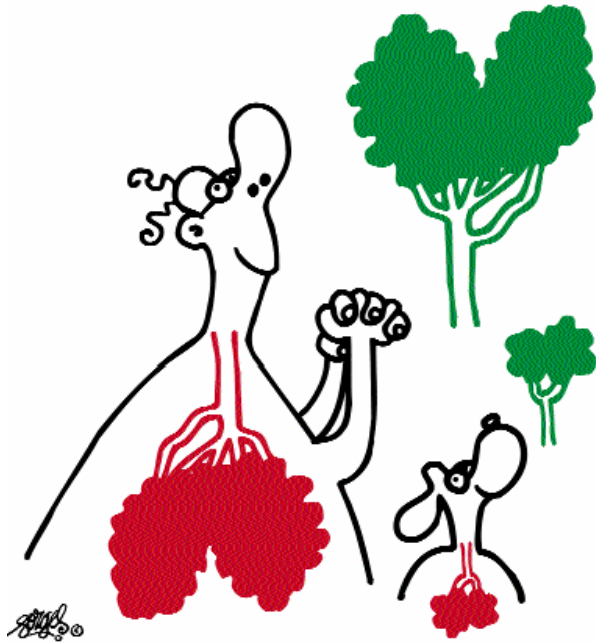
Climate change

# Strengths



## Evidences on the relationships between Protected Areas and Health

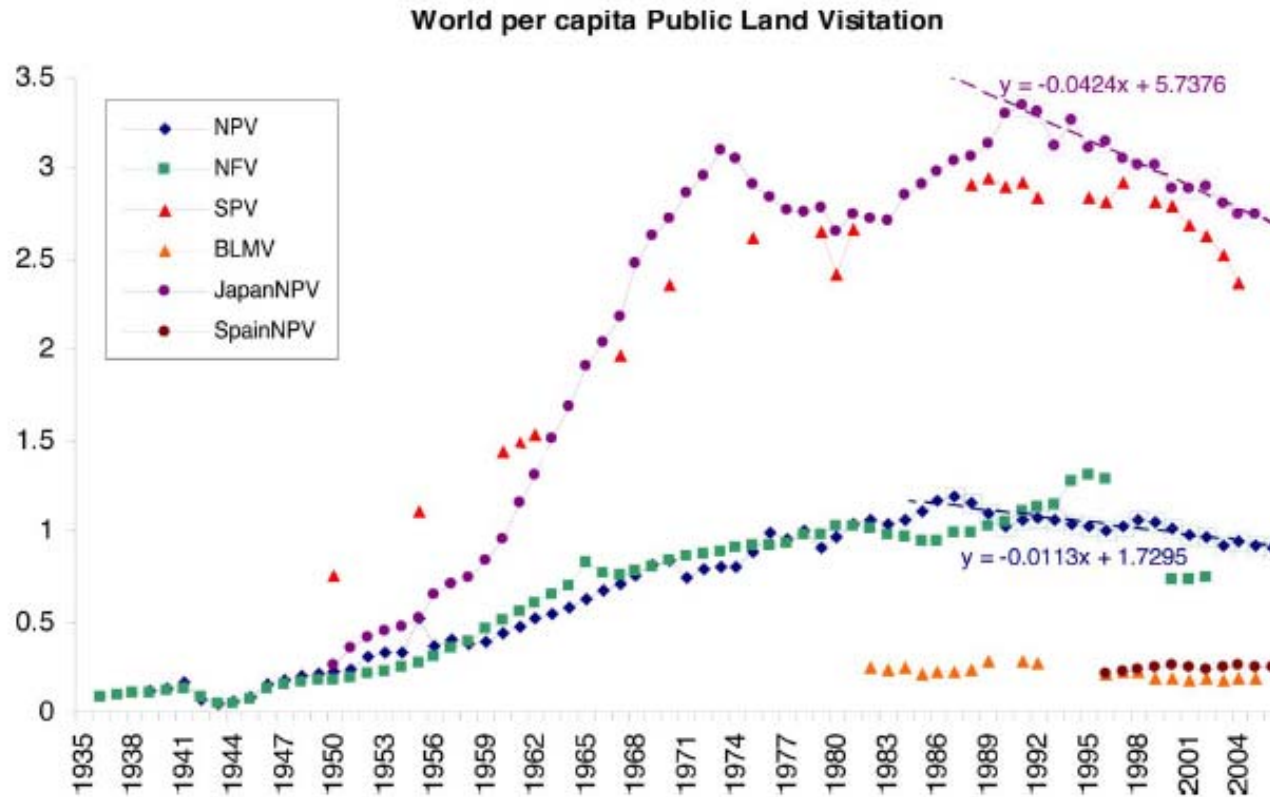
- Access to nature increases well-being and health:
  - Experience of nature provides physical and mental health
  - Opportunities to build social cohesion
  - Culture and education
- PA promotes quality products (natural, organic)
- PA management brings protection against environmental risk: Floods, fires, air pollution. And provides other environmental services
- PA contribute to life quality of local population, farmers...



EUROPARC-Sp



# Threats



**Fig. 1.** Annual *per capita* visitation to the various U.S. and international public lands in this study. Included were U.S. National Parks (variable NPV, range of time series 1939–2006,  $n = 68$ ), U.S. State Parks (SPV, 1950–2003,  $n = 24$ ), U.S. National Forests (NFV, 1939–2002,  $n = 61$ ), U.S. Bureau of Land Management sites (BLMV, 1982–2005,  $n = 20$ ), Japanese National Parks (JapanNPV, 1950–2005,  $n = 56$ ), and Spanish National Parks (SpainNPV, 1996–2006,  $n = 11$ ). Linear regressions for declines from identifiable peaks in NPV (1987) and JapanNPV (1991) are represented by lines and equations.

**“Is love of nature in the US becoming love of electronic media? 16-year downtrend in national park visits explained by watching movies, playing video games, internet use, and oil prices”**

- Pergams, O.R.W. & Zaradic, P.A. Journal of Environmental Management 80 (2006) 387–393

## Opportunities in Spanish PA

- More than 30 M. visitors in protected areas
- European Charter of Sustainable Tourism
- “Q” Quality label for visitors services in PA.
- Quality labels for products “Parque Natural Andalucía”

## Protected Areas

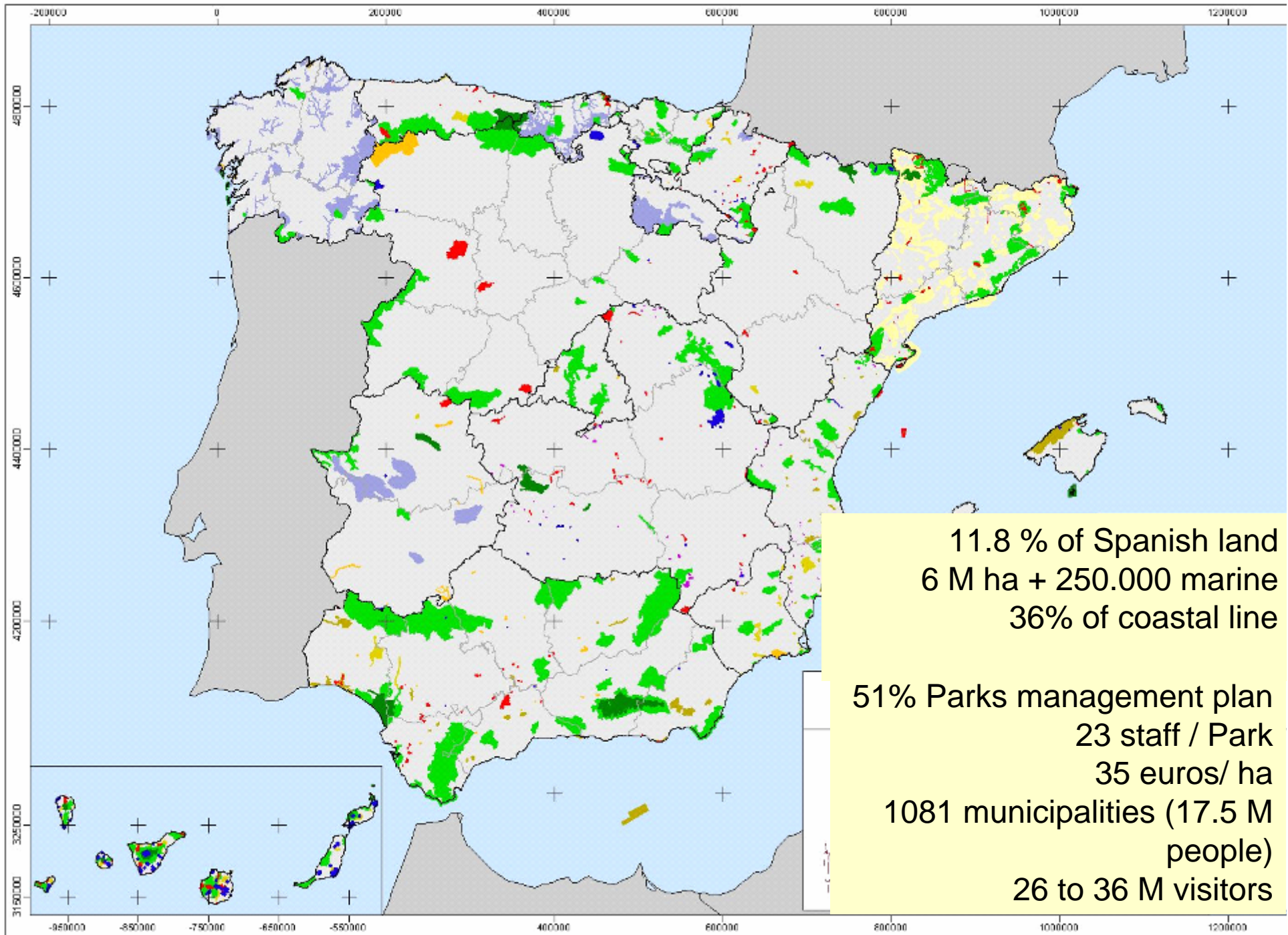
- Protected areas there not want to be all kind of nature or nature conservation. There're a specific method to manage socio-ecosystems.
- There're more than 100.000 PA in the world.
- There're not gardens, there're not nature generally speaking



# EUROPARC-Spain and the Spanish system of Protected Areas

**José V . De Lucio. Director EUROPARC-Spain**  
**Public Health and Experience of Nature – the Role of Protected Areas**  
**Denmark, Naturpark Maribosoerne. May 27 – 30, 2008**







Natura 2000 in Spain  
14 million hectares  
(28%, 42% already  
PA)

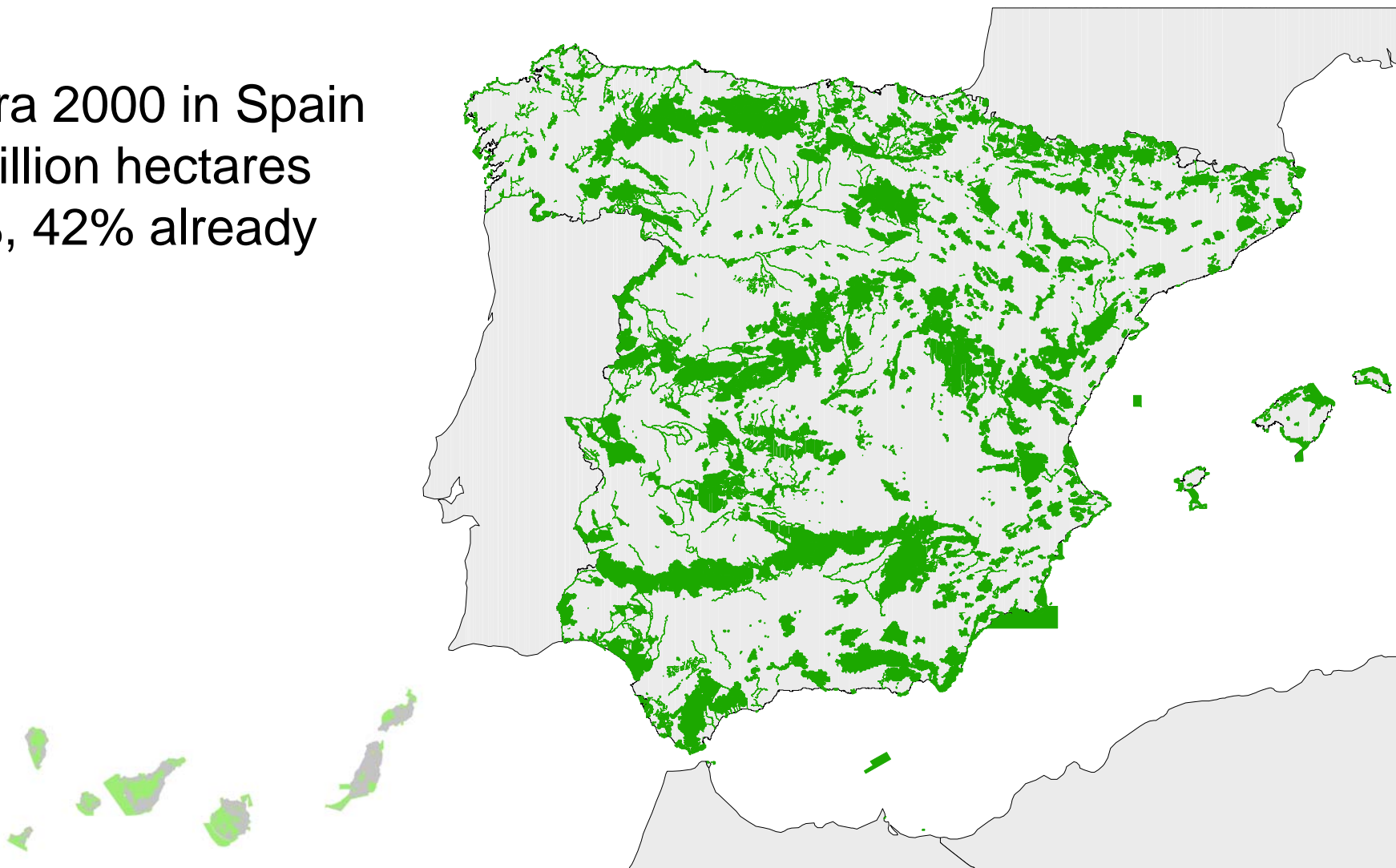
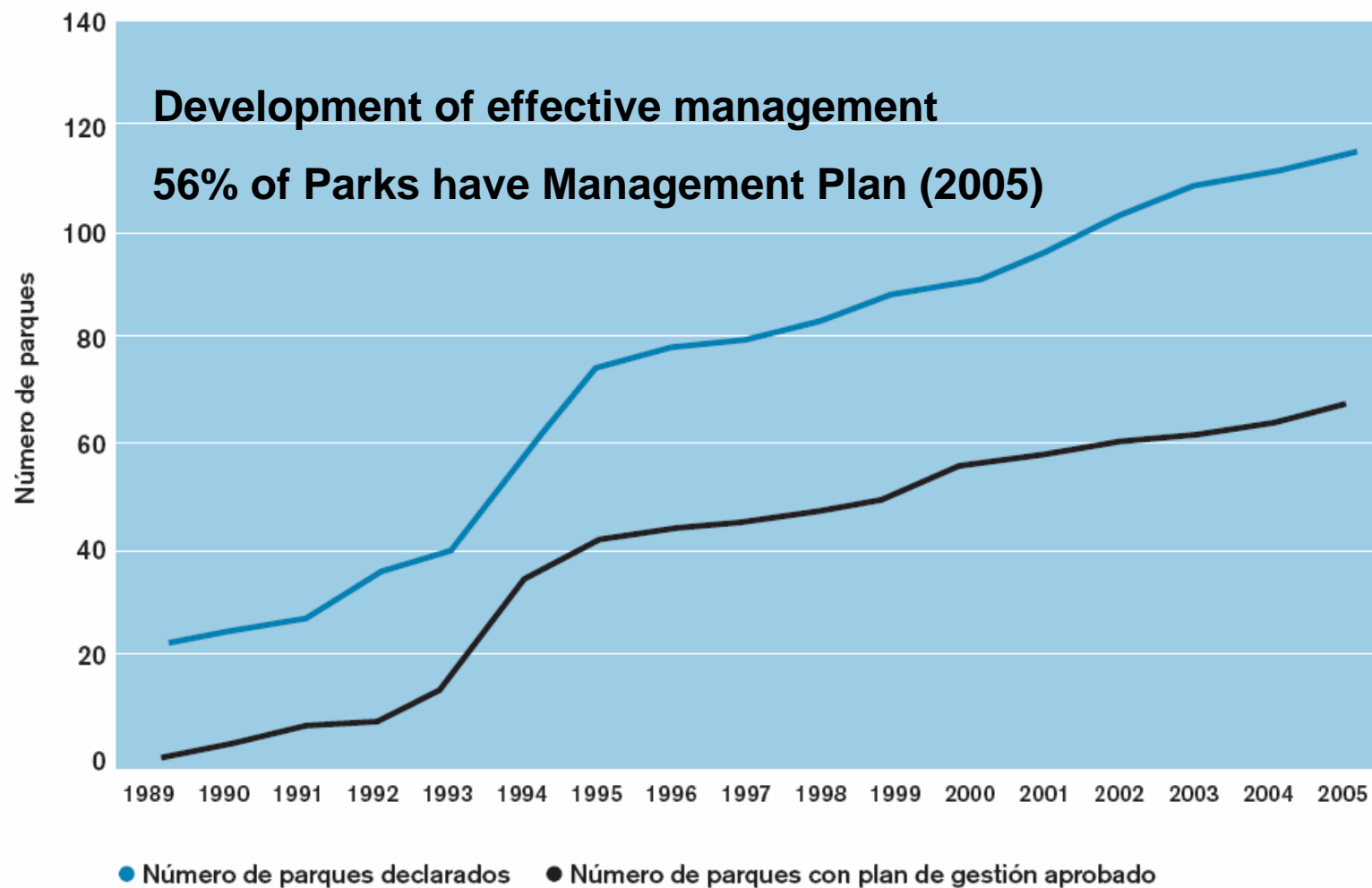




Figura 5. Evolución en la declaración de parques y en la aprobación de planes de gestión para estos espacios. Datos en número total acumulado a partir del año 1989.





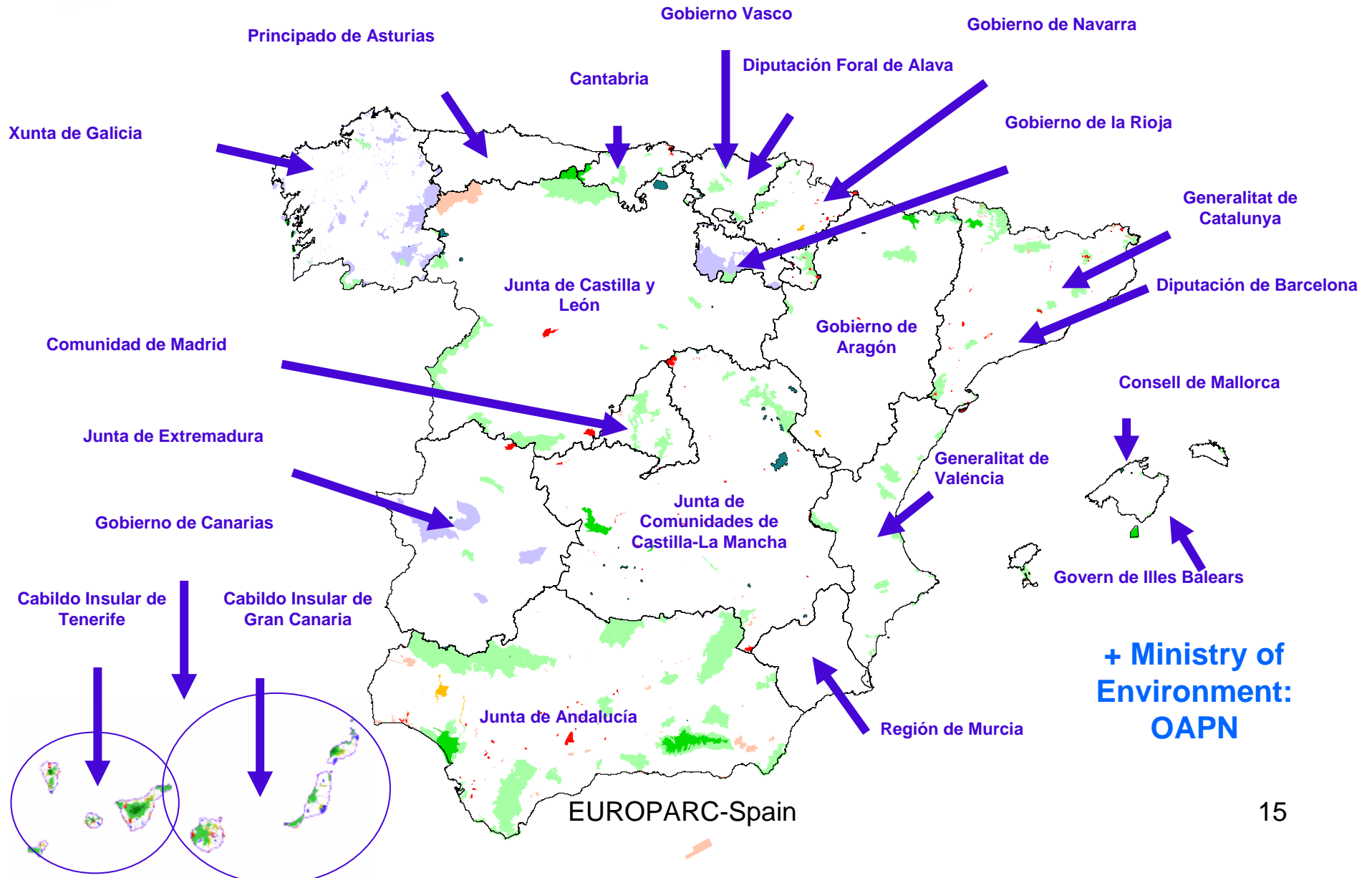
## **What is EUROPARC-Spain?**

**Professional forum that counts on the participation of all the administrations in charge of planning and managing protected natural areas**





# Public bodies in charge of planning and management of protected areas





**Board  
8 elected  
people**

**Assembly of members  
24 public administrations**

**Technical office  
6 people**

**Foundation F.G.B  
2 people (training)**



**Technical office EUROPARC-Spain**



## **Objectives of EUROPARC-Spain**

1. To facilitate and support relations between natural protected areas in Spain and with other protected areas.
2. To promote common projects.
3. To encourage co-operation between protected natural areas, especially in the fields of sharing information and training.



## **Strategic objectives of EUROPARC-Spain**

1. **Observatory for the evolution** of protected areas in Spain.
2. To **facilitate the exchange** and dissemination of information.
3. **To contribute to enhancing protected areas as social and environmental services.**
4. To promote **professionalisation and qualifications** for the staff at protected areas.
5. To **collaborate with public administrations.**
6. To contribute to the **maturity and professionalisation of the EUROPARC organization** at international level.



# Information dissemination

## BoletínEUROPARC22

Boletín de la Sección del Estado Español de EUROPARC Diciembre 2006

noticias



actividades



investigaciones, experiencias y proyectos



noticias

Federación de Parques Nacionales y Naturales de España



## Anuario 2003

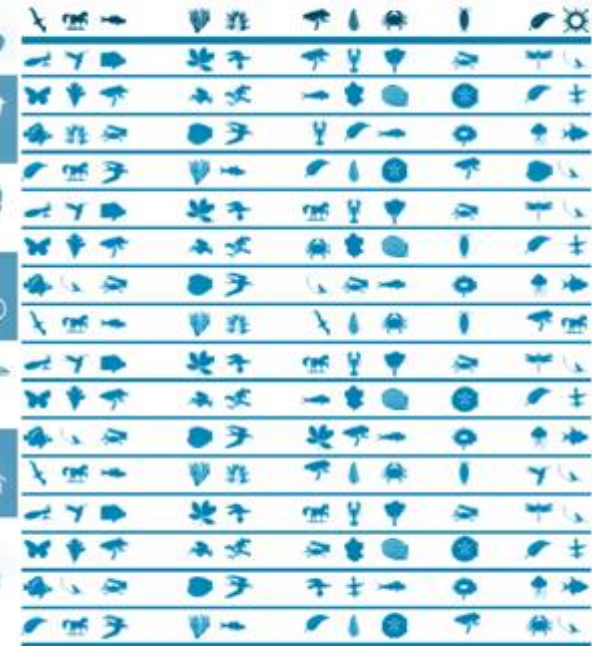
Anuario EUROPARC-España del estado de los espacios naturales protegidos



Sección del Estado español de la Federación de Parques Nacionales y Naturales de España EUROPARC España

## Anuario 2005

Anuario EUROPARC-España del estado de los espacios naturales protegidos



Sección del Estado español de la Federación de Parques Nacionales y Naturales de España EUROPARC España



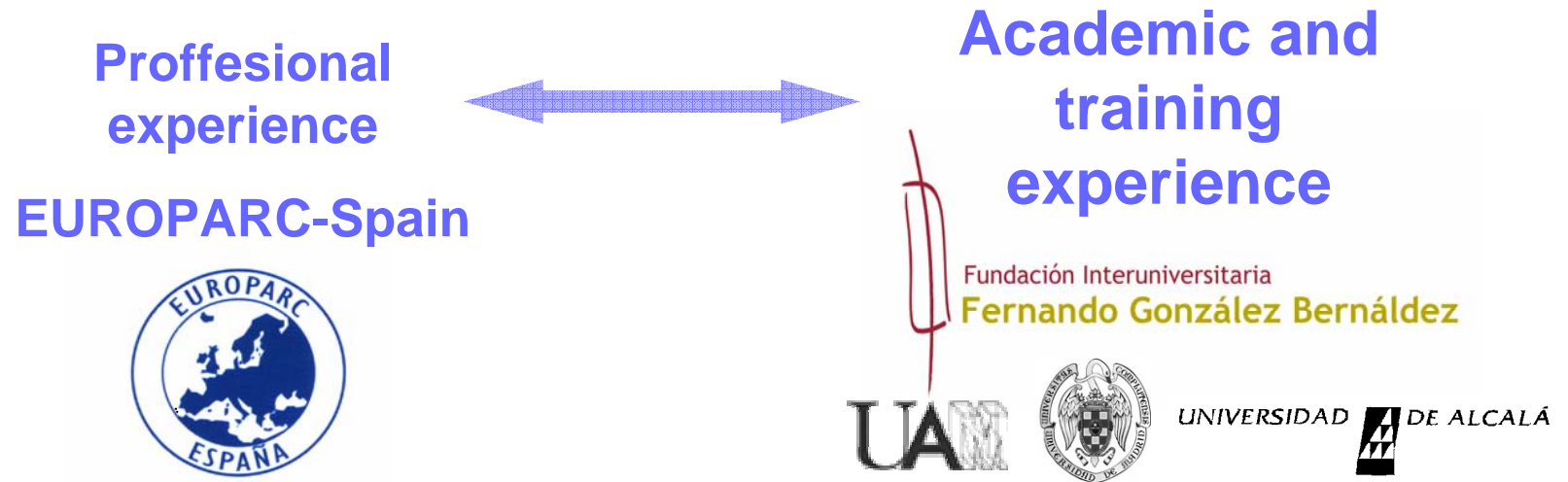
# Master in Protected Areas



Fundación Interuniversitaria  
**Fernando González Bernáldez**



# A shared project



## Result

Qualified university degree  
based on real needs of professionals and  
scientific, technical and academic state of the art

# 60 ECTS, 2 terms



## 1st term, January-June, 7 modules, 4 days each

- I Protected areas: a state of the art
- **II Planning and management**
- III Ecosystem management
- **IV Sustainable development and environmental services**
- **V Public use**
- **VI Capacities for management.** Monitoring and evaluation
- **VII Active management in practice** (study field trip)

## Program (2nd term, September-December)

- **VII Public involvement and participation**
- **VIII Case studies in Latin America and the Mediterranean**
- **IX Agri-environment schemes and CAP**
- X Geographic information systems as tools for protected areas
- **XI Conclusions. Challenges and opportunities for conservation.**

## Our students: 40 people from Spain, Latinamerica and other countries



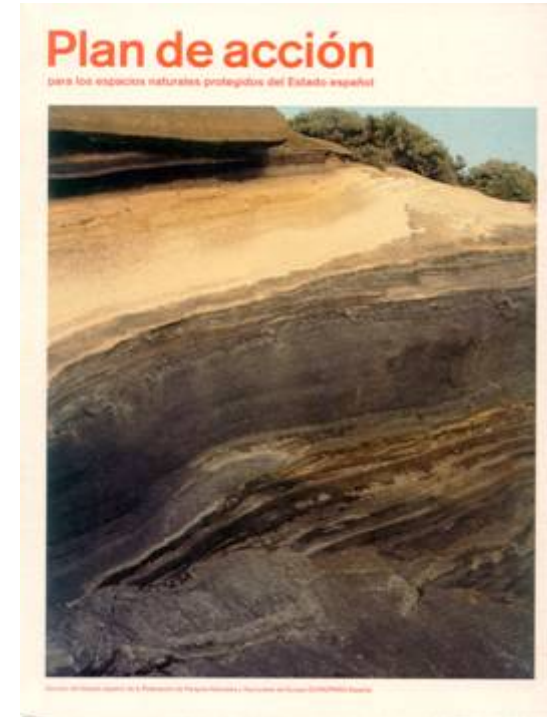
EUROPARC-Spain



## Action Plan for Natural Protected Areas

### Background:

- IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas. Caracas, 1992.
- Parks for Life; Action Plan for Protected Areas in Europe, (UICN & EUROPARC), 1994.
- Approval of Spanish Action Plan in 2002



**2003.** Vth WPC, Durban

**2006.** Evaluation Spanish Action Plan

**2007.** Working Group Programme 2008-2013

**2008.** Approval of Programme 2008-2013

**2010**



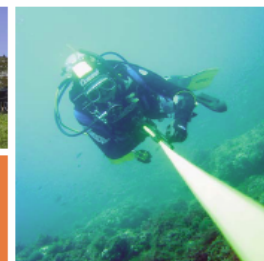


**PLAN DE ACCIÓN**  
para los Espacios Naturales Protegidos del Estado Español

# Manual

# 02

Serie manuales EUROPARC-España  
Plan de acción para los espacios naturales protegidos del Estado español



Diseño de planes de seguimiento en espacios naturales protegidos

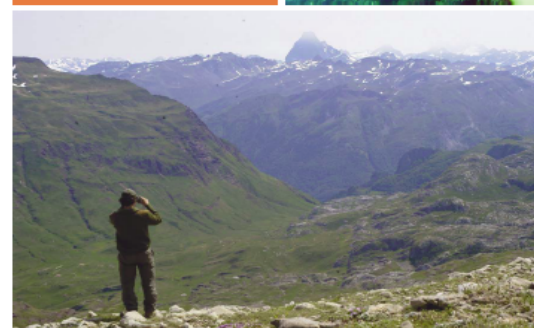


Imagen del Estado español de la Federación de Parques Naturales y Naturales de Europa (EUROPARC-España)





## SWOT analysis notes

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### **Weaknesses**

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## Future: 2010 Target

### Second phase of the Action Plan:

Aspects derived from the assessment of the first stage of the Action Plan and actions related to the CBD and other important initiatives

June 2008. ESPARC 2008. Approval of the document

October 2008. World UICN Conference in Barcelona. International presentation.

Until 2010. Development of the Programme





## Programme of Work of Spanish PA 2008-2013 Context

- Programme of Work on Protected Areas approved by the CBD COP in 2004
- Commission communication on “Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond”
- IUCN Programme for Protected Areas in Europe for 2005-2008
- Conclusions from Annual Conferences of EUROPARC Spain since 2002
- Evaluation of the Spanish Action Plan 2006



## MAIN CONTENTS

- 1. Background and methodology**
- 2. Aims of the programme**
- 3. State of the art**
- 4. Axis of work**
  - a) complete systems of PA
  - b) tools for effective management cycle
  - c) governance
  - d) benefits and social support
  - e) international cooperation

Each axis includes a series of action lines and specific actions (objectives, expected results, institutions involved, calendar)

- 5. Dissemination process**



[www.europarc-es.org](http://www.europarc-es.org)