



**PARKS for EUROPE**  
**The research purposes**

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**Legal tools for PAs Governance**

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# 1. Why a research on European Parks and Protected Areas?

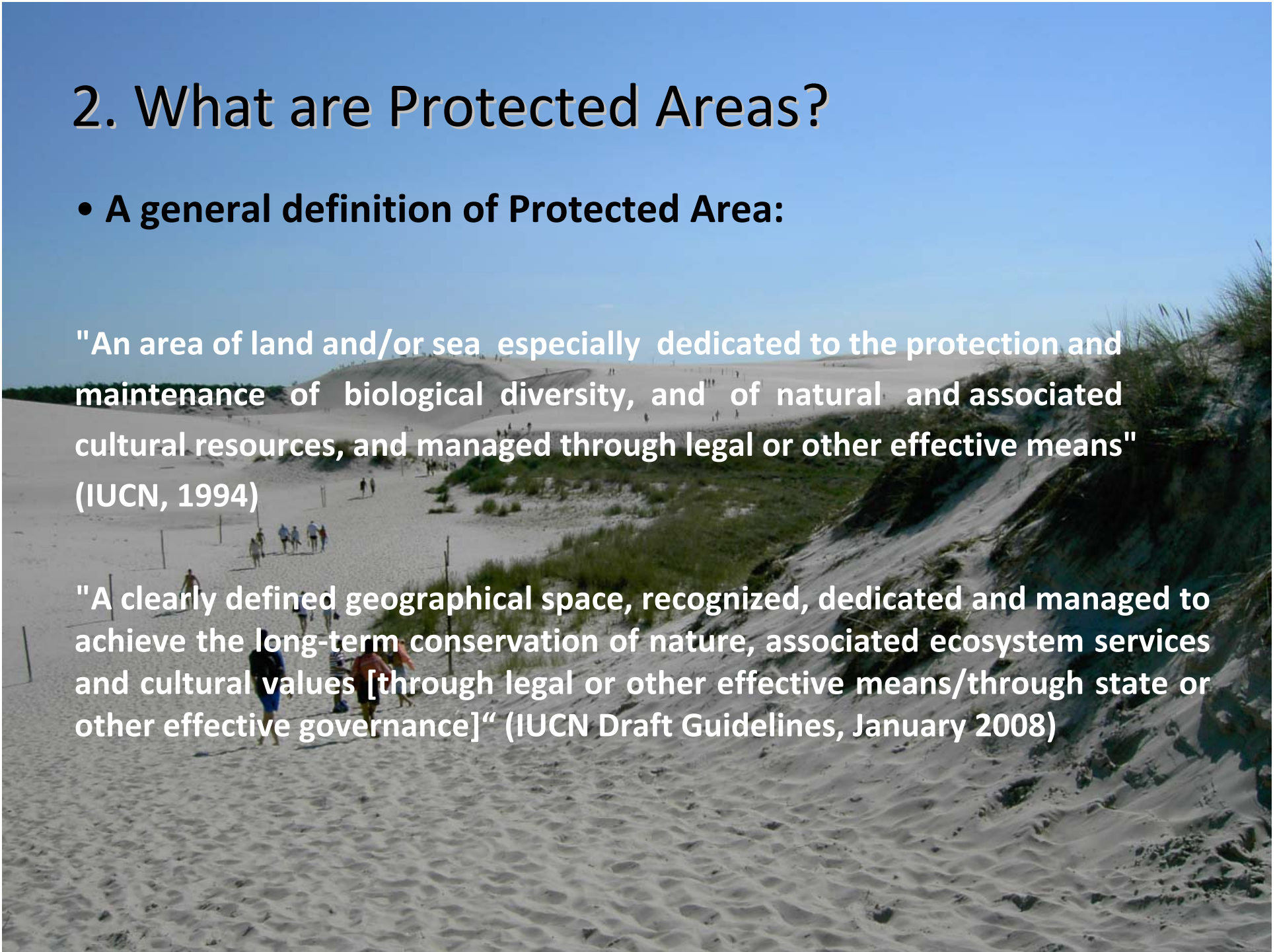
- The urgency of **more effective policies** to face the aggravation of the environmental issues
- The growing dependence of the environmental problems in the European countries on strategies and policies at the **Community level** (agriculture, infrastructure and so on)
- The crucial role that Protected Areas play in conservation and sustainable development policies
- The need for a European Policy for PAs, based on a **common language** and a shared set of objectives

## 2. What are Protected Areas?

- **A general definition of Protected Area:**

"An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means" (IUCN, 1994)

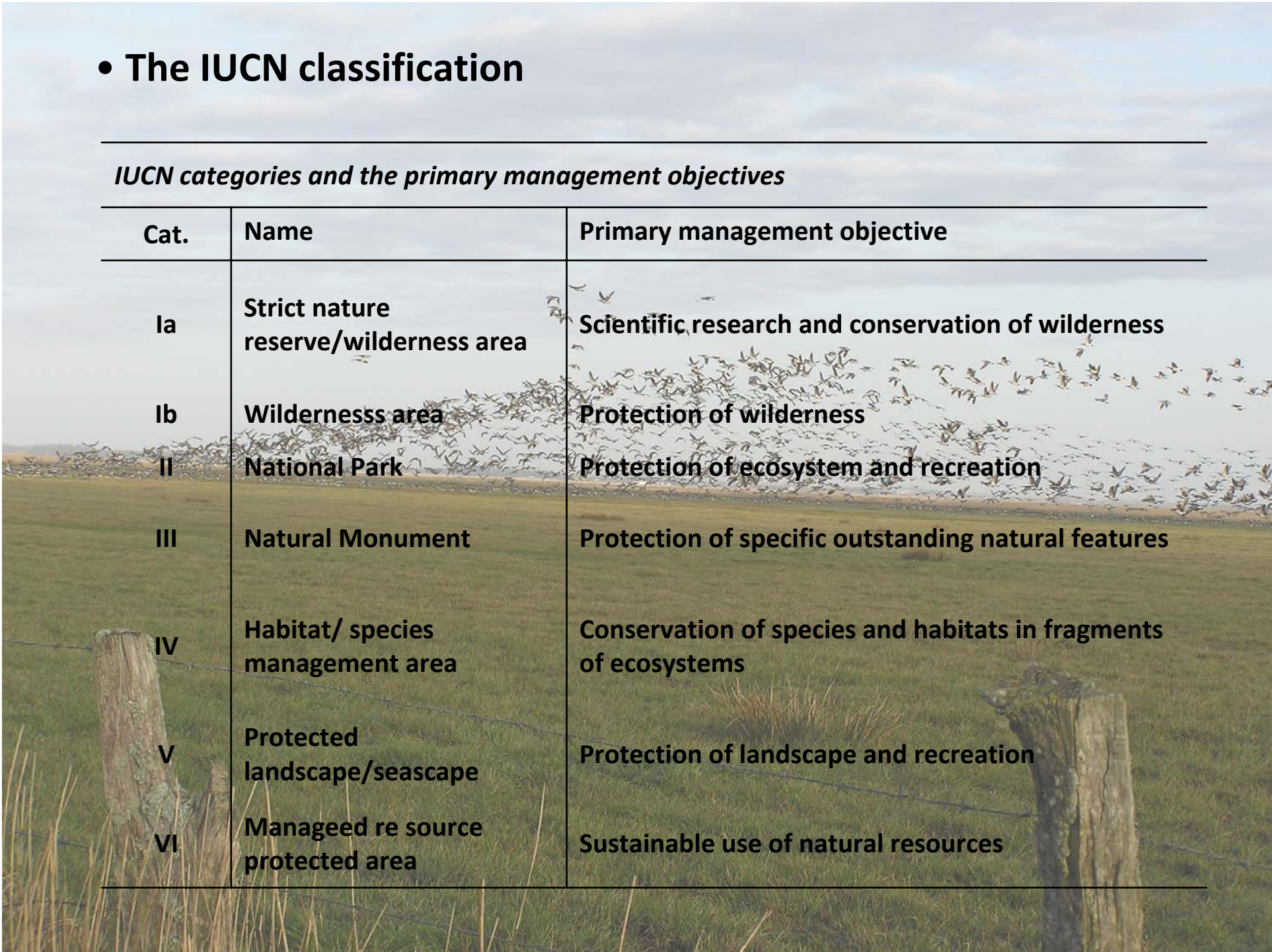
"A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature, associated ecosystem services and cultural values [through legal or other effective means/through state or other effective governance]" (IUCN Draft Guidelines, January 2008)



- **The IUCN classification**

*IUCN categories and the primary management objectives*

<b>Cat.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Primary management objective</b>
<b>Ia</b>	<b>Strict nature reserve/wilderness area</b>	<b>Scientific research and conservation of wilderness</b>
<b>Ib</b>	<b>Wilderness area</b>	<b>Protection of wilderness</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>National Park</b>	<b>Protection of ecosystem and recreation</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Natural Monument</b>	<b>Protection of specific outstanding natural features</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Habitat/ species management area</b>	<b>Conservation of species and habitats in fragments of ecosystems</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Protected landscape/seascape</b>	<b>Protection of landscape and recreation</b>
<b>VI</b>	<b>Managed resource protected area</b>	<b>Sustainable use of natural resources</b>



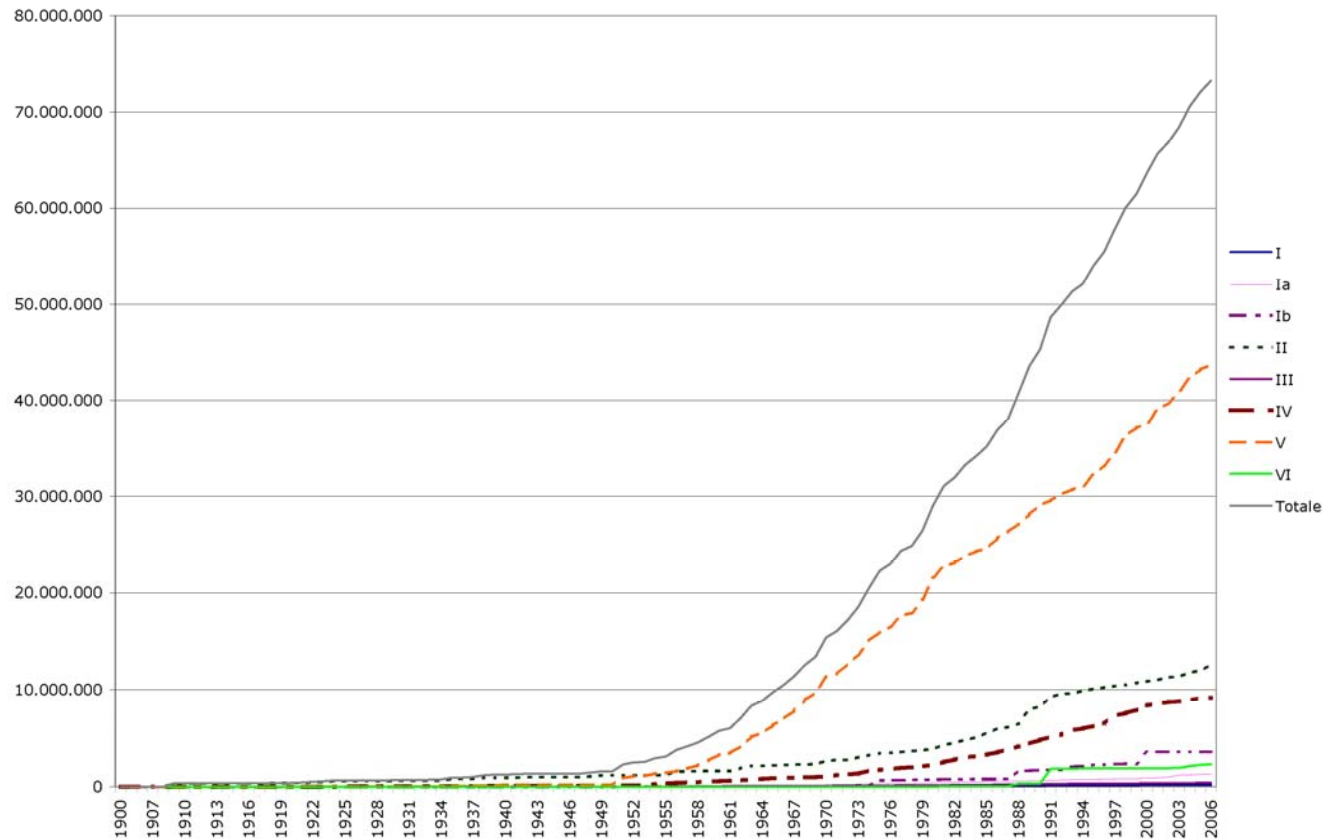
### 3. Which are the main features of the European Protected Areas?

- A very wide **set of 75.000 areas covering 90.000.000 ha**, corresponding to **almost 18%** (but not uniformly distributed)

<i>Number, surface and percentage of protected surface on total land area by groups of European countries</i>					
	No.	%	Surface (ha)	%	% total land area
EU15	47.149	62,5	61.109.463	<b>67,6</b>	18,9
EU12	21.125	28,0	20.238.749	<b>22,4</b>	18,6
EU7	5.720	7,6	7.695.452	<b>8,5</b>	16,4
EU5	1.394	1,8	1.408.880	<b>1,6</b>	5,6
EU39	<b>75.388</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90.452.544</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,9</b>

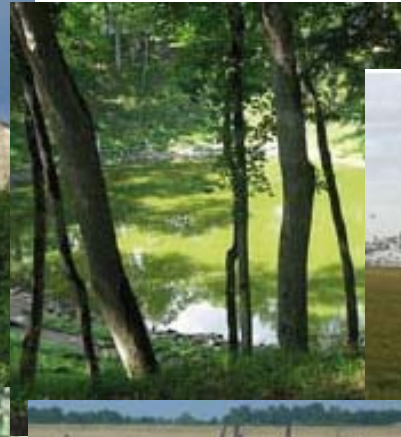
Source: *European Environment Agency (EEA) 2006, data processing CED PPN, 2007.*

- An **extraordinary and continuous growth** (+23% in the last decade)



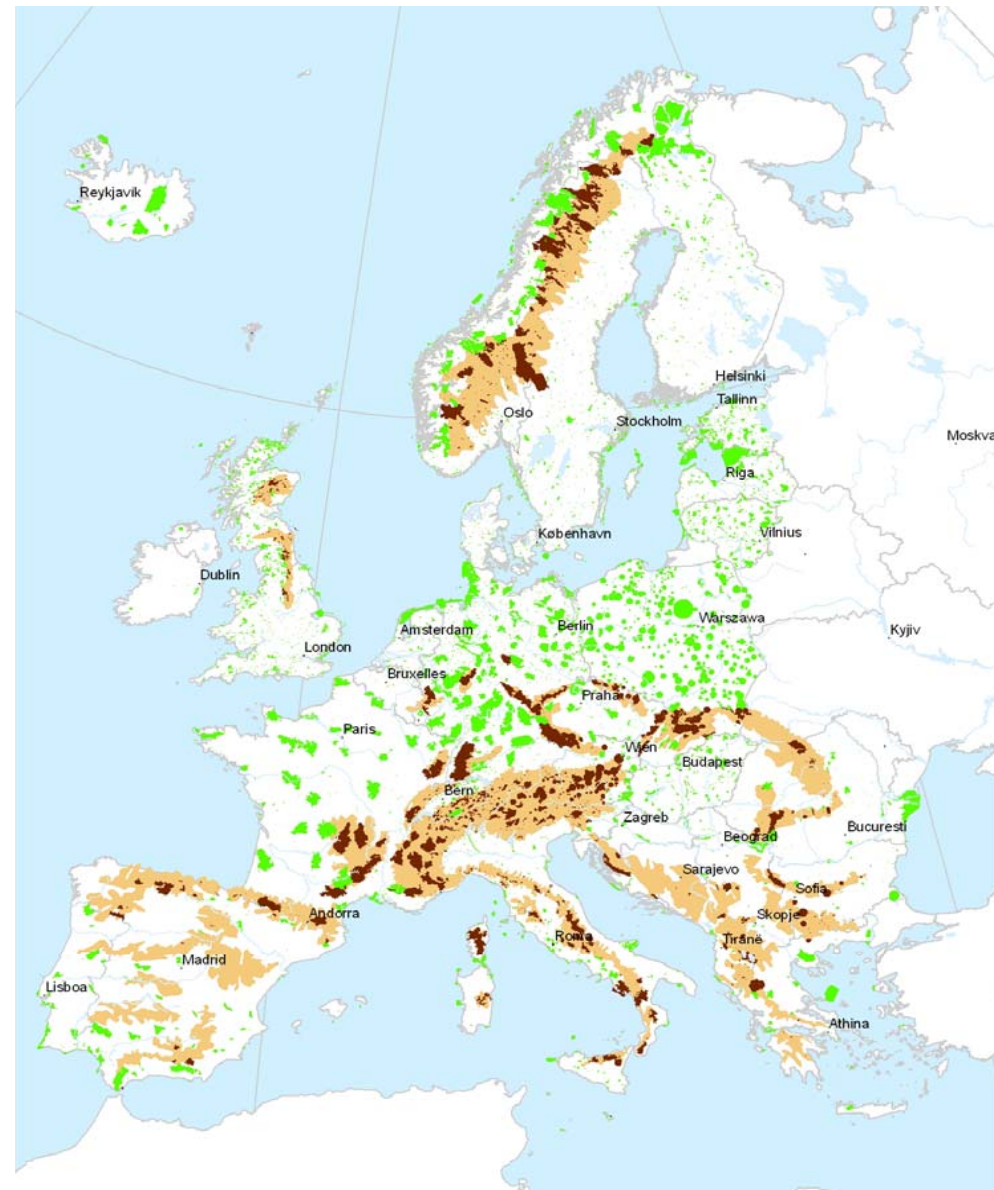
Source *European Environment Agency* (EEA) 2006, data processing CED PPN, 2007.

- An **extreme diversification** (from nature sanctuaries to cultural landscapes): the **Protected Landscapes** now cover the **52%** of the protected surface in Europe



## 4. Which relations between PAs and their contexts ?

- **Biogeographical regions: (34,19% of PAs in Continental bioregion)**
- **Mountain systems:**  
the territorial incidence rises **from 18% to 26%** (most in the Alps and in the Scandinavian Alps)

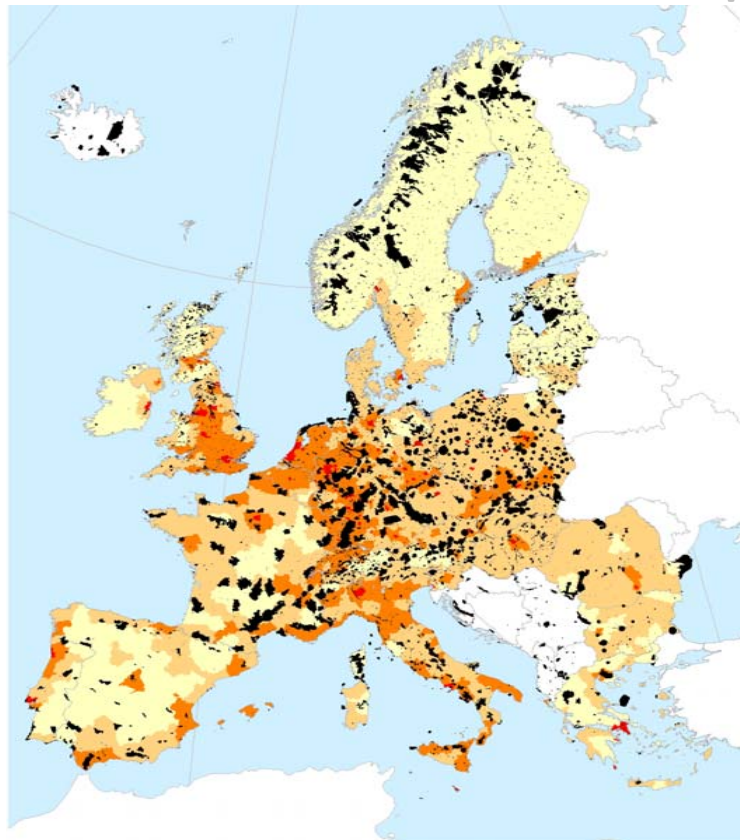


Protected areas and mountain systems

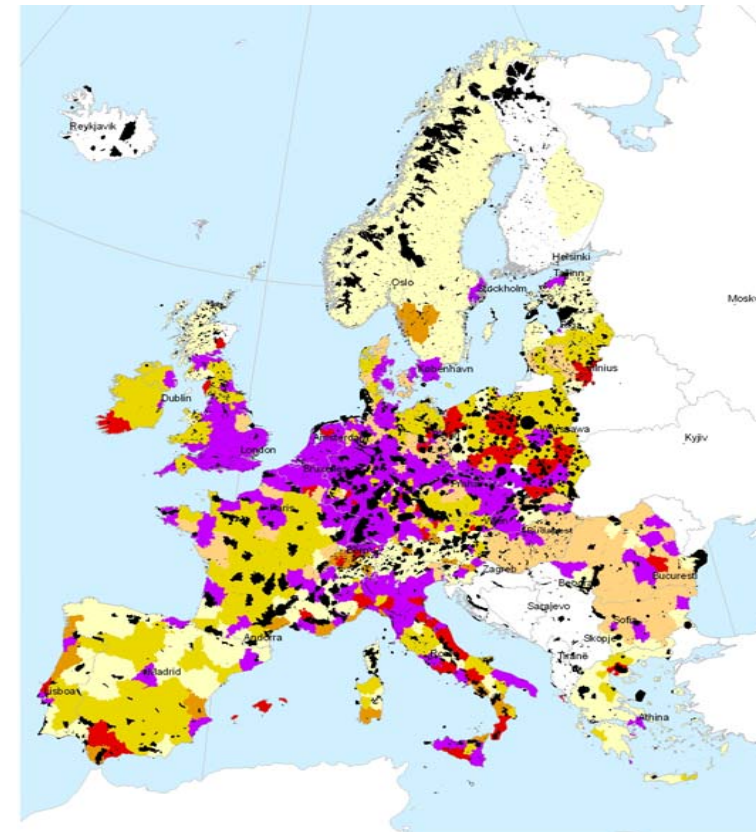




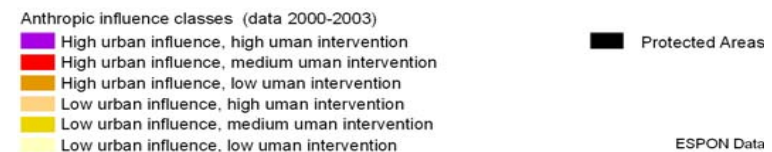
- **Coastal areas: lack of integrate management**
- **Main rivers: along them is located 23% of the protected surface**
- **Local contexts: an important relationship with rural areas, a very high influence of anthropic pressures**



Protected Areas and demographic density by Territorial Statistical Units NUTS 3



Protected Areas and anthropic influence by Territorial Statistical Units NUTS 3



## 5. Which policies in Europe for PAs?

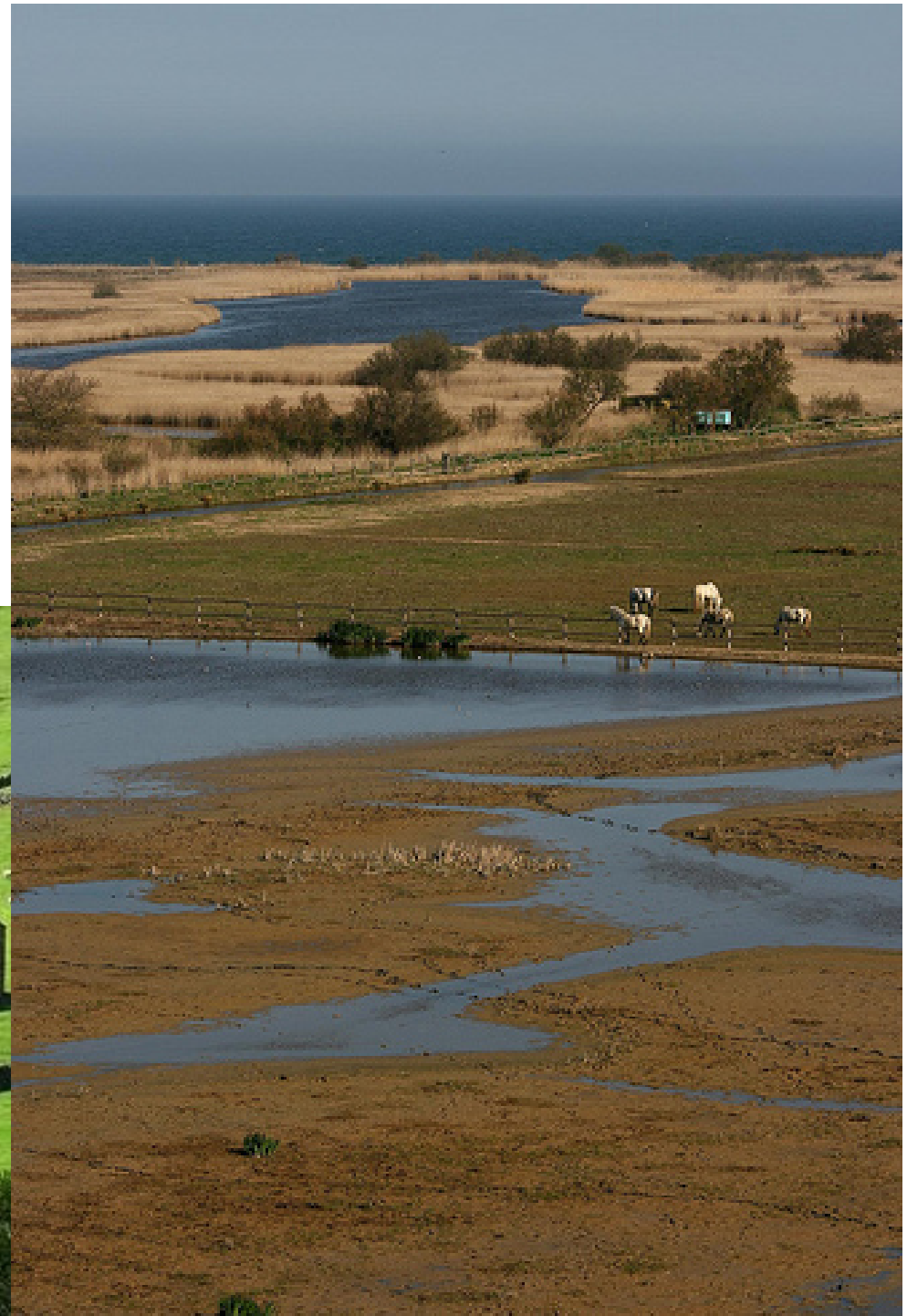
- Relevance of **“new paradigms”** (partially anticipated in Europe by some experiences, such as the Italian or French Regional Parks)
- Growing **importance of ecological networks** and particularly of the European Community “Natura 2000” Network, which includes, in 25 countries, a set of SCIs for over 55.000.000 ha and SPAs for over 44.000.000 ha

*Number, surface, percentage on total land area and mean surface of SCI, SPA and Protected Areas in EU25*

	No.	Surface (ha)	% total land area	Mean surface
SCI	20.789	55.908.200	14%	2.689
SPA	4.540	44.436.800	11%	9.788
<b>PAs</b> (25 Countries)	67.774	78.670.528	20%	1.161

Source - EU DG ENV B2, dicembre 2006, data processing CED PPN, 2007

- Need and opportunity of **alliance between PAs policies and Landscape policies** (in tune with the *European Landscape Convention*, Council of Europe, 2000)



## 6. What about Italian system?

### a) Awareness

- The difference of the national classification (L. 394/1991) from the IUCN classification (some category missing - particularly Protected Landscape - and, on the contrary, relevance of Regional Parks)
- The great diversity among regional classifications (more than 50 diverse categories)



## **b) Three emerging issues:**

- **Rethinking the relationship between nature and culture, with particular regard for Protected Landscapes (in Italy not so diffused as in Europe) and for widespread naturalness**
- **Pursuing the integration among different policies and legal tools: in particular between natural systems of Protected Areas and Natura 200 Network**
- **Developing new forms and styles of governance, fostering cooperation and participation of local actors and communities**

