

## ITALIAN PROTECTED AREAS

### *National Parks (NPs)*



#### What is a Protected Area

A protected area is a geographical area that is clearly defined, recognized, protected, and managed by law to conserve biodiversity, ecosystem services associated with it, and cultural values.

(International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN, 2008)

#### In Italy

The "Protected Areas Framework Law" No. 394/1991, sets out principles for the establishment and management of national protected areas in order to guarantee and promote the conservation and enhancement of the Country's Natural Heritage.

#### Italian National Parks

Under Italian Law on Protected Areas, the National Parks are "land, river, lake or marine areas that contain one or more intact or only partially altered ecosystems (...). One or more physical, geological and geomorphological, biological formations of national or international importance for naturalistic, scientific, aesthetic, cultural, educational and recreational values such as to require State intervention for the purposes of their conservation for present and future generations".

National Parks, in consideration of their importance, are established by Decree of the President of the Republic.