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Mobilizing Europe to protect Nature

European Day of Parks 2013 aims to achieving international recognition with a unique campaign

*The **European Day of Parks**, a unique campaign day celebrated on May 24, will mobilize Europe's citizens to express their passion for nature. Protected areas across the continent will join this year's event day with the theme "**My Park. My Passion. My Story.**"*

„The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness” commented the renowned nature writer [John Muir](#). On May 24th people in parks from all over Europe will remember again the joy being in nature brings.

“This would be a fantastic achievement for all who are investing their energy, time and who just enjoy being in nature to come together with one passionate voice” says Director Carol Ritchie. Since its launch in 1999, the **European Day of Parks** has grown to a European wide campaign day with hundreds of events and activities. The European Day of Parks gains its strength from widespread participation of protected areas, agencies and organizations working in conservation. The EUROPARC sections are joining the event reaching out to other events and groups: The EUROPARC section in Italy, Federparchi, is liaising with the national youth sports association to mobilize young people, while in Spain RedEUROPARC takes the European Day of Parks to the Primavera festival in Madrid, and the German section is organizing a photo contest.

“My park. My passion. My Story” is accessible to all people, persons of any age, nationality, gender, profession, dedication. “Everybody is invited to join the campaign and help to foster the recognition and respect for Europe's green treasures” declares Thomas Hansson, President of EUROPARC.

European Day of Parks has the power to prove once again the value of protected areas for citizens as unique places of recreation and joy with a rich biodiversity of fauna, flora, and ecosystems. It plays a pivotal role in reminding people of the pleasure and benefits of just being outdoors. People who are interested and enjoy nature have great chance to show their support but joining in activities in a protected area in their own area.

Further information and an updated list of events are available here:

www.europarc.org/whats-on/european-day-of-park

Interview opportunities:

- Thomas Hansson, President of the EUROPARC Federation
- Carol Ritchie, Director EUROPARC Federation

EUROPARC Federation is an independent, non-governmental organisation whose membership brings together organisations responsible for the management of most of Europe's protected areas. Currently it represents over 420 members in 35 countries. These include protected areas, governmental departments, NGO's and businesses who themselves manage the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage.



Photos attached (contact us for high resolution pictures):

- Passion for Nature by Radek Drahný_Krkonosze National Park (CZ)_1
- Passion for Nature by Radek Drahný_Krkonosze National Park (CZ)_2
- Connecting people in Nature_ Hoge Kempen Maasland National Park (Belgium)_RLKm
- Juniors on floating boat at Hoge Kempen Maasland National Park (Belgium)_RLKM

More pictures are available from Julia Schönhärl: office@europar.org

Poster template European Day of Parks 2013 (English)



eCard for European Day of Parks 2013

