



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

# EUROPARC Federation eNews

November 2020

Dear reader,

With the cold foggy mornings, winter made its comeback to most corners of the European continent. At the same time, most of us are feeling the weight of the second covid wave, pandemic related restrictions and lockdowns, which make the morning fogs even thicker and harder to see through. For many, it is now, once again, more difficult to access wild spots, and only see the seasons changing and nature getting ready for a long winter sleep from our home/office windows.

Still, it is a decisive time for the world of our nature and Protected Areas. The [heated CAP debates](#) about aligning the future agricultural and environmental policies continue to occupy the EU institutions and the public all over Europe. Since November 10, the Commission, Parliament and Council started the Trilogue meetings that will continue through the first part of 2021. EUROPARC is following the developments closely, continuously analysing potential outcomes for Protected Areas.

At the same time, the concept of “Rights of nature” made its way to a broader awareness, with a series of [online conferences initiated by MEP Marie Toussaint](#). In the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and depletion of natural resources, are we finally getting closer to overcoming anthropocentrism and going towards a more biocentric and holistic new approach, and towards recognising the rights of nature?

At EUROPARC, we are busy preparing [webinars](#), publications, papers, toolkits and other events and resources to keep you in the loop during the upcoming weeks and months. Scroll down to learn more about what is coming up and all you need to know from the latest developments around Europe’s Protected Areas. For continuous updates, keep an eye on our social media and [website](#)!

In the end and above all, we hope you stay safe and healthy, and that we will soon be able to welcome you, connect online and help you through the fog.

We wish happy readings,  
EUROPARC Directorate

**EUROPARC Updates**



## EUROPARC Conference 2021

Save the date!

Next year we will meet – hopefully face to face **in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands!** The conference will take place from the **4th till the 8th of October**, so mark your calendars. The theme will be **“Tribute to our Landscape: Where Nature and People Meet in Harmony”**. Over the upcoming months, the programme will be created, so keep an eye on the website: [www.europarc2021.nl](http://www.europarc2021.nl).



### New Policy Paper: Nature Regional Landscape Parks Where policy meets practice

A new [Policy Paper](#), launched by EUROPARC in October, highlights the importance of [Nature Regional Landscape Parks](#) and their potential to address the Green Deal challenges at a local level. The [paper](#) looks at implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, 2030 Climate Target Plan, Farm to Fork, CAP and Forestry Strategy, as well as other policies associated with health, sustainable tourism, culture and environmental education. Packed with case studies from Nature Regional Landscape parks across Europe, the paper also relates these areas of work with the Sustainable Development Goals. You can watch the recording of this event, which was part of the Week of Cities and Regions and hear some of the case studies “live” [here](#).

**News from Brussels**



## CAP updates

The European Parliament and the Council have concluded their institutional internal processes ([read the different positions of the Commission, Parliament and Council here](#)). Now it is time for the “Trilogue”: Commission, Council and Parliament have started on 10th of November the consultation meetings that will continue during the first part of 2021 under the Portuguese Council’s Presidency Semester. The result will be the final and official text of the CAP. Following several hot debates in and outside the EP and Council, and considering the importance of the topic, NGOs and several MEPs are calling for full alignment of the reformed [Common Agricultural Policy](#) with the [European Green Deal](#) and for a transparent process and public access to information from the trilogue meetings.

It seems like the positions of the Parliament and the Council are weaker in terms of sustainability than the Commission’s initial proposal, while they are more sustainable on other specific topics within the CAP proposal. Opinions still differ on topics such as eco-schemes, conditionality of payments and ring-fencing CAP budget on sustainability. It should be noted that the CAP proposal made by the Commission was published before the EU Green Deal, which means that there is a lot of work ahead for the Commission to make these two keystone plans align with each other.



## Towards a European recognition of the rights of Nature

Clean environment is a precondition to the enjoyment of **human rights**: the full recognition of everyone’s rights to life, health, quality private and family life or home, depends on healthy ecosystems and their benefits to people.

That is why the Council of Europe discussed about the role of the Court of Human Rights in October in the [High Level Conference Human Rights for the Planet](#). In November, EUROPARC brought up this topic in the meeting of the INGO (the conference of the International NGOs accredited in the Council of Europe) and called for the creation of a specific thematic group on Environmental Human Rights, linked to climate change, biodiversity and health. In the European Parliament the debate is spearheaded by MEP Marie Toussaint. She goes even further, proposing the recognition of real rights to the nature elements, in a very interesting cycle

of conferences “The Rights of Nature”, involving politicians, lawyers and conservationists. [Watch the recordings of the first two conferences here](#) and [stay tuned](#), more will follow.



### EU Forestry Strategy

Under the EU Green Deal, the European Commission has announced a new EU forestry strategy aiming to ensure healthy and resilient forests that contribute to biodiversity protection and climate goals. Now it's your turn to have a say and make it a success! The Commission is now looking for inputs and feedback from all over Europe. [Provide your suggestions through this link](#), it is open until December 4!



### EU Marine Protection

At the end of November, the [European Court of Auditors](#) published the Special Report report “[Marine environment: EU protection is wide but not deep](#)” addressing the EU protection of marine environments and concluding that Marine Protected Areas only provide limited protection. According to the report, EU actions have not restored seas to good environmental status and that EU protection rules have not led to the recovery of significant ecosystems and habitats.

## Upcoming Webinars

**EUROPARC Webinar**

**How to plan and manage a Park for nature and people:  
the experience of Periurban Parks**

**04** December  
11:00 CET

[europarc.org/europarc-webinar](http://europarc.org/europarc-webinar)

organised by

photo: Arche de la Nature, by Anne Huger

### How to plan and manage a park for nature and people: the experience of Periurban Parks

4th of December, 11am CET

Periurban Parks have the double mission of preserving biodiversity and delivering key ecosystem

services to the city, while also meeting the need for outdoor recreation and contact with nature from an increasing urban population. [In this webinar](#), the EUROPARC Periurban Commission will share some practical advice on how to plan and manage a Periurban park – from the city border to the inner core natural areas – to meet all these needs. Participation is free but don't forget to [register!](#)



### Bringing nature back to our #BeActive lives 10th of December, 2pm CET

It is broadly acknowledged that outdoor sports, as an aspect of daily life, connect people with nature and promote sustainable ways for people to interact with their local environments. Organised by ENOS, [this virtual seminar](#) will explore the outdoor sports sector potential to both mitigate negative impacts of outdoor sports practice and foster environmental transition and sustainable behaviours at a greater level. EUROPARC's executive director Carol Ritchie will be among the panel speakers. [Register here](#) (for free) and join the webinar to discuss how to foster environmental transition through Outdoor Sports!

## Events



### European Business and Nature Summit 2020 8th– 9th December

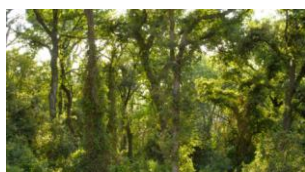
In light of countries' efforts to handle the Covid-19 crisis and overcoming its economic impacts, there is a need and an opportunity for businesses to reconsider their relationship with nature and people. To rebuild their resilience and thrive in the long term, businesses must embark on a green recovery. Join this virtual space on December 8 from 14:00 CET and on December 9 from 10:00 CET to discuss the interconnections between business and nature. [Find more information and register here!](#)

# Resources



## Do you have the LIFE eNatura2000 app yet?

Connect, discuss and learn with other Natura 2000 stakeholders in an innovative way! Besides a continuous inflow of relevant news and features, users can connect with individual Natura 2000 site managers and interact with other users based on their matching circles of interests, by biogeographical zones, countries, or languages. Download the app on [Google Play](#) or [App Store](#) if you haven't yet!



## Time to restore nature – but where?

A new study "Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration" (Strassburg et. al) published in the magazine Nature highlights that restoring nature, is a low-cost and highly effective method to store carbon and battle biodiversity loss. However it strongly depends on how and where it is done. Read the [summary of the main findings on our website](#) and [find the full study here](#).

For any questions or comments, please contact the EUROPARC Communications Department: [communications@europarc.org](mailto:communications@europarc.org)