



EUROPARC Members Consultation on Future Strategy
Results of the 2020 Online Survey

ONLINE SURVEY

key results*



*Results based on EUROPARC internal elaboration.

ONLINE SURVEY

Some numbers

- Total number of valid responses: 86
- Answers received from 31 countries
- 45 from Protected Areas
- 46 respondents indicated they are also member of a section



EUROPARC Members' priorities

Trends

1. Areas of work for nature conservation
2. Areas of work for sustainable development
3. Community engagement



How do you think EUROPARC Federation has helped you to achieve your goals?

Source: Open question 2.2

- Shared knowledge and exchange on specific subjects: N2000, climate, EU policy development, dissemination of project results;
- Opportunities to connect with other PA and colleagues, offering contacts and context
- Professional development through knowledge exchange and projects
- Information sharing
- Being member of an international organization provides added value, recognition and credibility at local level and for projects
- Effective tools and opportunities for knowledge sharing: webinars, workshops, website, case studies, events...
- Positive approach, enthusiasm, constructive spirit, moral support...
- Thematic working/discussion groups and networks: TB, Charter...
- Tools, processes and strategic approaches to subjects: Sustainable Tourism certification scheme, JR, TB, HPHP...
- NO support or not direct support received to reach the successes described, no involvement in practical management...
- Push to improve

What are your main priorities for future?

Source: Open question 2.3

- Improve communication and awareness raising
- Develop and implement Climate Change adaptation strategies - Reduce Emissions and climate impact
- Develop and implement strategies, guidance and processes for Sustainable Tourism, Visitor and access management, develop marketing for tourist and local products
- Develop and promote environmental education, Junior Ranger, nature schools
- Review PA management plans and Analyse management effectiveness
- Biodiversity conservation measures: nature restoration, habitats management, invasive species, LC Conflict management
- Develop Fundraising
- Promote Sustainable Development
- Build partnerships with other sectors
- Scientific research, data collection, monitoring of habitats and species
- Improve working methods and practices
- Cross border cooperation
- Enforcement
- Territorial cohesion

How do you think EUROPARC can help you to achieve your goals in the future?

Source: Open question 2.4

- Align EF priorities with those of the EU biodiversity strategy
- Share good practices on nature management + Communicate and disseminate success stories
- Guidelines and knowledge sharing on conflict management, mediation, partnership building...
- Capacity building for PA staff
- Facilitate the creation of contacts and exchanges with other PA
- Influence policy for nature protection, considering in particular financing and implementation
- Raise awareness among decision makers and wide public on the role of PA
- Provide learning exchange on visitor management
- Provide opportunities for knowledge exchange: thematic workshops, webinars, working groups...
- Influence policy on climate and health
- Provide info and updates on EU policies, funding opportunities,
- Develop projects with members (learn by doing opportunity) and support PA on project development
- Create dedicated groups: eg a wetland network
- Support policy/network for non-EU members
- Influence funding streams

Question 3.1: To achieve your NATURE CONSERVATION objectives, which of the following AREAS OF WORK will you address as a priority in the future?

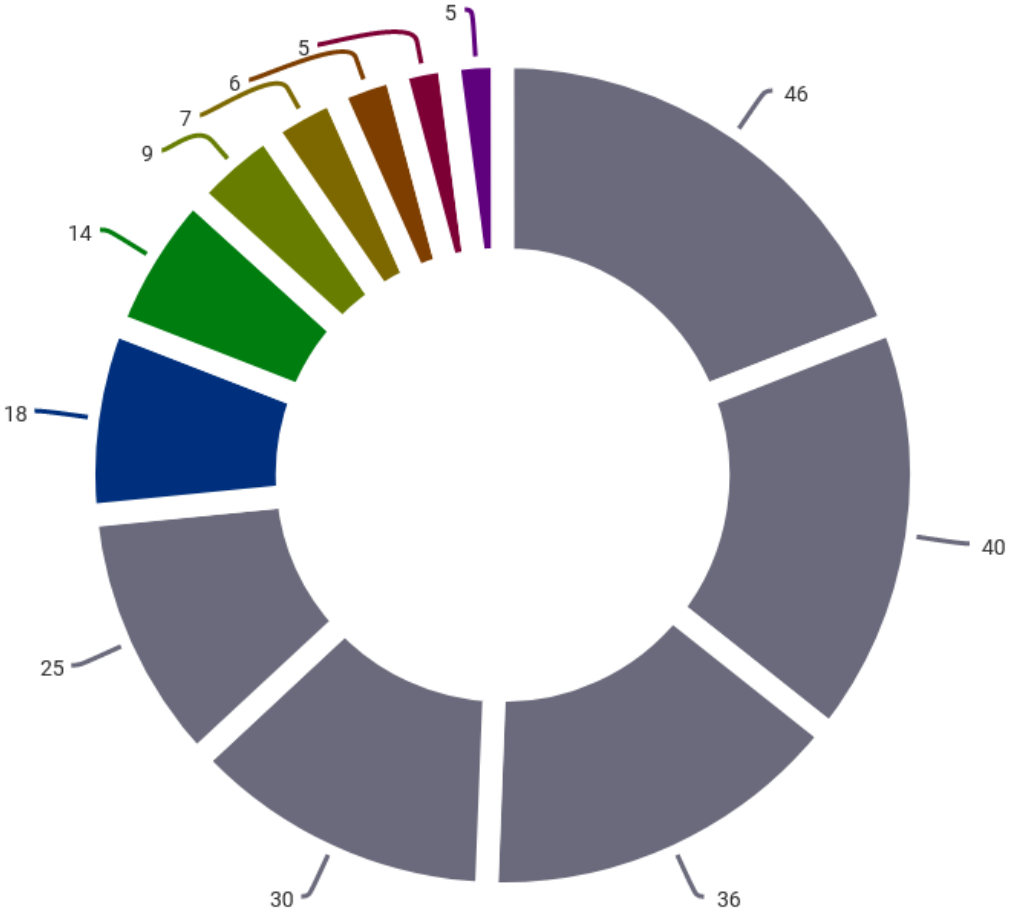
Total votes 248 – Top 5 (177 votes)



- 1) **Managing human leisure uses so they are compatible with nature and landscapes**
- 2) **Nature restoration, reduce fragmentation, ensure connectivity**
- 3) **Conservation of endangered habitats and species (incl. N2000 Management)**
- 4) **Influencing/working with agriculture and forestry**
- 5) **Mitigating and/or adapting to climate change effects (flood, drought, heat)**

Question 3.1: To achieve your NATURE CONSERVATION objectives, which of the following AREAS OF WORK will you address as a priority in the future?

Total votes 248 – Top 5 (177 votes)



- 6): **Cultural heritage conservation**
- 7): **Integrated and holistic land management**
- 8): **Periurban nature conservation**
- 9): **Delivering clean water, air and soil health and influencing others to avoid pollution**
- 10): **Coexistence with large carnivores**
- 11): **Combating the overexploitation of wild species**
- 12): **Other**

Priority areas of work to achieve your NATURE CONSERVATION objectives

Source: Open question 3.2 - 53 responses - manual treatment

The priorities of members are heterogeneous and context-specific.

The goal that most have **in common is to design or implement their management plan to better balance land use** through an array of actions that include nature inventories and protection prioritisation, support and advice to land users, monitoring and research on nature and wildlife conservation, visitor management and public relations.

Many mention **nature restoration, as well as the recovery of ecological connectivity**, as main priorities. The concept of conservation seems to be more linked to **global changes**, with a **more integrated management approach, on a landscape scale**.

It is interesting to note some **specific regional priorities** such as:

- Serbia is working to fulfil the national obligations towards the international conventions, preparing the implementation of their Natura2000 network.
- Members from UK brought to our attention the need to ensure continuity of European cooperation. They are looking at transitioning from the N2000 network to the Emerald one.

**Question 3-5. In order to implement SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT in your Protected Area:
Which of the following AREAS OF WORK are you considering to address over the coming years?**

Total votes 245 – Top 5 (152 votes)



1) Measures to improve the place of nature in the local development strategy ?

2) Measures to raise awareness about nature conservation with local communities

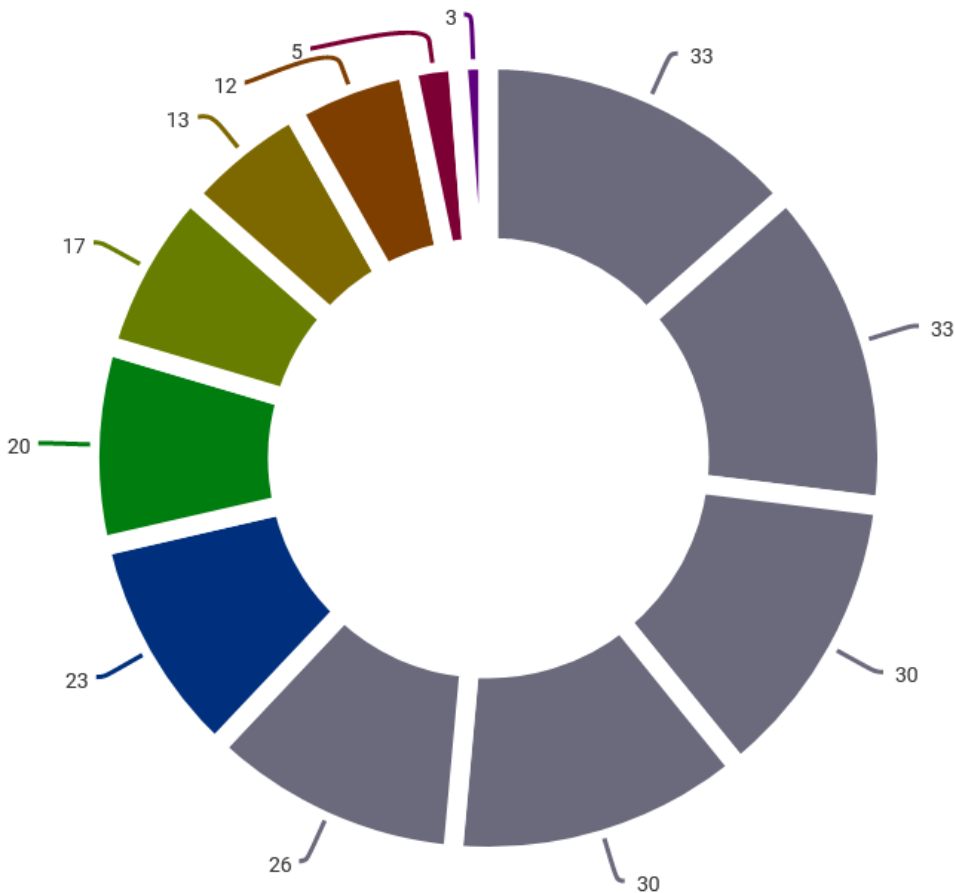
3) Measures to support a sustainable local economy

4) Measures to value the role of nature for health and well-being

5) Measures to address climate change adaptation and mitigation

**Question 3-5. In order to implement SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT in your Protected Area:
Which of the following AREAS OF WORK are you considering to address over the coming years?**

Total votes 245 – Answers 6 – 12 (93 votes)



6): Measures to support capacity building for Protected Area managing authorities and staff

7): Education and participation programs for local youth

8): Measures to reduce the consumption of natural resources

9): Measures to develop soft mobility

10): Development of innovative governance models and participatory approaches

11): Measures to support circular economy

12): Measures for social inclusion

Priority areas of work to achieve your SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT objectives

Source: Open question 3.6 - 47 responses - manual treatment

Global changes in general and climate change in particular are forcing regions to put sustainable development high on their agenda.

Many responses highlight the need **to include Protected Areas as stakeholders and active partners within regional plans for sustainable and socio-economic development.** The need **to involve communities and politicians** in nature conservation management and sustainable use of natural resources is also stressed.

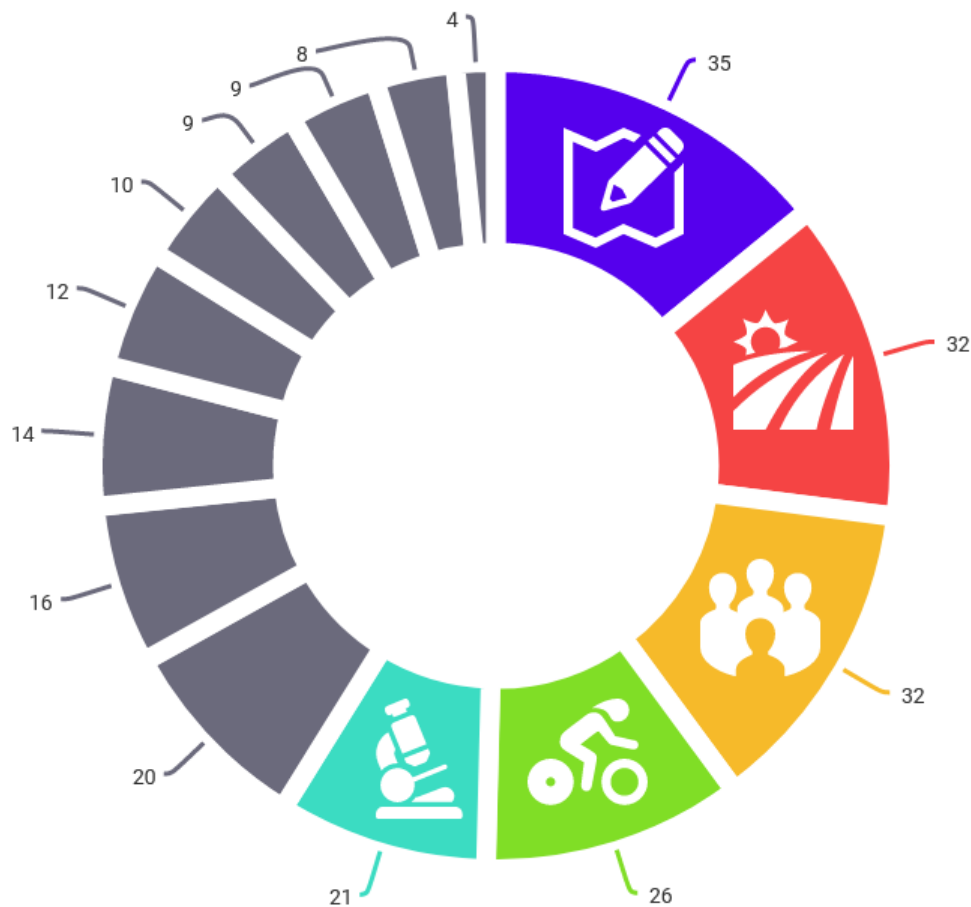
Many seek to **prove the value of nature** to communities, to **connect people and nature** and to support the **development of sustainable economical activities** (tourism, agriculture, ...).

From a **governance** point of view, a key aspect to achieve such objectives is the **improvement of the relationships** between PAs, local socio-economic actors and land users promoting **partnerships and collaboration.**

Question 3-3. STAKEHOLDERS and/or COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Which of the following groups is your organisation seeking to build partnerships with?

Total votes 247 – Top 5 (145 votes)



1) Leisure organisers

2) Farmers or foresters active in or around Protected Area

3) Local communities

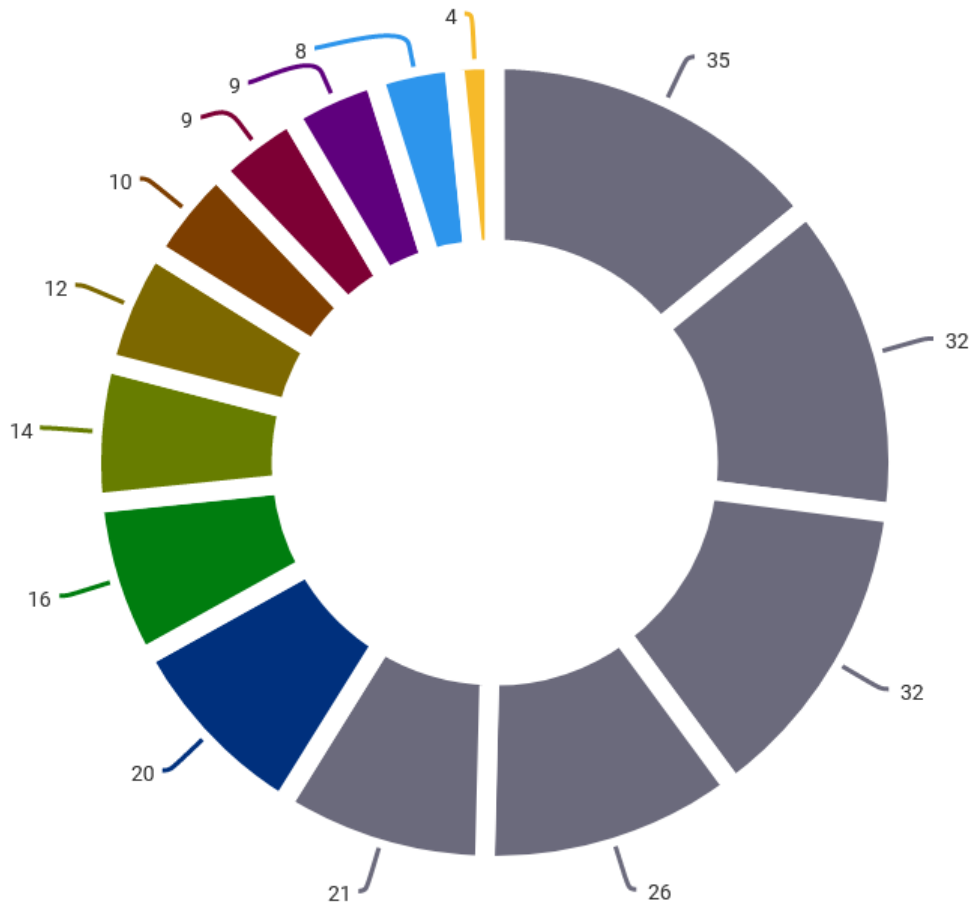
4) Leisure Users

5) Scientific community

Question 3-3. STAKEHOLDERS and/or COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Which of the following groups is your organisation seeking to build partnerships with?

Total votes 247 / answer 6 - 14 (102 votes)



6): **Local councils and governments**

7): **Youth**

8): **Other organisations or institutions**

9): **Local service providers**

10): **Healthcare sector**

11): **Other public bodies working on land planning**

12): **Other Protected Areas that have the same conservation objectives**

13): **Other Protected Areas to develop nature connectivity and ecological continuity**

14): **Local industries**

Evaluation of EUROPARC services

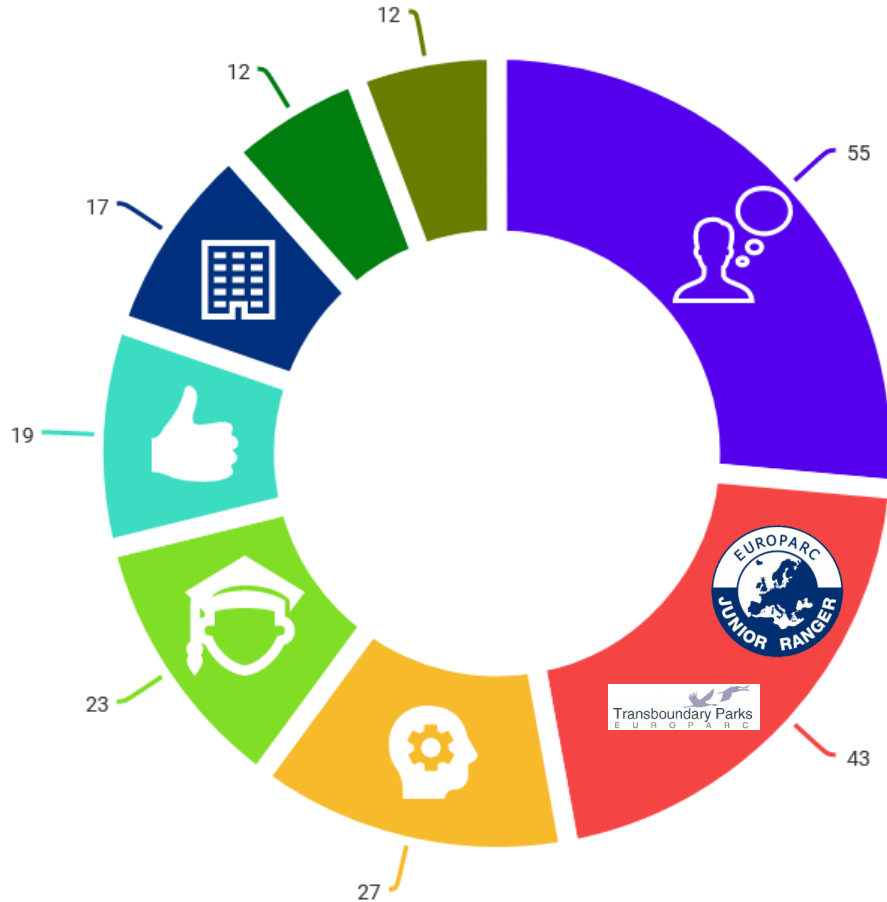
Trends

1. What services have been used by members?
2. Which services are perceived as most valuable?
3. How the services used were rated?



Question 5-1. In your opinion, what have been the 3 most valuable services provided by the EUROPARC Federation for your organisation? (3 answers per person)

Total votes 208 / all answers



1) **Networking and knowledge sharing**

2) **EUROPARC's programmes**

3) **Capacity building and learning tools**

4) **Expert groups**

5) **General communications**

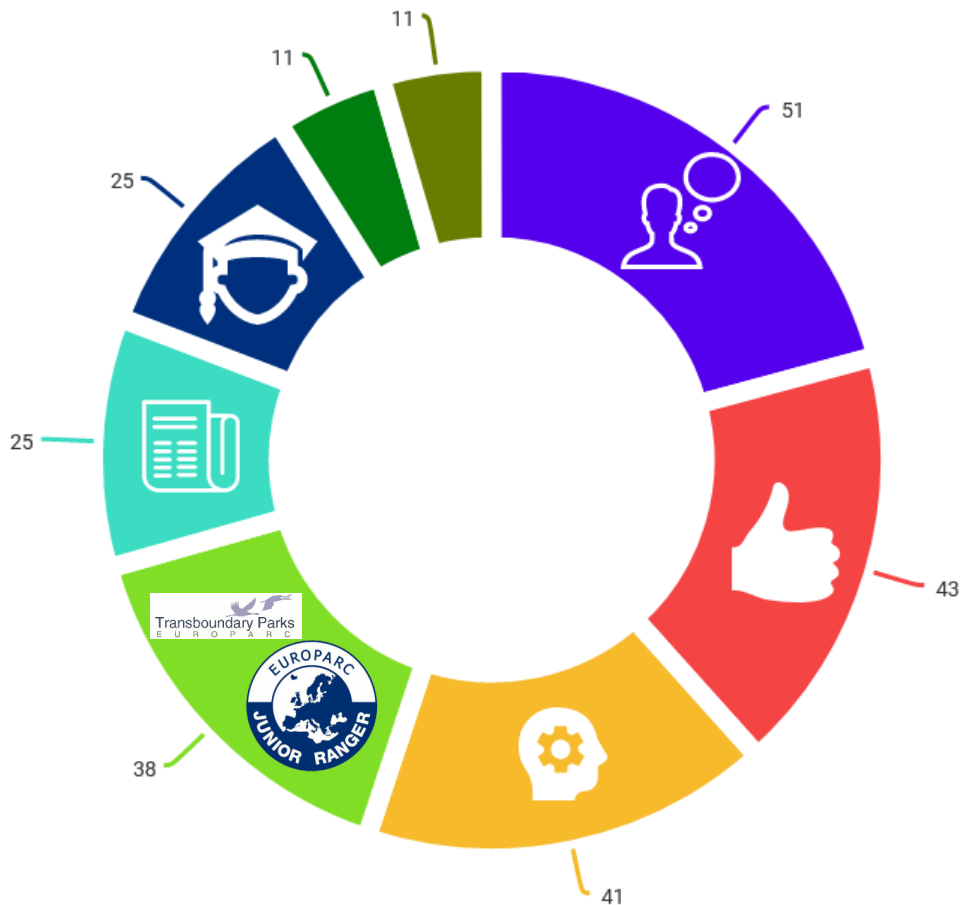
6) **Representation to the EU institutions**

7) **Technical publications**

8) **Development of pan-European projects**

Question 5-2. What EUROPARC services has your organisation used or been involved in over the last 5 years? (Multiple answers possible)

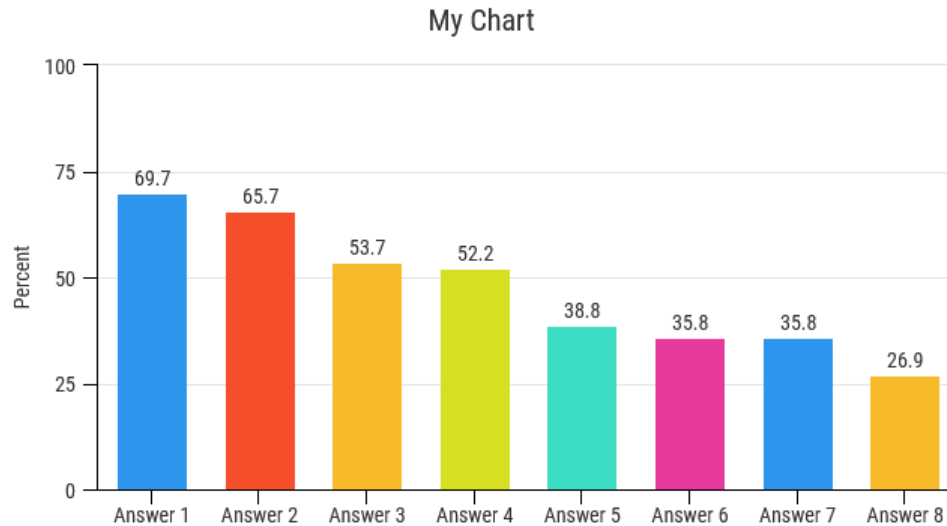
Total votes 245 / all answers



- 1) **Networking and knowledge sharing**
- 2) **General communication (Newsletter, social media, publications, website)**
- 3) **Capacity building and learning tools**
- 4) **EUROPARC's programmes**
- 5) **Technical publications**
- 6) **Expert groups**
- 7) **Development of pan-European projects**
- 8) **Representation to the EU institutions**

**Question 5-3. How would you rate the following services provided by the EUROPARC Federation for your organisation?
1 (Bad) to 6 (Excellent)**

Estimate of satisfaction / service (Sum of ratings "5" and "6")



- 1) **Networking and knowledge sharing**
- 2) **Capacity building and learning tools**
- 3) **Technical publications**
- 4) **Expert groups**
- 5) **General communications**
- 6) **Representation to the EU institutions**
- 7) **EUROPARC programmes**
- 8) **Development of pan-European projects**

Management approaches and main changes to consider for the future

Trends



Question 4-2 . Of the existing or emerging new approaches to managing the environment, which do you think will have biggest impact on Protected Areas and so the work of EUROPARC? (3 answers per person)

Total votes 216 / Top 6 (146 votes)



1) **Ecosystem goods and services valuation**

2) **Nature-based solutions**

3) **EU Green new deal**

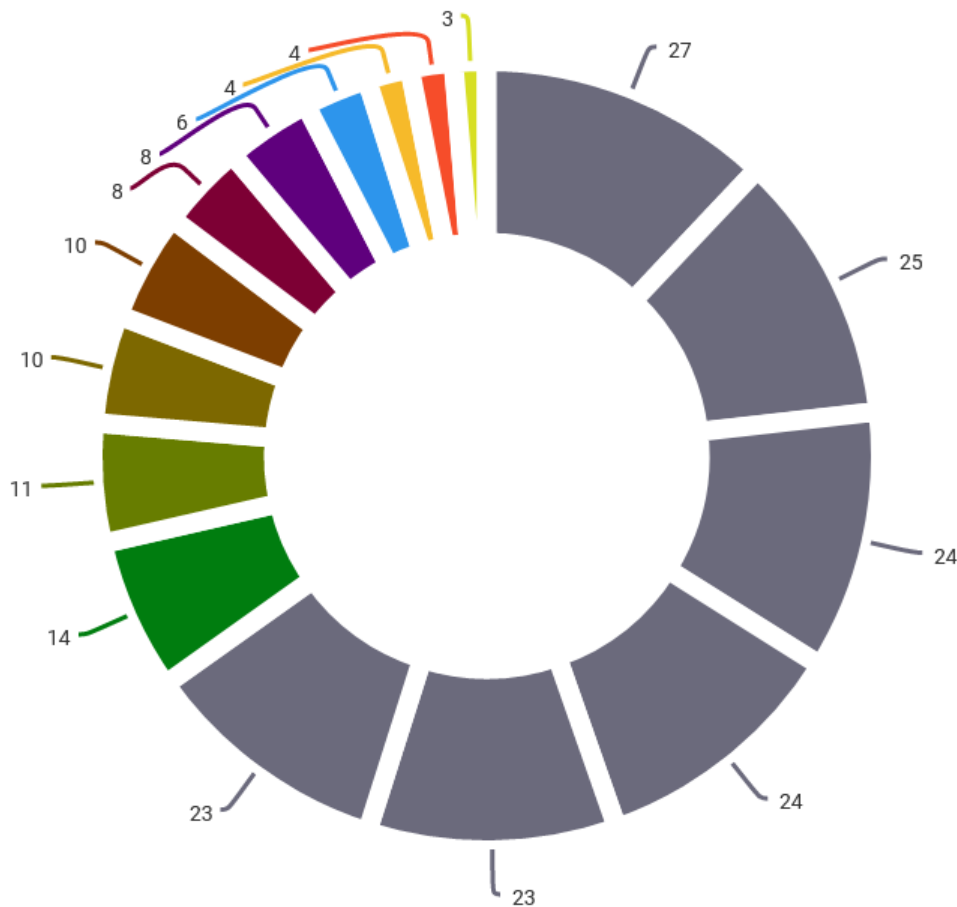
4) **Strategic green/blue infrastructure**

5) **Restoration**

6) **Integrated thinking, across sectors and actors.**

Question 4-2 . Of the existing or emerging new approaches to managing the environment, which do you think will have biggest impact on Protected Areas and so the work of EUROPARC? (3 answers per person)

Total votes 216 / Answers 7 – 16 (78)



7): **Rewilding**

8): **Use of technology for communication**

9): **Big ideas** (Building an ecological civilization, a shared future for all life on earth as expressed in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity program)

10): **Big ideas** (Reaching Sustainable Development Goals)

11): **Sharing power**

12): **Big ideas** (Transform the local agricultural systems)

13): **Use of technology for monitoring**

14): **New money** (Carbon capture and trading for net zero)

15): **Use of technology for management**

16): **New money**

What trends - beyond the nature sector - do we need to factor into our new strategy?

Source: Open question 4.1. Manual treatment. Disclaimer: there was a wide array of responses (74), those that were mentioned most frequently are displayed here.

(Mega) Trend: COVID-19 & societal change

Many answers featured a believed societal change due to COVID-19, that ties together numerous “smaller” trends

- **Travel:** closer to home (regionalism), more nature oriented - challenging Protected Areas
- **Health:** nature as an important catalyser for a healthier lifestyle
- **Awareness:** People have become more aware of their impact on nature (in relation to travel, food, health, food production). Need to capitalize on this to spread awareness about the importance of Protected Areas

Trend: Climate Change :

- Preparing Protected Areas for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Using Protected Areas as model areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation and analysis.

Trend: (Sustainable) Tourism :

- Protected Areas must deal with increasing amount of visitors (also result of COVID-19)
- Tourist infrastructure needs to be expanded/improved
- Need to capitalize on the growing trend of nature tourism to highlight the importance of Protected Areas.

What other areas of work will become relevant for Protected Areas in the coming years, how can EUROPARC support?

Source: Open question 4.3. Manual treatment. Disclaimer: there was a wide array of responses (71), trends mentioned most frequently are displayed here.

Climate Change:

- How to deal with new species (flora and fauna) as well as invasive species
- Water management: a holistic & cross border approach is needed to solve problems related to the disturbed water balance.
- Creating an infrastructure to combat climate change and increase biodiversity.

Inclusiveness :

- Nature should be accessible to all.
- Local communities should be engaged in the Protected Area (possibility of green jobs), creating attractive offers for community participation
- Partnerships between the private sector and PAs for a green and circular economy.

Health :

- Growing importance of health & recreational purposes of Protected Areas.
- Health and welfare of urban citizens increasingly relevant. Therefore protected natural spaces, especially peri-urban, should be adapted and prepared to face this situation.