

europa's

NATURE
REGIONAL
LANDSCAPE

PARKS

Declaration on Climate Change

If not now, then when?

If not us, then who?



WHAT

Climate change, biodiversity loss and habitat degradation are major threats to life on earth

These challenges must be addressed through international cooperation. Common problems require joint action and collective choices and decisions. Work to tackle these issues has been achieved with the [European Green Deal](#), the [Paris Agreement](#), the [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) and the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#). Additionally, the EU recognized this urgency in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#), the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the proposed Nature Restoration law.



New modes of thinking and delivering economic, environmental and social processes and the resources to make effective change are needed. Across Europe, a vibrant network of Nature Regional Landscape Parks (NRL) is available that is able to implement integrated, forward-looking approaches for a sustainable rural Europe, delivering for nature, for people and for the climate.

The NRL Parks of Europe declare:

“The resources locked into Europe’s NRL Parks are a crucial component to ensure viable climate adaptation and mitigation responses, at all governmental levels.”

NRL Parks across Europe unite with the common goal to conserve and restore nature and to protect our climate. To amplify that potential and impact, **we call upon policymakers and governing authorities at all levels to support, invest in and work with Europe’s Nature Regional Landscape Parks.**

WHO

The Nature Regional Landscape Parks; a natural resource

Europe's 900 Nature Regional (NRL) Parks are a **living resource able to deliver sustainable places**. They are close to people and close to nature, encompassing inhabited rural and periurban areas. Together, NRL Parks make up **almost 8% of the total surface area of the EU** (together with Switzerland, the UK and Norway), covering more than 370,000 km².


NRL Parks are essential for the conservation of biodiversity and landscapes, as well as for the success of climate change and mitigation strategies. They help **prevent rural abandonment, promote community involvement in nature protection, and support sustainable economic development** in their regions. They offer opportunities for education and learning in sustainable development, and are leaders in sustainable tourism. Furthermore, the NRL Parks are a convening platform, closely tied to local authorities and regional stakeholders.

HOW

NRL Parks address climate change and biodiversity loss

NRL Parks are not only adept at nature conservation and sustainable regional development, but are also **strongly anchored within the regional communities**. These qualities make the parks well-suited to lead the way in addressing climate change, by delivering nature-based solutions such as peatland restoration at a landscape-scale and also in promoting and adopting regenerative approaches to economic activity around their Protected Areas.

NRL Parks build on many strengths to implement these measures to address climate change: they have **structures of cooperation** at a federal and state level, are key players in local and regional networking with farmers, tourism associations, and they work closely with local communities. NRL Parks also have **expert knowledge and experience** in the fields of biodiversity, Education for Sustainable Development, sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture.





NRL Parks have the capacity to connect regional communities to European climate and biodiversity policies. It is through the work of NRL Parks that these plans are brought to life.

WHEN

Now is the time to invest and support in NRL Parks to deliver on climate change and biodiversity loss

To **accelerate the action for climate and biodiversity**, policymakers and governing authorities need to:

1 Develop and invest in NRL Parks to support measures on biodiversity and climate protection. This will deliver Nature-based Solutions at a landscape-scale and take a leading role in implementing the EU Nature Restoration Law and EU Habitats and Birds Directives, the Water Framework Directive, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Each NRL Park needs adequate resourcing to tackle these challenges, including specific personnel to amplify this work within existing competent teams.

2 Showcase NRL Parks as model regions for the innovative and sustainable development of rural areas and as partners for sustainable agriculture and tourism. They are ideal actors in Local Action Groups in future LEADER programs.

3 Support NRL Parks in their educational and communication programs and actions that can disseminate and inspire greater sustainable choices and actions in communities.

“The time is now for policymakers to support NRL Parks to reach their full potential in accelerating climate change actions and combat biodiversity loss.”

4 Support NRL Parks in promoting and adopting regenerative approaches to economic activities, like sustainable and inclusive tourism, regenerative agriculture within Protected Areas.

5 Support NRL Parks to involve young, committed, climate-aware people in landscape management and nature conservation in NRL Parks.

6 Involve NRL Parks at a European and regional level in climate action planning to improve climate change adaptation measures, to conduct climate sensitive spatial planning and to implement forward-looking management strategies.

7 Ensure Parks and Protected Areas are targeted and integrated into funding programmes.

The time is NOW to ensure NRL Parks play a crucial role in improving the health of our ecosystems and ensuring the provision of ecosystem services for society. Collectively, we can help address and reduce the impacts of climate change and halt biodiversity loss which threatens precious life on earth.

Answer the call to action for our climate and biodiversity: sign this Declaration to underline our united voice across Europe!

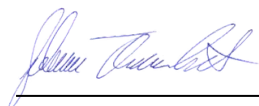
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