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## 40 years Working for Nature – European protected areas gather to plan a strategy for a sustainable future

**What:** EUROPARC Federation brings together the present and future leaders of protected areas at Europe's largest gathering of its kind under the theme '40 years Working for Nature', hosted by UNESCO World Natural Heritage site Hortobágy National Park, Hungary

**When:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Where:** Debrecen, Hungary

**Event host:** EUROPARC Federation together with Hortobágy National Park Directorate ([www.hnp.hu](http://www.hnp.hu))

**Languages:** English, German, French

*Managers and conservation experts from national parks, nature parks and other protected areas will meet in October in Hungary for the **EUROPARC 2013 conference**. This event will be the largest network meeting of its kind in Europe. In the light of EUROPARC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, participants from across the continent will join workshops, presentations and field trips, and mingle with international representatives, to discuss the future issues of integrated protected area management.*

Building on the 600 plus attendees in 2012 in Genk, Belgium, this year EUROPARC will present one of the largest conferences in the field of nature protection. Hosted by the UNESCO world natural heritage site Hortobágy National Park in Hungary's Pannonian region, the conference is dedicated to '40 years Working for Nature' and the achievement of Europe's protected areas to society over that time.

The focus of the four day conference is 'Integrated Protected Area Management' and the vast experience of EUROPARC experts will flow into this outstanding event. Appreciating the new generation of EUROPARC's young nature ambassadors, the **First EUROPARC Youth Conference** will be held in parallel to the main conference.

Presentations, excursions and workshops will cover the various aspects of protected areas management, green infrastructure, rehabilitation of natural habitats, species conservation, invasive species and the effects of climate change.

EUROPARC conferences are renowned for their multicultural diversity and international exchange providing the perfect setting for people of many different backgrounds who consider the future of European parks. The aim of the conference is to deliver innovative, forward looking approaches for the next decade that guarantee the effective sustainable management of protected areas in Europe.

EUROPARC is proud to confirm as key note speakers:

- Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) addressing **The Role of Protected Areas in Providing Nature Based Solutions to Global Challenges**
- Peter Ogden, Director of CPRW addressing **40 years later – are Europe’s most prized natural areas being managed successfully to meet tomorrow’s challenges**
- Dr. Lucka Kajfez Bogataj, climatologist from Slovenia, reflecting on **Past 40 years of change – The Planet's view**
- Professor Emeritus Dr. Varga Zoltán of Hungary’s Debrecen University looking at **Pannonian habitats: insights into conservation management for European protected areas.**

EUROPARC and the Hortobágy National Park Directorate are looking forward to this high profile event in Debrecen from the 9 - 13th of October, the time when the Pannonian cranes gather in Hungary’s first and largest National Park.

A detailed programme and more information are available at [www.euoparc2013.eu](http://www.euoparc2013.eu)---end ----



If you want to participate in this conference as a press representative, please contact:

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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 some 400 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.