

EUROPEAN DAY OF PARKS

**24** MAY  
2017

changing climate  
changing parks

# Guidelines for Parks



[WWW.EUROPARC.ORG](http://WWW.EUROPARC.ORG)

# Guidelines for Parks

European Day of Parks | 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017



The Climate is changing, bringing changes that affect the life of every being on earth. **Nature was never so threatened – nor so needed – as before.**

The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we crop, they all depend on the quality of our ecosystems. From the mountain tops to the deep seas, there is a huge variety of habitats protected by *National, Nature, Regional, N2000, Marine or Periurban Parks*.

In Europe, nature has a level of protection thanks to the work of our Parks: they preserve our natural resources and are authentic hubs of biodiversity. **They are our life support system.**

## changing climate, changing parks

On the European Day of Parks' 17, let us come together to show **how healthy parks are fundamental for the livelihoods of millions of European citizens...**

Let us show that **Parks are changing too**, finding ways to face the effects of climate change and to minimise its impacts.

Let us show **how we plant, care, restore and promote genetic diversity.**

And specially, let us **inspire with our example:** Parks also changing within, as organisations. Let us show **how we are finding new ways to reduce our footprint** and how **we are promoting sustainability** in our local communities.

Invite your neighbours to better understand the effects of climate change and how this also affects the Park. In the next pages you will find some ideas and resources to organise your activities! Then, you only need to register your activities on EUROPARC website.

[Register your activities here](#)

**Join the celebration:  
organise  
an activity  
in your Park!**

May  
the 24th May be a  
day to show the love  
for our Parks!

**Call your neighbours to your park, inspire them with your actions and promote the change for a better climate.**

# Proposed activities

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## Showcase

**Organise guided tours, seminars or workshops** to show the importance of healthy ecosystems. Highlight the conservation activities you are implementing.

- 1) Which **measures for biodiversity** are you implementing, to protect our natural resources? (e.g. seeds, forest ecosystems, wetlands and peatlands, restoration projects, etc)
- 2) How are you **combating invasive alien species**?
- 3) What is the importance of creating **green corridors**?
- 4) How you are **studying and monitoring** effects of climate change?
- 5) How you are preserving threatened species?



**Climate change mitigation and adaptation**

(see on the next page an explanation of these terms)

## Inspire

Show how you are promoting sustainability in and around your park. Call your partners and **organise a sustainable marketplace!** Show how you, as an organisation, are changing towards becoming more sustainable.

- 1) How you are **promoting sustainable farming?** (e.g. support of local farmers, creation of local markets, development of a Park brand for local products, etc)
- 2) How have you built your **green infrastructures** and which **sustainable energy sources** you are using for power and heating?
- 3) How you are **promoting less consumption of materials** (paper, energy, water) within your staff?
- 4) How you are **promoting the use public transports or smoother ways of travelling** among staff?
- 5) How are you engaging your **tourism partners** in the implementation of sustainable practices?



**Promoting Sustainability**

## Promote the change

Organise practical activities where you **explain what climate change is and what each individual can do to reduce its footprint** - be creative in the approaches! This activities can be organised for families/visitors but would have a higher impact if you could engage your local schools – ask for the teachers' support!

- 1) **What is climate change?** Share with teachers information and multimedia tools that can help them introducing the topic in their class.
- 2) **Which species/habitats are more vulnerable to climate change? How to protect it?** Give a presentation about a specific endangered species/habitats and end with a practical activity: show the love and teach how to take care.
- 3) **What is carbon footprint? Can we reduce it?** Explain, calculate the individual's footprint and give tips about what each one can do to reduce it.
- 4) **Why is it important to recycle?** Involve municipalities to show where their waste goes.
- 5) **Which species/habitats are more vulnerable to climate change? How to protect them?** Organise activities that directly involve them in protection of the habitat or the species endangered (e.g. collect seeds, make seed bombs, analyse water from a pound, etc)



**Changing mindset and attitude**

# Key messages

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In this page you will find key messages about Protected Areas and Climate Change that you can use in your communications materials and your press releases to the local and national media.

## Why do we need healthy parks?

- 1) Parks protect a wide variety of endangered species and habitats.** They ensure genetic diversity, providing species a safe place to breed and increasing their chances of survival when threatened by disease and natural changes.
- 2) Healthy Parks stock huge amounts of CO<sup>2</sup> and filter the air we breathe.** They are responsible for around **15% of the terrestrial carbon stock** (*Campbell et al., 2008, in UNEP-PA and Climate Change*).
- 3) Healthy Parks regulate our climate, prevent floods and natural disasters.**
- 4) Healthy Parks provide us with fresh drinking water,** vital for all species and absolutely essential for our farming and industry systems.
- 5) Healthy Parks avoid soil erosion,** by safeguarding seeds, promoting soil fertility and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices.
- 6) European Parks are unique places, where humanity has learnt to find mental tranquility and inspiration.**
- 7) European Parks are one of the most visited places for outdoor activities and have a fundamental role promoting sustainable tourism.**

## Useful resources

[UNEP and CGD - Protected Areas and Climate Change](#)

[VIDEO - Protected Areas are Natural Solutions to Climate Change](#)

[VIDEO - How does climate change affect animals?](#)

[VIDEO Ted-Ed - Can wildlife adapt to climate change?](#)

[VIDEO - Climate Change according to a kid](#)

[Climate change - information and interesting facts for kids](#)

[Show the Love campaign - Resources](#)

[VIDEO - What is Biodiversity](#)

[A Student's guide to Climate Change](#)

[NASA Activities for Kids about climate change](#)

[Footprint Calculator](#) for Italy, Switzerland and Luxembourg

[Footprint Calculator](#) for the United Kingdom

## About the European Day of Parks

Since 1999, the EUROPARC Federation has been celebrating Europe's protected areas on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, celebrating the creation of Europe's first national park (in Sweden).

The European day of Parks (EDoP) aims at bringing people closer to nature by offering a diversity of activities and events on protected areas across the EUROPARC Network.

The European Day of Parks 2016 is for people of all ages: children, youngsters, young adults, adults and seniors, can participate in local activities organised by Parks and regional authorities.

The main day is the 24<sup>th</sup>, nonetheless, activities can be organised in the week around this date.

[Register your activities here](#)

### Mitigation

- **Store:** Prevent the loss of carbon that is already present in vegetation and soils

- **Capture:** Sequester further carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in natural ecosystems

### Adaptation

- **Protect:** Maintain ecosystem integrity, buffer local climate, reduce risks and impacts from extreme events such as storms, droughts and sea-level rise

- **Provide:** Maintain essential ecosystem services that help people cope with changes in water supplies, fisheries, disease and agricultural productivity caused by climate change.

*Extracted from the manual  
"Protected Areas helping people cope  
with climate change"*

# Promotion tools

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EUROPARC has available for you communication tools in several European languages, to help you promoting your event! In each folder you will find:

1) EDoP Poster A3 for printing and for web promotion



[WWW.EUROPARC.ORG](http://WWW.EUROPARC.ORG)

2) EDoP Poster adaptable to include your activities



EUROPARC PHOTO GALLERY

your logos here:

your logos here:



## Download your tools here

If you are creating your own tools, you can also simply download the EDoP logo, here.

If there are no tools in your language, send us a quick email to [office@europarc.org](mailto:office@europarc.org) with the correct translation and we will be glad to make it in your language too!

## Register your activities here



The European Day of Parks is promoted by:

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

[www.europarc.org/nature/edop](http://www.europarc.org/nature/edop)

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