



# Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships 2019

## Application Guidelines

EUROPARC strongly believes that young people have a vital role to play in caring for Europe's natural heritage. Like everything else, the future of Protected Areas relies on the young generation taking an active and informed role.

Well aware of this challenge and in cooperation with the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S. (Hamburg), EUROPARC invests in the professional development of young professionals working for Protected Areas and related disciplines.

While there are many opportunities for students to get scholarships to improve their skills abroad, there are few for those who have already entered the working world.

However, the management of a protected areas is complex and constantly challenged by new issues, most of them of a global scale. EUROPARC believes that networking among professionals can greatly improve the management of protected areas.

Hence, the aim of this scholarship is to give the opportunity to those young professionals that have chosen to develop a career in protected areas management to improve their skills and learn from other professionals by carrying out study visits to protected areas across Europe.

### I. Objective

1. Each year the EUROPARC Federation in cooperation with the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S. (Hamburg) awards **three** Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships to young professionals working in the field of protected areas and nature conservation.
2. The programme offers the opportunity of financial support to individuals for a study visit to one or more protected areas in another European country and to gather experience which will be both of benefit for the future career of the scholars, and to the EUROPARC Federation and its members.
3. The programme intends to enhance cross-national co-operation to advance the quality, innovation and European dimension of protected area management.

**Please read these Guidelines for Applicants carefully and check the FAQs for more detailed information**

II. **Target Group**

Participation in the Alfred Toepfer Scholarship programme is open to persons who are **currently employed** by a European protected area or a nature conservation institution, administration, organisation or environmental NGO in a European country<sup>1</sup>

III. **Eligibility / Application Requirements:**

1. The age limit **at the time of application** is 35.
2. European Nationality<sup>2</sup> .
3. Presentation of the applicant's professional and personal reasons for the planned study visit. This will be elaborated in the online application form
4. Proof of relevant contacts with target protected areas that are intended to form part of the study tour need to be established at the time of application. Evidence of contacts will be required to the pre-selected candidates
5. Evidence of the current employment status
6. Study visits to prepare master or doctoral thesis, or form any part of field work or gathering of data or evidence for thesis, will not be considered.
7. The applicants should be available to receive their award at the EUROPARC conference in 2019. Please check the EUROPARC website for details.
8. The award of the scholarship more than one time is not possible.

IV. **Study Visit**

1. Study objectives and purpose must be described in the application. Applicants must demonstrate that their study visit will bring real benefit to his/her professional tasks.
2. The application must address **one** of the following selected themes faced by Protected Area Management:
  - **Biodiversity and Climate Change** – Importance of N2000 sites and protected areas in reducing impacts of climate change and implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy
  - **Sustainable Development in Protected Areas** – contribution to a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy

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<sup>1,2</sup> see current list of eligible European countries in <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/our-member-states>

- **Opportunities for Health and Well-being in Protected Areas** – Contribution of protected areas to safeguard the European citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being. Study tours contributing showing the integrated contribution of outdoor sports on protected area management are especially welcome
  - **Parks for People** – Approaches and strategies to address local communities and how to involve particular groups into activities or management of protected areas.
3. Any of the above themes can be undertaken in any or multiple types of protected areas, i.e. national park, nature and regional parks, nature reserves, biosphere reserves and N2000 sites. We especially welcome applications that address their studies in Periurban and Marine sites.
  4. The study visit has to be undertaken **in at least one European country, beyond the applicant's home country**. The choice (both in number and relevance) of the visited PAs and countries will be an important selection criterion.
  5. **The study visit should be undertaken in 2020**. An extension for up to 2 months can be granted if a well-founded request for exceptional circumstances, is made 3 months prior to end of the scholarship period.
  6. A report of the study visit is to be submitted to the EUROPARC Federation within 3 months after the end of the study visit<sup>3</sup>. The report structure should be based on the template provided by EUROPARC. This report is essential for final scholarship payment.
  7. No economic activity or money can be earned as a result of the study visits during the scholarship.
  8. For the three scholarship awardees, a **final travel plan including** contact addresses, journey and the length of the visit has to be submitted to the EUROPARC Federation before the end of December 2019. An unsatisfactory final study trip plan could lead to the offer of the scholarship being withdrawn.

## V. The Award

1. The award will be worth **EUR 3.000 to each of the 3 successful candidates** and are generously donated by the [Alfred Toepfer Stiftung](#) F.V.S. in Hamburg (Germany).
2. The scholarship is paid in two installments:
  - a. The first installment – of EUR 2.000 – prior to the start of the journey on presentation to the EUROPARC Federation of a **detailed travel plan** by the end of the submission year.
  - b. The remainder of EUR 1000 on presentation of a **study visit report** and the evaluation material. The report has to be presented within 3 months after the end of the study visit.

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<sup>3</sup> see the Alfred Toepfer Scholarship schedule in point no. VIII

3. The selection of the scholars is made by the EUROPARC Federation, which informs the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S of its decision.
4. The winning scholars must be present at the award of the scholarship and must give a short presentation at the awards ceremony. The Alfred Toepfer Stiftung covers the full travel costs and conference fee for the scholars to participate at the EUROPARC annual conference (or awards ceremony). This will be from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Latvia.
5. The scholars can apply for financial support to the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung for a project which is part of his/her studies or work, excluding printing subsidies for the publication of scientific papers. The scholars may be invited to lectures, conferences or other events which take place in Gut Siggeren, a seminar center propriety of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation. He or she can also propose lectures, conferences or events to be held in the seminar centre, initiate and organise them himself or herself and provide support on site.

#### VI. Responsibility

Applicants, if awarded a scholarship, are expected to do the following:

1. Make their own travel plans and arrangements to achieve their objectives.
2. Disseminate the results of their study visit amongst colleagues and in areas of work/influence to ensure that wider benefits are achieved.
3. Submit a report on their study visit within **3 months** of their return, which will be placed on the EUROPARC's website, as well as a **short film** (maximum 3 minutes) summarizing the topic of the study (see guidance document in the end).
4. Complete the evaluation material provided by EUROPARC. This will take the form of a structured interview with EUROPARC and a short questionnaire. This will form part of the required final submission for payment of the final grant.

#### VII. Applications

1. Applicants should filled in the online Application in English language. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
2. The deadline for applying for the Alfred Toepfer Scholarships is **4<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 3 pm CEET.**

#### VIII. Time Schedule 2019

When?	What?
February 4 <sup>th</sup> 2019	Call for applications open
May 3 <sup>th</sup> 2019	Deadline for applications
May 31 <sup>st</sup> 2019	Notification to pre-selected applicants

1 <sup>st</sup> June 2019	Requirement of proofs (current contract and proofs of PAs contacts)
24 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	EUROPARC Conference / awarding ceremony in Latvia
January – December <u>2020</u>	Study visits