

Welcome to the EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Partners' Award.

We believe that a Sustainable Destination depends on businesses, community and municipalities all working to that common purpose.

In these STAR Awards, EUROPARC seeks to celebrate, champion and acknowledge the effort and investments made by tourism businesses to be more sustainable and help care and protected their natural and cultural heritage.

To be less impactful on the environment in which the businesses reside, to work alongside the park, and to play a supporting role in the community are all the excellent actions of "Charter Partners".

Eligibility

If you are a business of any kind or tour operator, who has a current validated partnership with a park or protected area itself currently awarded by EUROPARC, then you are eligible to apply! If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact your Park for further information.

About you and your business

Please provide us your contact details and information about your business.

1. Please provide us the name of the contact person
2. What is the position of the contact person?
3. Please provide your email address
4. Please provide us your address (including country)
5. What is the name of your organisation?
6. Please provide the website of your organisation
7. Please select below the main activities of your business (select all that apply)
 - Accomodation
 - Restaurant
 - Nature/culture guide
 - Touristic Activities Provider
 - Incoming tourism agency
 - Environmental education center
 - Artisan / traditional handcrafted products
 - Farmer / traditional agricultural products producer
 - Other
8. What is the name of the Protected Area / Park you are working with?
9. Are you cooperating with the Protected Area under Charter Part II - Sustainable Business Partners, or Charter Part III - Sustainable Tour Operators?

Reducing Impacts on the Environment

Application in this category will help you reveal the actions you undertake, showing not only that you embrace sustainable practices but also that you are limiting the impact of your business on the environment.

This ensures you are using resources efficiently, balancing the impacts of your work against the benefits it brings and of course helping to reduce the emission energy use, emissions and so mitigate against climate change.

10. Please list any environmental certification you may have that indicates efficient use of resources such as energy, water etc.

IT may be that you already have some environmental certification relevant in your own country or region.

Energy

11. What energy saving activities do you have in your facilities?

Is your facilities energy efficient does it make use of insulation, ventilation, air conditioning)

12. What percentage of the energy supply you use comes from renewable sources

Use less contaminating energy sources -> more renewable sources like solar, wind, biomass etc.

13. Can you give us evidence of technology that you use to improve your energy efficiency?

Sensors, low energy/consumption bulbs

14. Can you say how much you energy bills have reduced as a result of these measures?

Water

15. How do you use water as efficiently as possible? Please describe the action you have taken and the effect this has had on your business /clients/visitors.

Have you considered technology available to make water use efficient (eg low flush toilets)? Do you make sure there is no wastage (no drips)? Do you collect and store rainwater? If you have spas and pools - do you use the least harsh treatments?

16. What are you doing to avoid contamination of water with toxic materials?

Do you use products that are safe for water wildlife?

Waste management

17. Do you separate your waste for recycling? Please describe what is available in your area.

The management of waste in rural areas can be challenging. We'd like to hear how you address this issue, since it can have a negative effect on the local environment and globally waste is a huge issue.

Plastic consumption - recyclable? Think about the use of plastic, water bottles/coffee cups especially, do you have alternatives?

18. What specifically do you do to reduce single-use plastic?

19. Do you have any equipment share or hire schemes locally. Would you consider one?

Instead of having more and more tools and equipment can these be shared across the community? Reduce material and encouraging reuse and sharing.

Pollution

20. Do you utilise motion-activated lights to reduce light pollution? Would you envisage doing so?

We all produce a certain amount of pollution light, noise, and material into air and water. What can be done to reduce the effects? Think about not having lights on constantly, noise in rural areas can be disturbing to wildlife and the connection of people to nature

21. What do you do to reduce the noise of your activities? (either in the facility or in nature)

22. Do you use electric cars?

- I am looking for that option
- The infrastructure where I live is still not ready for electric cars, otherwise I would consider it.

Promote the use of public transports

23. What public transport /non-car options do you offer guests/visitors that would remove the need for a car?

Having fewer vehicles on the road is good for the environment in every way. As well as being good for people's experience in nature. However, working in a rural area does present specific transport issues. But still, efforts can be made to minimise the use of vehicles

24. Do you offer bicycles or the opportunity to rent them?

If yes, how many?

25. How many clients, if you have the option, make use of public transport?

Business could offer bicycles. Have Special offers/promotion for people coming by public transports. Sharing cars for both guests /visitors and locals

Circular Economy

25. Please, describe in detail, which locally produced foods and services your businesses use?

Sustainability is not only about the physical landscape but the culture and people in it. We need to make efforts to retain our rural areas as living places. Endeavouring to keep the economy local and vibrant will contribute to that... It means using locally sourced products and services.

26. Please list any product you use that are fairtrade or organic.

27. How many of your employees are full time /part time or seasonal

28. Do you have any incentives to employ local young people?

Contribution to Conservation

A fundamental priority for the development and management of sustainable tourism is the need to protect the area's natural and cultural heritage and to enhance awareness, understanding, and appreciation of it. We are all more conscious of the need to care for and appreciate our natural environment.

We try to use fewer resources by recycling, we support the protection of plants, birds, and animals, we enjoy the peace, fresh air, and calmness that we get from being in nature. Here we give you the opportunity to share the actions and activities you may have support or undertaken that directly involve you in the care and protection of species and habitats.

1. Can you share with us when you have actively participated in practical conservation activities

Please detail the activity, what as involved, and the number of days you took part.

Here, for example, you may have been involved in monitoring species such as taking surveys of birds, butterflies, plants or even invasive species with or on behalf of the park. You may have taken part in some practical conservation work such as clean ups (river, beach, forests). Or it may be that you manage your office of facility garden in a wildlife-friendly way that is compatible with the park's landscape

- 2. Can you share with us if you have given any money or benefit in kind to the park, sponsored an event or given to an organisation working with the park locally that helps protect nature?**

You may have given a donation the park, sponsored an event, or given to an organisation working with the park locally that helps protect nature.

It may that you have not given money directly, but a benefit in kind, such as provided some support to help volunteer for conservation activities of the park. Such as providing food, given vehicles or driving

- 3. Can you say what conservation activities of the park you helped support? Can you estimate how many days/hours your business has given?**

It may that you have not given money directly, but a benefit in kind, such as provided some support to help volunteer for conservation activities of the park. Such as providing food, given vehicles or driving.

- 4. If relevant, what percent of the cost to the visitor or guest is part of the payback scheme, that contributes to the work of the park?**

If you instead have a visitor payback scheme, where a percentage of the money made in your business is donated back to the park or organisation working with them.

- 5. How much in total do you believe, you have raised for the work of the park?**

- 6. It may be that your business has created specific programmes/projects/activities that provide a direct contribution to the conservation of the park. Can you describe what these are and how they help protect the species and habitats of the park?**

Such activities may be *voluntourism* (definition of touristic projects made by communities for guests to actively participate in conservation during their holiday): could also be one-off activities during a holiday or a full volunteering programme, conservation holidays or tasks inside a holiday.

Other activities like providing special information about specific nature / agri-species and how your business is working to conserving/preserving that resource may also be included in this answer (example: include in restaurants' menu; events/talks to clients etc)

- 7. How many guests/staff have been involved a in these programme described in the previous question, and for how many days?**

- 8. You are a charter business partner and for sure will be aware of how your business operates sustainably. Can you let us know if any ways in which you have changed the nature of your business to be more sensitive to the needs of species and habitats of the park since you joined the Charter?**

This may involve, for example, avoiding nesting areas in guided walks, taking care in the storage of waste material as not to attract wildlife, etc.

Thank you for your application!

You are invited to apply to one of the other categories. Find all the information at www.europarc.org/star-awards-2019.

Winners will be contacted by the end of July.

The winner of each category will then be invited to attend the Charter Award Ceremony at the European Parliament in Brussels, in late November/early December 2019. (Date to be confirmed)

The winner in each category will go to a public vote, where the overall winner will receive along with a representative from the park or Protected Area with which they are a partner a free place at the EUROPARC Conference 2020.