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Subject: Resources to #StayHomeConnected and much more 📧 eNews April

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EUROPARC Federation eNews

April 2020

Dear Readers,

We are living through challenging times, yet even [hard moments like these can be turned into new opportunities](#). EUROPARC offers opportunities for you to use this time, to provide you with inspiration, new skills and the tools and to keep you connected with your parks community across Europe.

At a time when the word seems to be almost immobile, **our Parks are not standing still - and neither are we**. [#StayHomeConnected](#) seems to be the new motto this spring. Our webinar programme is as hot as ever, as we continue to give our members ample opportunity to grow and learn during this time. Below you will find upcoming webinars and other online events on a range of topics. If you've never yet joined a webinar..take this chance to do so!

[Protected Areas will still be there for people after this period of confinement](#). Moreover, our Parks continue to work FOR US, by providing fresh air, water, food, a solace for wildlife and are mitigating climate change. That is exactly what we will highlight in this year's [European Day of Parks](#). Parks are important for the health of our planet and its inhabitants. With this purpose, we launched the [#ParksForHealth campaign](#). Let's change mindsets and make clear that **healthy people need healthy parks**.

Talking about "change", in 2020, new [EUROPARC Council members & President will be elected](#), in **October 27-30 at EUROPARC Conference in Neusiedler See-Seewinkel National Park**. This might be your opportunity to join the strategic leadership of the EUROPARC Federation and contribute to the largest network of Protected Areas in Europe. [The call for candidates opened in March](#). Meanwhile, we will need the help of all our members to define the next **EUROPARC Strategy** and our priorities for the future. Early next month, **we will ask for your inputs** through an online survey and there will be a chance to join online meetings to get your ideas and thoughts. We are keen to make sure that every member has a say!

EUROPARC's President Ignace Schops reminds us of the essential **importance of protecting nature** in the face of these crises and, above all, of the opportunity to reinvent ourselves [in this article](#).

p.s. Please note that since early 2020 we have new email addresses! Please update your contact list if you haven't, [here you'll find the new email addresses](#) of the Federation and staff members.

We wish good readings,
EUROPARC Directorate

EUROPARC Updates

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The European Day of Parks goes ONLINE

With the creation of the social media campaign #ParksForHealth

EUROPARC Federation wants to bring attention to Parks and all the health benefits nature has to offer this year's European Day of Parks. To do so, we launched the hashtag **#ParksForHealth**. Join us! Raise awareness on how your park supports the health of European citizens and be sure to use the hashtag. [Click here for more info and guidelines.](#)

Additionally, EUROPARC wants to create a 'tour through Europe' video. For this, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Send us **footage, audio or pictures** of your Protected Area and we will compile this into a video **highlighting Europe's amazing natural heritage**. From birdcalls to landscape views, we want it all! Send the footage with the name of the park and credit info to communications@europarc.org.



LAST CALL

Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarship for young professionals

For all young professionals (up to 35 years), here is an excellent opportunity for you to learn and exchange experience with Protected Area professionals from across Europe! Thanks to the support of the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung, we will offer 3 scholarships worth of 3000€ each, to support travel costs to European Protected Areas. There are 5 categories to choose from and **the study trips will take place in 2021**. Hurry up, deadline is the 3rd of May! [See here all you need to know to apply.](#)

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Transboundary Parks
EUROPARCThe [TransParcNet meeting](#) was postponed to September 22-25.

This year we will have 5 verifications: **2 New candidates** (*Naturpark Bourtanger Moor-Bargerveen NL-D; HALTI Reisa National Park- Luontopalvelut-Käsivarsi FI-NO*) and **3 Renewals** (*Julian Alps IT-SI, Neusiedler See Seewinkel -FertőHanság AU-HU, Sumava-Bayern CZ-DE*). We hope to be able to make the visits in August -September. [Discover our network of Transboundary Parks here.](#)

In March, we held an [online training for new verifiers](#): we have now **5 new verifiers** that will complete their training joining the experienced verifiers during the evaluation visits this year.

News from Brussels



News from Brussels in exceptional times

Is the Green Deal a luxury or key solution for the current crisis? The vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, affirmed that the Green Deal won't be on the back burner: it remains the priority and has to be reflected in the COVID19 recovery plan.

The European Commission and Parliament are working, mainly remotely, while public meetings and events are cancelled or postponed. Find out what is currently happening in Brussels during the lockdown here. [Have a look to our article for further information.](#)

What about the current EU legislations? In the beginning of March, the European Commission proposed [a new Climate Law](#). Contribute to the EU 2030 Climate Target plan by [participating in the public consultation](#) on climate change. The Biodiversity Strategy and Farm to Fork Strategy, in which EUROPARC has contributed through a public consultation and a [policy paper](#), **are postponed**. EUROPARC Federation also shared with the European Parliament the views from Spain on the new [Forest Strategy](#), and we continue to keep a close eye on the process.



LIFE Red Bosques management recommendations for the new EU Forestry Strategy

From the perspective of Mediterranean forests

After centuries of very intense use followed by abrupt abandonment, European Forests - and in particular the Mediterranean ones - are at a crossroads. Most of the forest area is today formed by young or rejuvenated masses, with a very simplified biodiversity, which are particularly vulnerable to disturbances such as large fires and pests. Due to inaction and continuous policies

it is **necessary to take actions** so that our forests, essential for the **well-being of society**, are in a good state of conservation that **ensures their long-term survival**. The [LIFE RedBosques](#) project has formulated some challenges and management recommendation which should be considered within the new EU Forest Strategy from the **perspective of Mediterranean forests**. Read [the article here](#), or the [full paper here](#).

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The LIFE Programme is the European Commission's financial instrument for supporting projects in the fields of environment and climate. It is aimed at public and private project promoters and aims to promote and finance innovative projects. The call for 20202 is now open! You have until **mid-June 2020** to submit your concept note. **Use the EUROPARC network to find new partners to submit a proposal**, and do not hesitate to contact us if you need advice. [All information here.](#)

Online Training & Events

28 April - 10 am : EUROPARC WEBINAR on CLIMATE CHANGE in PROTECTED AREAS

The webinar is on **strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats**: understanding the situation of nature conservation and European protected areas in a changing climate. **28th of April, 10 AM CET.** [Register now for free.](#)

28 April 13 pm : The FIRST EUROPARC Webinar in SPANISH! 28 April

Creando alianzas en Territorios Natura 2000 con la Carta Europea de Turismo Sostenible

The webinar is organised in partnership with EUROPARC Spain and Fungobe. We will hear first-hand experience how our Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas supports mutual trust and community engagement in Natura 2000 sites. **28 April, 13:00 CET.** [Sign up here.](#)



Save the Date: CEETO Online Final Conference, 14th of May.

The CEETO Interreg CE project, which has been focused on developing and testing innovative Sustainable Tourism management models in Protected Areas of Europe, is about to conclude. For this reason, Sölktaier Nature Park (Austria) is organising the CEETO Final Conference, which will be hosted next May 14th online due to the current international health crisis we are going through. The programme includes the presentation of CEETO project results and a plenary session focused on Sustainable Tourism with invited experts in this area. [Further information and registrations at CEETO Final Conference webpage.](#)



Learn about Sustainable Tourism

EUROPARC is part of an online platform with **useful resources and many case studies**, designed for Protected Areas and businesses to improve their skills in **sustainable tourism management** and get new ideas. [Join the Sustainable Tourism: Training for Tomorrow here.](#)

RESOURCES & READINGS

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[ARTICLE] **Healthy nature for a healthy society** By Carles Castell Puig

In the midst of this global health crisis, Carles Castell Puig shares with us the important view of an ecologist on how this pandemic is closely related to the human destruction of natural habitats. [Read the article here.](#)

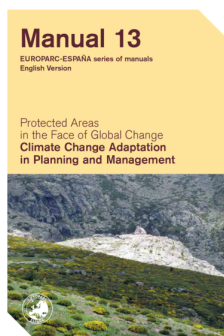
[ARTICLE] **It's the lack of nature, stupid!** By Ignace Schops

EUROPARC President reminds us of the essential importance of protecting nature in the face of these crises and, above all, of the opportunity to reinvent ourselves. [Read the article here.](#)

[ARTICLE] **Why do we need old-growth forests?**

Find out about the important role that old-growth forests in the Mediterranean play in boosting biodiversity and resilience to the effects of climate change. What are their unique features and how can they be protected and promoted? [Read the article here.](#)

Coming soon: An app to connect Natura2000 Professionals - Stay Tuned!



[MANUAL] **EUROPARC Spain's Manual now available in English!**

A manual for climate change adaptation in protected areas

We are proud to announce the release by EUROPARC-Spain of the English version of its leading-edge **Manual 13: Protected areas in the face of global change. Climate change adaptation in planning and management.** You can read the [article here](#), or find the [full manual here](#).



[REPORT] **Tracking large carnivores & tackling communication challenger**

The report of László Patkó, winner of the Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarship

László visited 4 countries and many protected areas to understand what are the keys of success to **improve coexistence between people, wolves and bears.** Read the [full article here](#), [download the report](#) or check the ["Notes from the Field"](#) YouTube channel that Laszlo created to share his experience.



Join the CEETO Network

The sustainable tourism experts

Built in the framework of the project CEETO Interreg CE, the CEETO Network is formed by practitioners in nature conservation and Sustainable Tourism in Europe and it is open to new members. The CEETO Network offers an online platform open to everybody where Sustainable Tourism experts to publicly and privately discuss ideas, share knowledge and get support from other members. [Join the CEETO Network!](#)



[JOURNAL] **Protected Areas In-Sight** "Nature on Your Mind"

Have you read our annual journal **Protected Areas In-Sight**? [Available in 3 languages \(EN, DE, FR\)](#), this edition is dedicated to the health benefits of nature, but covers also many other topics - from EU policy, to climate change, and sustainable tourism, and insightful cases studies on marine conservation, periurban parks, cultural heritage & transboundary cooperation. **All EUROPARC members should have received a printed copy, if you haven't received or you would like get a printed copy, please write to barbara.pais@europarc.org.**

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