



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

# EUROPARC Federation eNews

December 2020

**Dear Members,  
Dear Friends,**

As 2020 moves into 2021, we hope you all remain hopeful and look forward to meeting together next year **in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands on the 4th till 8th of October 2021** for the EUROPARC Conference. Currently, our planning goes into TOP GEAR. Through input from our members we want to ensure that we provide a programme that accurately represents the most important topics for Protected Areas and National Parks in Europe today. Have a look at the "**Call to Action**" below and see how you can contribute!

Additionally, we want to take this opportunity to share with you the **topic for next year's European Day of Parks**, which will be "**Parks - The Next Generation**". We welcome parks to look at what lessons they have learned from COVID-19 and how we can apply them. It is time to refresh and rethink what parks offer, to adapt to new methods of communication, new infrastructures and new visitors. Of course, when thinking about a next generation of parks, **youth involvement is absolutely essential** - on all levels of parks management. After all, they are the next generation of nature professionals! To further push this, EUROPARC will also undertake a "[Youth Manifesto](#)" campaign in 2021. More information and materials for the European Day of Parks will come in the new year, so stay tuned.

**For now, the whole directorate team and the EUROPARC council wishes all our members happy holidays.** We are taking a small extended break from the 21st of December until the 4th of January and look forward to seeing you again healthy and well in 2021.

*Your Directorate Team & EUROPARC Council*



*The EUROPARC Directorate during our annual team time, which of course was online this year.*

## CALL TO ACTION



### **EUROPARC Conference 2021- We need your input!**

Time to share **YOUR** ideas and experience!

The next EUROPARC conference will take place **from the 4th till the 8th of October**, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The theme is **“Tribute to our Landscape: Where Nature and People Meet in Harmony”**. With the theme we are responding to major current developments regarding health, climate, sustainable economy and the major transitions that await us. What does this mean for us? Finding harmony in the long run is the challenge. How can we act to meet this challenge, related to nature, human development, and sustainable economy?

### **This is why we want to hear from you!**

**We are looking for practical examples and good ideas to share in our "Inspiration Sessions". In particular, we are looking for case studies in the following areas:**

- **Restoration and protection:** How do you decide what the restoration priorities are? What are the criteria to decide resource allocations? What tools and technological approaches can be used to restore nature? **If you are doing some work in these topics. Give us a Call!**
- **Biodiversity** (directly linked to the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy): Can new technologies be the key to more integrated nature management? **We would love to include some new ideas. Get in touch!**
- **Species Re-introduction animals or plants:** In a rapidly changing world, creating space for nature is a pressing challenge: as a species, are humans nature's ally or foe? What is the purpose of species re-introductions? How can we create the necessary conditions to facilitate international migrations and what is its importance? **Let us know what you are up to in this field!**
- **Landscape storytelling:** It is more important than ever that we connect people and nature and to mobilise Protected Areas as the collective voice for all nature and landscape areas. How do we learn from the past to create a sustainable future for nature, valued by people? **Tell us your Stories on innovative communications!**
- **Capacity building / knowledge building:** We all need new ways of working, but what skills and competencies do we need to do our work more effectively? Do you **have you a new training tool you can show us?**
- **Technology & nature:** Which new technology in monitoring, GEO information, management planning, supporting sustainable tourism, digital nature experience, ticketing, counting visitors and spread of visitors do you use? **Come on techno geeks ...show us your park "toys" so we can play together 🤖**
- **Landscape assessment / Integrated spatial planning:** how to apply this in watershed areas (nature estuaries) and Protected Areas? How can landscape biography help with landscape assessment and planning? **Is this something you are doing? Can you show others how?**
- **Youth:** How is your Protected Area/National Parc involving youth? What challenges did you overcome? How did youth involvement improve your work? **Can you share the stage with a young person to inspire us all?**

Overall, we will focus on the vital and dynamic relationships between nature and people. Our aim is to search for ways to enable societies to live in better harmony with nature - crucial for present and future generations.

Your case studies will be part of new inspiration sessions, that will enable us to elaborate the conference theme: "Tribute to our landscape, where nature and people meet in harmony". These case studies need to be presented in English.

So please get in touch with ideas from your park or project, we look forward to hearing from you!

**Please drop an email with information about your case study to the EUROPARC Conference 2021 team [info@europarc2021.nl](mailto:info@europarc2021.nl) until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.**

We'll be in touch.

Many thanks,

The EUROPARC Federation & the EUROPARC Conference 2021 team.

