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europarc.org/sustainable-tourism

Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

ESPAÑOL (Traducción automática)

FRANÇAIS (Traducteur automatique)

Italiano (traduzione automatica)

Dear readers,

We hope you are all healthy and safe. With this newsletter we want to bring you the latest updates from the network of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. Even though 2020 was a complicated year for all of us, many things have happened!

Last year, we welcomed **7 new Sustainable Destinations** to our network and proudly awarded **9 Sustainable Destinations** that **renewed their commitment**. Despite the pandemic, verifiers were able to do their verifications *in situ*! The Charter Award Ceremony has not taken place yet. It is now scheduled for the **1st July 2021 in Sabugal** (Terra do Lince, Portugal), in the framework of the **12th edition of the ECST Network Meeting**.

Please, save these dates: **29 June – 2 July 2021!** If allowed, we will host next ECST Network Meeting in presence in Sabugal. We are already working on the program.

More news! The EUROPARC council has recently approved the **new methodologies** that will boost Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas in **Italy (Tour Operators)**, the **Nordic-Baltic countries (Tourism Business)** and **Portugal (Tourism Business)**.

Moreover, Italy has approved a new [law](#) on financial support for environmental companies, and Sustainable Businesses (like Businesses awarded with ECST part II) have officially been recognized as deserving economic support (Art.4 g).

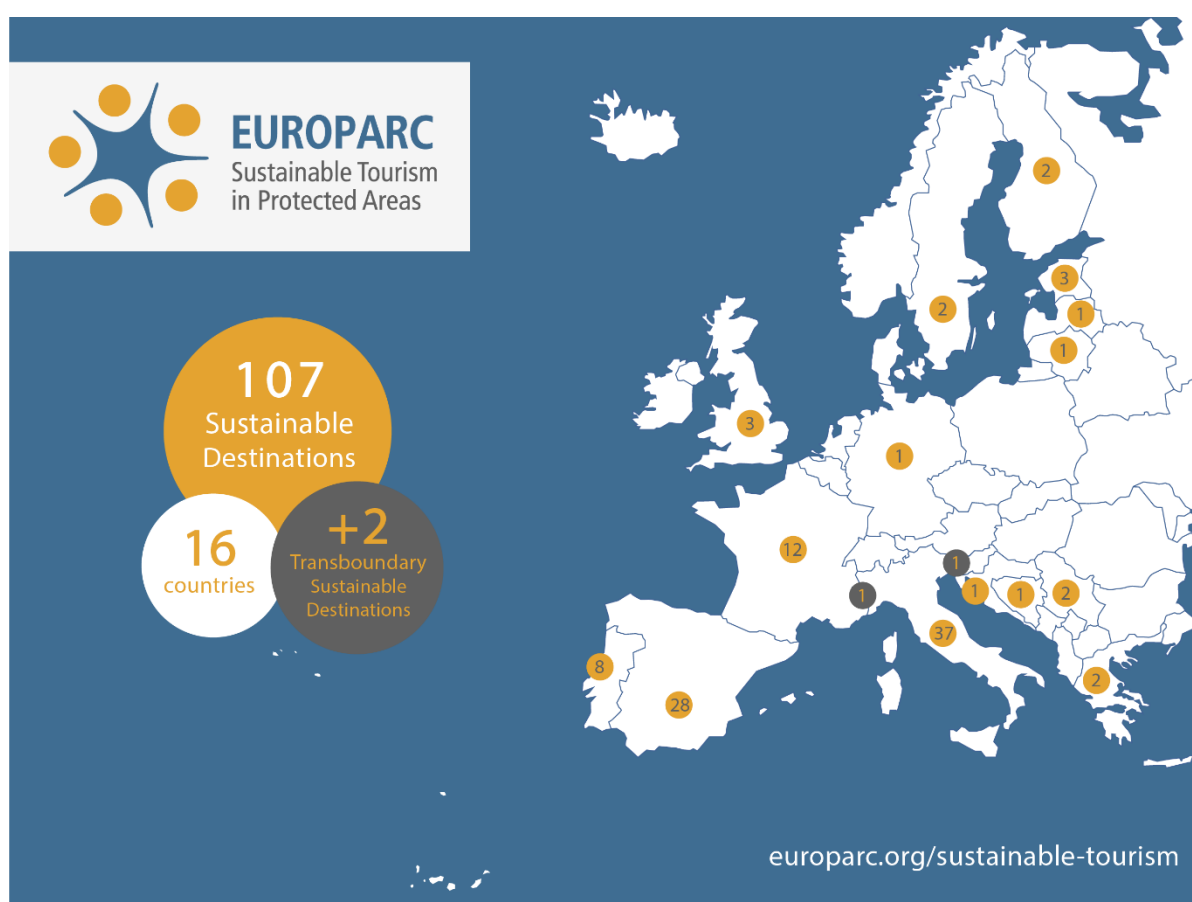
Besides, we are updating our website! We ask Sustainable Destinations, Business and Tour Operators, to please check in this [map](#) if you are represented accurately and according to your wish.

In April we will launch the second call of our [Star Awards](#) for Sustainable Business and Tour Operators, so stay tuned!

We wish you cheerful reading,

Sustainable Tourism Team

16 new Sustainable Destinations!



16 Sustainable Destinations awarded in 2021

Protected Areas as drivers for Sustainable Tourism

We are happy to announce that the network is growing every year. In 2020 we welcomed 7 new Parks and 9 Sustainable destinations renewed their commitment.

The 7 New Sustainable Destinations:

Estonia

[Soomaa National Park](#)

Italy

[Asinara National Park](#)

[Centrale Emilia Parks](#)

[Delta Po Biosphere Reserve](#)

Spain

[Cap de Creus Nature Park](#)

[Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve](#)

Sweden

[Söderasen National Park](#)

The 9 Sustainable Destinations that renewed their commitment are:

Croatia

[Medvednica Nature Park](#)

Estonia

[Matsalu National Park](#)

Italy

[Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park](#)

Slovenia/Italy

[Julian Alps Transboundary Ecoregion](#)

Spain

[Cabañeros National Park](#)

[Hoces del Río Riaza Nature Park](#)

[Las Batuecas – Sierra de Francia Nature Park](#)

[Sierras de Cazorla; Segura y Las Villas Nature Park](#)

[Sierras Subbéticas Nature Park](#)

Creating positive outcomes for local communities, increasing economic opportunities, whilst reducing environmental impacts of tourism, are the aims of the methodology managed by the EUROPARC Federation. It is now implemented by **107 destinations in 16 countries**. The biggest of it's kind in the world!

Updates on the EUROPARC website

We are hard at work to update all the ECST information on the [EUROPARC website](#). Part of this, is creating a new map with all **ECST Parks, Businesses and Tour operators**. Have a look at the map on our website and if you are missing, provide us with your information by filling out the correct form:

[Sustainable Business](#)

[Sustainable Tour Operators](#)



Tools and resources



Sustainable Tourism Training for Tomorrow

Free online training tool

EUROPARC is a partner in the ERASMUS + project '[Sustainable Tourism Training for Tomorrow](#)'. Within this project a FREE online tool was created to help learning about Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. At the start of the project, the main skills and knowledge gaps for sustainable tourism professionals were identified, this resulted in the creation of the online learning platform. It consists of 9 different modules, each of which has a short video introducing the topic, key info, inspiring cases and a quiz to assess your knowledge (if successful, resulting in a certificate). The modules discuss themes like '**reducing impacts**', '**conservation through tourism**', '**effective visitor communication**' and '**social cohesion**'.

It is available in **English, French, Spanish and Italian**

Discover the training platform

A webinar introducing the platform was held by EUROPARC at the end of 2020, you can watch a recording of it [here](#).



The impact of Covid-19 on the Management of European Protected Areas and Policy Implications

New pressures for Protected Areas

As many countries imposed lockdowns during the spring and autumn COVID waves, Parks management authorities also had to come up with **new safety measures**. Analysing the **experiences of 14 European Protected Areas** during the coronavirus pandemic, the study '[The Impact of COVID-19 on the Management of European Protected Areas and Policy Implications](#)', which was recently published in the **Forests journal**, identifies the biggest challenges for Europe's parks. EUROPARC was happy to contribute to the study done by the [FIDELIO](#) research project.

The eNatura2000 App Connect, learn and discover

Are you on the Natura 2000 app yet? This digital tool is developed to help Natura 2000 managers identify issues, solve common problems that they face, communicate with each other directly, as well as learn about their professional development needs. The app allows you to **network**, **provides regular updates** and gives you access to a **range of resources!** Download it here in the [Google Play](#) and [App Store!](#)



Partake in a survey on tourism activities Regarding permits for tourism activities in Protected Areas

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is considering implementing a new model of visitation management. For that purpose they are conducting an international survey regarding **permits for tourism activities in Protected Areas**. Learning from the experience of others in the EUROPARC network will be extremely helpful. Please fill out the survey in the attachment and email it to Dr. Lior Chen, liorch@npa.org.il.

Become a Sustainable Destination Technical guidelines of EUROPARC

The [European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas](#) is awarded by the EUROPARC Federation through an **independent verification process**. The award recognises not just a **commitment to sustainable tourism** but also the **implementation of practical sustainable actions by public and private partners**.

How to [become a Sustainable Destination](#)? Download the technical guidelines, they are available in 5 languages: [English](#), [Italian](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Catalan](#)!

Events

ECST Network meeting 2021 Save the date: 29 June - 2nd of July

Every two years, the EUROPARC **network of Sustainable Destinations** applying the **European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas** methodology comes together to exchange experience and best practice.

The 12th edition of the [ECST Network Meeting](#) will take place in Sabugal (Terra do Lince, Portugal) from **29 June – 2 July 2021**, **so save the date. More information will soon follow**



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