



# EUROPARC

Sustainable Tourism  
in Protected Areas

## HOW TO BECOME A EUROPARC SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION



Sustainable  
Tourism Forum



Strategy and  
Action Plan



Partnership &  
Communication



Evaluation



Monitoring  
& Review

### Technical Guidelines & Terms of Reference



# 1. THE VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

The EUROPARC Federation is the network of European Protected Areas, dedicated to practical nature conservation and sustainable development. People love parks and tourism is a major economic driver. **EUROPARC created the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas** as a management tool, to ensure a viable and healthy future for people and for nature in our living, working and visited landscapes. These guidelines will explain this European recognized process to enable your area to **become a Sustainable Destination**.

Please note that in this document we use the designation “Park” as a synonym for Protected and Classified Areas.

## VISION

Sustainable Tourism in European Protected Areas provides a meaningful quality experience, safeguards natural and cultural values, supports local livelihoods and quality of life and is economically viable.

## MISSION

Through awarding the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, EUROPARC seeks to **safeguard cultural and natural values** by stimulating sustainable tourism, engendering Partnerships to support local livelihoods, increase awareness of the need for sustainability, and promote international cooperation.







# PRINCIPLES

The following principles should govern how tourism is developed and managed in Protected Areas:

## 1. Giving priority to protection

A fundamental priority for the development and management of sustainable tourism should be to protect the area's natural and cultural heritage and to enhance awareness, understanding, and appreciation of it.

## 2. Contributing to sustainable development

Sustainable Tourism should follow the principles of sustainable development which means addressing all aspects of its environmental, social and economic impact in the short and long term.

## 3. Engaging all stakeholders

All those affected by sustainable tourism should be able to participate in decisions about its development and management, and Partnership working should be encouraged.

## 4. Planning sustainable tourism effectively

Sustainable Tourism development and management should be guided by a well-researched plan that sets out agreed objectives and actions.

## 5. Pursuing continuous improvement

Tourism should be managed in such a way as to continuously reduce the negative impacts while improving visitors' satisfaction, economic performance, local prosperity, and quality of life. Regular monitoring and reporting of progress and results should be part of the process.

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM WILL BE  
GOOD FOR PARKS  
AND GOOD FOR PEOPLE.**

# 2.COMPONENTS

of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas



Sustainable  
Tourism Forum



Strategy and  
Action Plan



Partnership &  
Communication



Evaluation



Monitoring  
& Review

The Charter requires that all Protected Areas have all the components in place.

The components of the Charter involve:

- working in Partnership;
- preparing and implementing a strategy;
- addressing the key topics;
- evaluating the application dossier;
- reviewing work achieved;
- establishing partnerships;
- and celebrating success!



Permanent  
Sustainable  
Tourism Forum

A **Permanent Sustainable Tourism Forum**, or equivalent arrangement, should be established between the Protected Area authority, local municipalities, conservation and community organisations and representatives of the tourism businesses.

The Permanent Forum is the most important component of the Charter ensuring a participative and inclusive approach and a direct engagement of stakeholders to **enable effective discourse and decision making**.

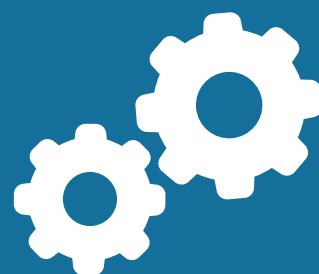
Links with regional and national bodies should be developed and maintained. The Forum should also engage with other Forums in the Charter Network to learn from others and develop new ideas and models of working.

A **Strategy and Action Plan** for Sustainable Tourism should be prepared, including three main elements:

- an assessment of the current situation;
- a strategic direction;
- a practical action plan.

**The strategy and action plan are based on:**

- **inclusive and effective consultation** and **approved by local stakeholders**;
- a **five-year period** (with some flexibility to allow for different planning cycles).



Strategy and  
Action Plan



## The Strategy and Action Plan should contain:

A **definition of the area** to be influenced by the strategy, which may extend outside the Protected Area.

- 1** An **assessment** of:
  - the area's natural, historic and cultural heritage;
  - the area's tourism and recreation infrastructure;
  - current visitors and potential future markets;
  - impacts of tourism on the environment, economy and local communities;
  - issues of capacity, need and opportunity associated with the above;
  - a SWOT analysis.
- 2** A set of **strategic objectives** for the development and management of tourism, covering:
  - conservation and enhancement of the environment and heritage;
  - economic and social development;
  - preservation and improvement of the quality of life of local residents;
  - visitor management and enhancement of the quality of tourism offered.
- 3** An **action plan** to meet these objectives, which must address the key topics and actions set out later in Section 3. The action plan must contain:
  - a description of each action and an identification of those responsible for it;
  - an estimation of resources and indication of Partners to implement the action plan;
  - proposals for monitoring results.



Protected Areas that have been awarded the Charter  
**join the network of Sustainable Destinations,**  
the largest, and oldest European Network of its kind!

Protected Areas are required to communicate and make visible their award. **They have the right to use ECST logotype, which is available in several languages, during the valid period of their award.** To ensure communications are effective awardees need to comply with the Graphic Guidelines.

At a local level, Protected Areas are encouraged to follow a Partnership approach in developing and managing sustainable tourism. Local stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate from the beginning in the charter process and keep it alive particularly within the Forum activities.

At international level, Destinations are also encouraged to engage in the networking and communication events and processes. **Active engagement and networking will provide the best opportunity to get new ideas, learn from others, and save time and money in developing sustainable tourism in your area.**



The logos and Graphic Guidelines are available for download at:  
[www.europarc.org/logo-and-graphic-guidelines](http://www.europarc.org/logo-and-graphic-guidelines)

The Charter process itself makes provision for the development and recognition of Partnerships between Protected Area authorities and tourism businesses through the award of the **Charter Partner status** to tourism businesses that meet agreed criteria under:

## Part II - Business Partners

for local tourism businesses and

## Part III - Sustainable Tour Operators

for tourism agencies and tour operators.

Engagement of Protected Areas with **Part II or Part III** of the Charter is optional, but highly recommended.



The evaluation process, including engagement with an expert verifier and a sound report, provides the Protected Area with valuable feedback and views on their sustainable tourism activity.



## Evaluation

All Protected Areas seeking the award of the Charter must engage in and facilitate the **evaluation process**.

This involves:

- **Submission of a completed application/re-evaluation report**, the **Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan**, and any other supporting material, which will be checked by an appointed **external verifier** who is an expert in sustainable tourism and Protected Areas.
- **A visit to the area by the verifier**, which will include a programme of meetings and discussion with relevant stakeholders.
- **Preparation of a report by the verifier**. A version of this is subsequently made available to the Protected Area.
- **Assessment of the application and the verifier's report by the Charter Evaluation Committee**, which makes a recommendation to the EUROPARC Council on whether to award the Protected Area, including any conditions or comments to pass.
- Subsequent attention to any matters raised by the verifier, evaluation committee and Council.

**Monitoring actions and impacts of sustainable tourism** should be built into the process from the beginning, leading to review and adaptation. This helps keep track of progress and celebrate success!

The Action Plan should contain indicators and monitoring actions which cover:  
**Progress with the implementation of actions; Results and changes in tourism performance and impacts.**

Key data from the monitoring should be submitted to EUROPARC as part of an overall benchmarking and assessment of the Charter process as a whole.

The Charter is awarded for a period of five years.

Local exceptions can apply if requested and agreed.



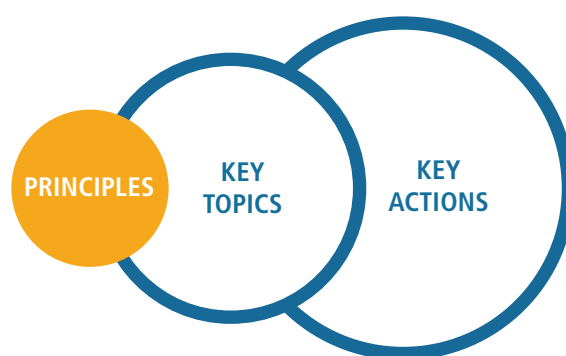
## Monitoring and review

# 3. KEY TOPICS & ACTIONS

of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

The Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan should be based on the local context and priorities as assessed and agreed through the consultation process.

However, to comply with the requirements of the Charter, it must demonstrate coverage of the following key topics and associated actions in the Action Plan.





## KEY TOPICS      KEY ACTIONS

**1)** Protecting valuable landscapes, biodiversity, and cultural heritage

- 1)** Influencing land use planning and the control of potentially damaging developments;
- 2)** Influencing the location, type and design of tourism developments;
- 3)** Managing visitor flows, activities and behavior in sensitive areas and sites.

**2)** Supporting conservation through tourism

- 1)** Encouraging visitors and tourism businesses to support conservation through donations, volunteering, and other activity;
- 2)** Using revenues obtained from tourism-related activity to support conservation;
- 3)** Establishing, supporting and promoting tourism-related investments, projects and activities that help to conserve the natural and cultural heritage.

**3)** Reducing carbon footprint, pollution, and wasteful resource use

- 1)** Working with tourism businesses to improve environmental management, including the use of energy and water, waste management, and noise and light pollution;
- 2)** Promoting the use of public transport and other alternatives to cars.

**4)** Providing safe access, quality facilities and special experiences of the Protected Area, available to all visitors

- 1)** Providing a wide range of access opportunities, with attention to safety and risk management;
- 2)** Improving the quality of visitor facilities and services;
- 3)** Providing visitors with specific tourism offers which involve discovery, interpretation and appreciation of the area's special natural and cultural heritage;
- 4)** Providing facilities and information for visitors with special needs.

**5)** Effectively communicating the area to visitors

- 1)** Ensuring that marketing materials and activities promote the area effectively and responsibly;
- 2)** Providing good quality and effective visitor information and interpretation;
- 3)** Ensuring that tourism businesses and other local stakeholders are well informed about the area and provide relevant and accurate information to visitors;
- 4)** Providing specific information and interpretation for young people, schools and student groups.

**6)** Ensuring social cohesion

- 1)** Anticipating, monitoring and minimising any existing and potential conflicts with local residents;
- 2)** Maintaining good communication and engagement between local residents, businesses, visitors and the Protected Area authority;
- 3)** Encouraging and developing appropriate Partnership activity with and between stakeholders.

**7)** Strengthening prosperity in the local community

- 1)** Promoting the provision and identity of local produce and services and their purchase and use by visitors and tourism businesses;
- 2)** Supporting the economic viability and performance of local tourism businesses and the provision of local employment in tourism.

**8)** Providing training and capacity building

- 1)** Providing relevant training for staff of the Protected Area authority in sustainable tourism development and management;
- 2)** Providing and encouraging relevant training and capacity building for tourism businesses and other stakeholders in sustainable tourism.

**9)** Monitoring tourism performance and impacts

- 1)** Monitoring of visitors – volumes, patterns, spending and satisfaction;
- 2)** Monitoring of tourism businesses – performance and needs;
- 3)** Monitoring of tourism impacts – on the environment, economy and community;
- 4)** Monitoring progress in implementing the action plan.

**10)** Communicating actions and engaging with the Charter

- 1)** Communicating sustainable tourism actions and results to local stakeholders and more widely at a local, regional and national level;
- 2)** Promoting and making visible the award of the Charter;
- 3)** Engaging with EUROPARC and the Charter Network, including participating in related events and activities;
- 4)** Taking steps for re-application and renewal of the Charter.

# 4. SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PARTNERS

Charter Part II

The engagement of local businesses is vital to the effective development and management of sustainable tourism.



Local businesses must be represented on the **Permanent Sustainable Tourism Forum** and be involved in the preparation and implementation of the sustainable tourism strategy and action plan.

A recommended development of the Charter is to enable certain tourism businesses working in Partnership with the Protected Area authority to receive individual recognition under Part II of the Charter.

Eligible businesses can apply for the **EUROPARC STAR Awards** to recognise their contribution to sustainable tourism in their area.







Part II is only available to businesses in Sustainable Destinations that have been awarded the Charter under Part I and are within the five-year period of the certificate.

**The Charter Part II is a process led directly by the Protected Area authority**, through a methodology approved by the EUROPARC Federation. They are therefore responsible for inviting Partners, review applications, evaluate the Partners' performance and award the Business Partners Certificate.

It is up to the Protected Area authority to decide whether to implement Part II and offer it as an option to its businesses.

The certificate for Business Partners is valid for a period of three years, which can be renewed for equal periods.

Charter Part II is valid in the countries that have an approved methodology previously submitted to EUROPARC. Information about the current countries implementing Charter Part II is available at [europarc.org/sustainable-business-Partners](https://europarc.org/sustainable-business-Partners).

Protected Area authorities that wish to pursue Part II of the Charter should contact EUROPARC to clarify the situation in their country and what may be required.

In countries where the methodology is not implemented, EUROPARC highly encourages Protected Areas to submit their own methodology, inspired by the existing ones. Technical support and guidance is available.

## REQUIREMENTS

The overall requirements of Charter Partners are the following:

- Commit to the vision, mission and principles of the Charter;
- Relate to the local sustainable tourism Forum;
- Support the implementation of the sustainable tourism strategy and action plan of the Protected Area;
- Demonstrate compliance with relevant quality and sustainability criteria or certifications;
- Have their own sustainability action plan for their business that is agreed with the Protected Area authority;
- Maintain close relationships with the Protected Area authority and other businesses and stakeholders engaged with the Charter.

These requirements are further interpreted and developed by different countries to suit their local circumstances.

Individual businesses with an interest in Sustainable Tourism should contact their Protected Area authority.

# 5. SUSTAINABLE TOUR OPERATORS AND TRAVEL AGENCIES

Charter Part III

Having created Sustainable Destinations with public, businesses and communities working together, agreeing sustainable practices with Tour Operators who bring visitors to the Protected Areas, completes the Sustainable Tourism Charter cycle.



Charter Part III provides an opportunity for operators and agencies that organise tours to and within Protected Areas to be recognised under the Charter.

This requires Tour Operators and Travel Agencies to commit to the Charter vision, mission and principles, and to **develop packages in awarded Sustainable Destinations** that demonstrate significant adherence to sustainability criteria in their own operations and management.





Part III is only available to Travel Agencies and Tour Operators in Sustainable Destinations that have been awarded the Charter under Part I, are within the five-year period of the award and have already tourism businesses awarded under Part II as Charter Partners.

Tour Operators and Travel Agencies should also be engaged in Partnership working with Protected Area authorities, communities and local businesses.

Tour Operators and Travel Agencies working under this framework will agree to work in Partnership with the authority responsible for the strategy in the Protected Area and the local tourist service providers. This will involve **analysing the compatibility of its products** with the objectives of the area.

The visitor flow they attract to an area must respect and not damage the heritage resources that the tourists come to see.

The **French, Spanish and Italian EUROPARC sections** have led the way in promoting and implementing the methodology to award sustainable practices of Tour Operators working in Protected Areas.

Other countries and EUROPARC sections can propose their own methodology, based on the examples from France or Spain.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Incoming agencies and operators working in the area of the Sustainable Destination;
- International and national agencies and Tour Operators working with sustainable and ecotourism programmes, willing to prepare special packages in EUROPARC Sustainable Destinations.

Agencies and Tour Operators with an interest in developing sustainable tourism packages should contact their Protected Area authority directly.

For international agencies, please contact the EUROPARC Federation at [sustainable.tourism@europarc.org](mailto:sustainable.tourism@europarc.org)



# 6. TERMS & CONDITIONS

How to become a Sustainable Destination step-by-step:  
technical guidelines, timings and submission guidance for Part I

## 1. ENSURE YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE EUROPARC FEDERATION



The EUROPARC Federation, who owns and manages the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, is a member association and as such all Charter areas are required to be **members of the EUROPARC Federation**, in good standing with membership fee payments.

Protected Areas which are not already EUROPARC members will be requested to join the Federation upon registering as candidate Protected Areas.

Current members of the Federation: [europarc.org/members](http://europarc.org/members).

To become EUROPARC member submit your application form at [europarc.org/become-a-member](http://europarc.org/become-a-member). For more information please write to [members.europarc@europarc.org](mailto:members.europarc@europarc.org)

A Protected Area (PA) candidate to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (ECSTPA) has to:

- 1) have a status recognized officially by law or another type of legal designation;
- 2) be recognized at one of the following levels: international, national, regional, provincial, municipal or private owned areas;
- 3) have a management/governance body (public or private);
- 4) have a physical boundary that identifies the territory of the PA;
- 5) seek the protection of the natural/rural landscape, valuing its natural and cultural heritage.

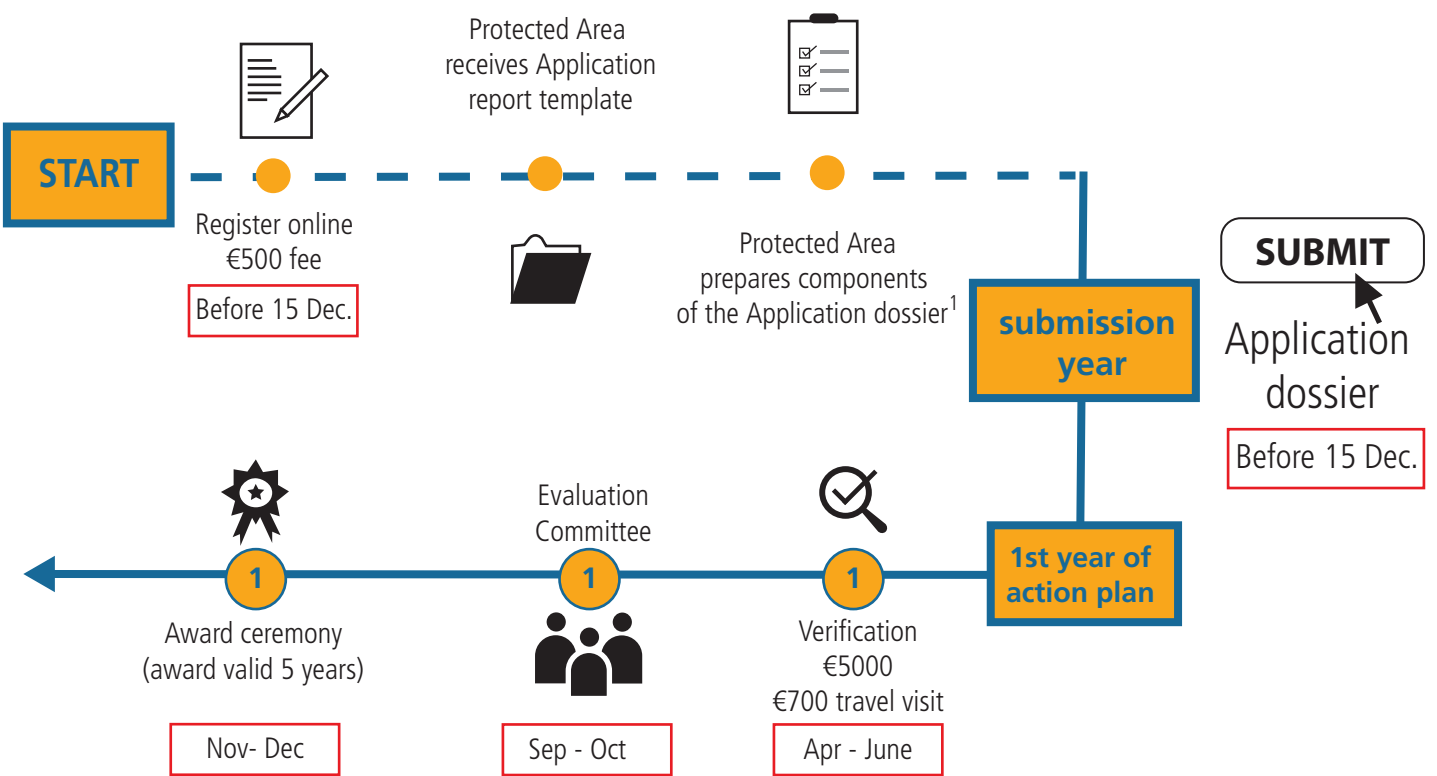
Examples of Protected Areas:

- International level: by UNESCO - Man and Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Landscape, Geoparks. Others: Ramsar sites, Important Bird Area sites;
- European level: N2000 sites
- National level and other: National Parks, Nature and Regional Parks, Protected Landscapes, AONB, Protected Areas declared at municipal level, Marine Reserves and Private Owned PA.

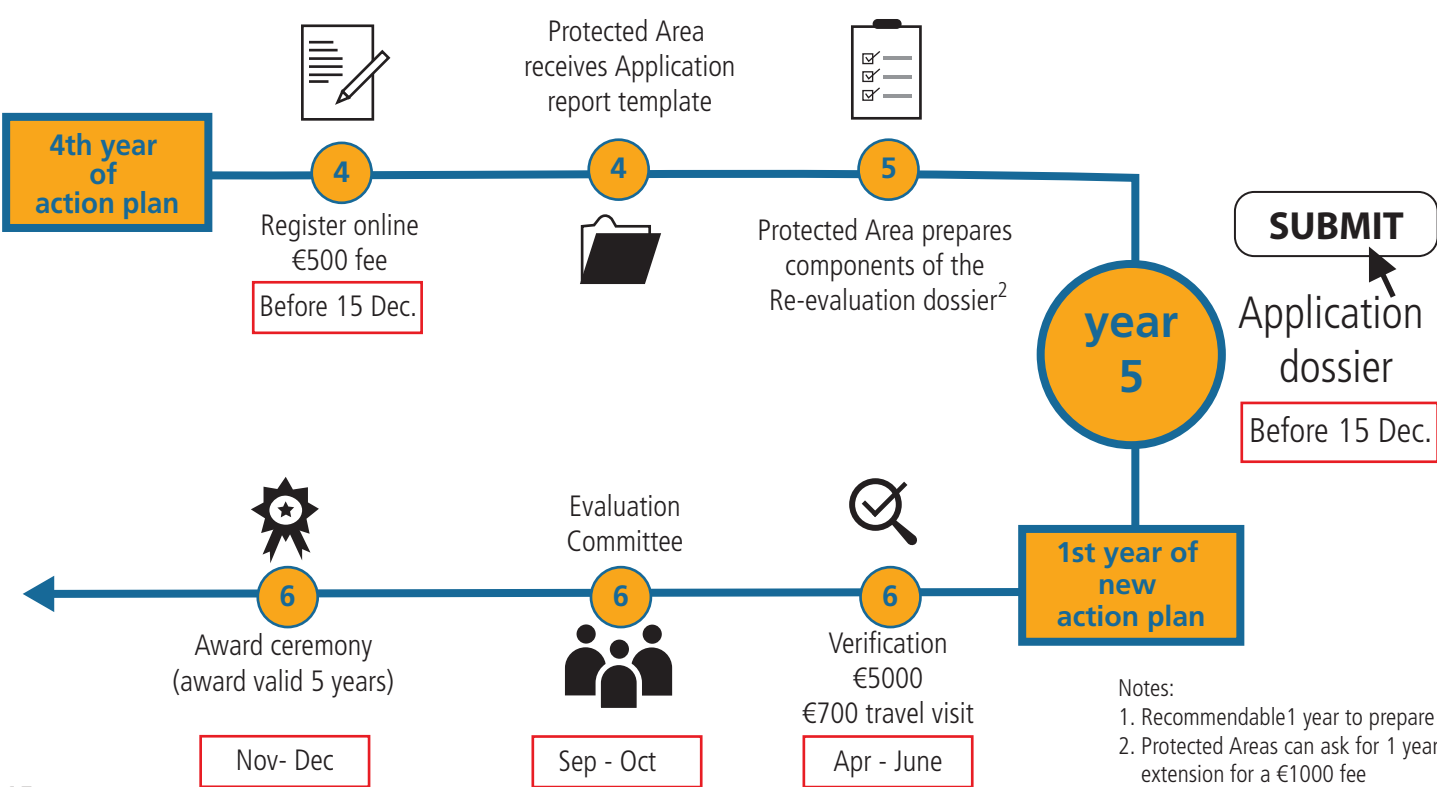


# TIMELINE FOR APPLICATION

## ECST 1st Application



## ECST Renewal Application: Registration for re-evaluation should be done during the 4th year of the action plan



## 2. REGISTER FOR THE CHARTER AND PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE

- Complete online the ECST Registration Form on the website: [europarc.org/become-a-sustainable-destination](https://europarc.org/become-a-sustainable-destination)
- Any Charter dossier submission implies a registration administrative fee of **EUR 500** whether it is a new or a re-evaluation dossier.
- EUROPARC is registered in Germany and we need to check if the applicant organisation is required /or is exempt from VAT (7%) for the payment of the fee. **We will make that check with the tax authorities in Germany and inform you if 7% tax will be added to your fee.**
- This fee includes the right to access the application template, further instructions, administrative assistance and to be on the EUROPARC official website.

We encourage all parks who are registering for the first time to do it at least **one year before the submission**. In case you are renewing, the registration should be done during the last year of the action plan term.

*N.B. EUROPARC Federation is an NGO based in Germany*

## 3. SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION DOSSIER WITHIN THE SET DEADLINE

Every year, the deadline for the submission of the full application dossier is pre-set for the **15<sup>th</sup> December**. This provides time to check the application, appoint the verifier and begin the evaluation process.

### Components of the Application Dossier

The application dossier consists of the following documents:

- Application Report;**
- An **Assessment** of the territory and a SWOT analysis;
- A **Sustainable Tourism Strategy** for the next five years;
- An **Action Plan** for the next five years. If its duration should be more than five years, please let us know. Costs will be adjusted proportionally;
- A **signed commitment** to the Charter Vision, Mission and Principles;
- Another **set of necessary documents**:
  - A **map** (1/100,000 scale if possible) showing the boundary of the designated Protected Area(s) and the overall Charter area;
  - The **overall management plan for the Protected Area** (or equivalent) if available;
  - A small selection of **visitor communication/information material**;
  - Other relevant documents providing **evidence on tourism and management** in the area.

### How to submit the Application Dossier

The Application / Re-evaluation Report can be submitted **in one of the five ECST official languages** (English, French, German, Spanish or Italian).

The rest of the documents may also be presented in another language, provided that the application report gives good summary responses to each question and clear cross-references to the precise location of details in the strategy and action plan.

EUROPARC will check the dossier and appoint an **external verifier** to conduct a verification of your strategy and action plan on a visit to the park. **The verifier's costs are covered through inside the application fee we issue.**

The verifier's report is submitted to the Evaluation Committee, which recommends to award via the EUROPARC Council.

## 4. PAY THE REQUIRED VERIFICATION FEES

The process of running and coordinating the Charter carries considerable costs, to which participating Protected Areas and EUROPARC contribute. The modest fee paid for participating Protected Areas are summarised as follows:

### a) Protected Area Sustainable Destination Candidate

- The cost of making a full application to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is **EUR 5,000**.

The fee includes the costs of administration and support for the Charter process, the costs of verification and evaluation as well as support of networking events and communications about the charter at a European and global level.

- Europarc adds a fixed cost of **EUR 700** for travelling and accommodation of the verifier.

EUROPARC is registered in Germany and we need to check if the applicant organisation is required /or is exempt from VAT (7%) for the payment of the fee. **We will make that check, with the tax authorities in Germany and inform you if 7% tax will be added to your fee.**

*N.B. EUROPARC Federation is an NGO based in Germany*

### b) Re-evaluation Process of the Sustainable Destination

The Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is a process of **continuous development**

Much of the benefit derived from the engagement takes time to emerge and embed in new ways of working. Every five years, the planned verification and evaluation visit is an excellent opportunity for the Sustainable Destination to take stock, show improvements, measure change and celebrate success. **Having an external expert ensures a constructively critical eye is cast over the sustainable tourism work:** in addition, the expert offers ongoing support, advice and expertise and this is one of the most valuable assets of the Charter process. Protected Areas are expected to plan and budget for this continuous support process.

## Rules for Re-evaluation

The five year term is counted with the following rule:

- Year #1** of the Action Plan is equivalent to the awarding year (corresponding to the year when the candidate was first verified);
- Year #4** the candidate needs to register to receive the re-evaluation dossier template;
- Year #5** of the Action Plan corresponds to the year the ECST member must submit the re-evaluation application by December of that year at the latest;
- Year #6** corresponds to the re-awarding year and **Year #1** (first year) of the new term.

**Whenever the Protected Area is unable to submit the re-evaluation dossier at the end of Year #5, a one-year award extension can be requested considering the following:**

- a)** The Protected Area must inform EUROPARC Federation by December of Year #5.
- b)** Each year of extension will result in an additional cost of EUR 1,000.
- c)** At the end of Year #6, when submitting the re-evaluation dossier, the complete report on the previous action plan will have to also cover the extension year.

Charter Protected Areas with relevant change in size or another significant change during the period of the previous Action Plan will be asked to use the template of a new candidate and follow the correspondent list of documents as indicated in the guidelines.

## Costs of Re-evaluation

- **EUR 5,000** - includes Re-evaluation fee for administration of the application, verification, and awarding process.
- **EUR 700** - includes costs of travel, accommodation, and board for the visiting verifier, which has been calculated according to the expenses range of the previous years.

### Only for Sustainable Destinations dealing with 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> or future re-evaluation:

There is the option for a **simplified evaluation procedure** that does not include a verification visit. The verifier will only conduct a **DESK re-evaluation** based on the submitted re-evaluation dossier.

However, the EUROPARC Federation recommends and favors a regular re-evaluation with the visit of a verifier.

### Costs for DESK re-evaluation:

- **EUR 3,000** - includes Re-evaluation fee for administration of the DESK verification, and awarding process.

EUROPARC is registered in Germany and we need to check if the applicant organisation is required /or is exempt from VAT (@7%) for the payment of the fee. **We will make that check, with the tax authorities in Germany and inform you if 7% tax will be added to your fee.**

## Components of the Application Dossier for Re-evaluation

In the year #5 and all subsequent re-evaluations:

- a) A completed **Re-evaluation Report**;
- b) Present a **complete report on the previous action plan**, containing all the information about each action, how the indicators have worked, budget, self-evaluation and reasons for any actions scheduled and not implemented and possible actions integrated into the previous action plan;
- c) **Update the Sustainable Tourism Strategy** for the new five-year term;
- d) **Present a new Action Plan** for the new five-years term;
- e) A **signed commitment** to the Charter Vision, Mission and Principles;
- f) Another **set of necessary documents**:
  - A **map** (1/100,000 scale if possible) showing the boundary of the designated Protected Area(s) and the overall Charter area if the boundary has changed;
  - The **overall management plan for the Protected Area** (or equivalent) if available;
  - A small selection of **visitor; communication/information material**;
  - Other relevant documents providing **evidence on tourism and management** in the area.

## 5. VERIFICATION/RE-EVALUATION VISIT TAKES PLACE

The verification and Re-evaluation visits take place between April and June. This is a valuable opportunity to utilise the experience and expertise of an external verifier.

## 6. EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETS AND ASSESSES

The Charter Evaluation Committee meets in September/October. They assess all Charter applicants and make the final award recommendations to the EUROPARC Council, who takes the final decision.



## 7. GET YOUR AWARD

Protected Areas receive the decision letter and the verifier report in November/December. The Award is usually presented in a high-profile ceremony at the **European Parliament** in Brussels.

Charter Award Ceremony 2018,  
European Parliament, Brussels



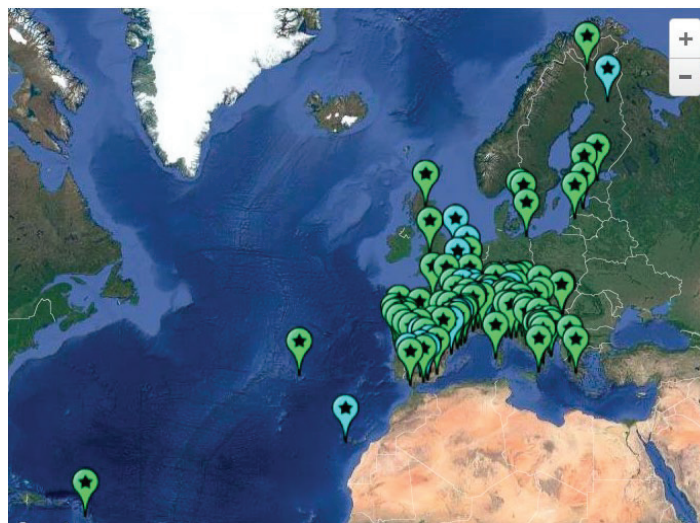
## 8. FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE NETWORK

**Sustainable Destinations, Partners and Tour Operators should commit to engaging with the European network. It is the largest of its kind. Globally!** And in it lies huge potential to gain fresh insights, get new ideas, learn new skills and expand your market.

The main opportunities to network arise in the **EUROPARC Charter Network Meeting**, which takes place every two years. There, all involved come together to look at new developments and seek to share experience, and innovate on best practices.

The **EUROPARC Conference**, which takes place every year, is a further opportunity to meet Protected Areas working in sustainable tourism and the Conference usually holds a workshop devoted to the subject.

As an Awardee of the Charter for Sustainable Tourism, you will make the most of your experience by engaging with the network.



To discover the current list of Sustainable Destinations engaged with the Charter visit:

[europarc.org/network-sustainable-destinations](http://europarc.org/network-sustainable-destinations)

**EUROPARC hosts online webinars** where you can join in and learn from peers across Europe, and indeed the world, from the comfort of your computer screen. You can also find several tools and training opportunities on the **EUROPARC website: [europarc.org/tools-and-training](http://europarc.org/tools-and-training)**.

You can even **join EUROPARC in developing projects** that can provide new tools for sustainable tourism. Check out **EUROPARC news** on the website and social media. Follow and exchange with others in the **Charter facebook group**.

Keep up to date with the latest tools, training and best practises at

[europarc.org/knowledge-hub/sustainable-tourism/](http://europarc.org/knowledge-hub/sustainable-tourism/)

#EUOPARCSUSTAINABLEDESTINATIONS

## 9. PLAN FOR RE-EVALUATION

To fully realise the ambitions of the Charter and reap the benefits for the community, for the businesses and for the Protected Area, ongoing improvement, development and innovation are essential. Therefore, entering the process is truly **a journey to become a Sustainable Destination!** Make sure you continue the journey by planning your re-evaluation.

Please contact the EUROPARC Federation at [sustainable.tourism@europarc.org](mailto:sustainable.tourism@europarc.org) to receive the latest version of the Re-evaluation Report and information.



Kemer NP, by Agnese Balandina,  
Nature Conservation Agency, Latvia

Find out more at

[europarc.org/sustainable-tourism](https://europarc.org/sustainable-tourism)

For more information please contact  
the EUROPARC Federation at  
[sustainabletourism@europarc.org](mailto:sustainabletourism@europarc.org)

Tel: +49 941 59935980  
Waffnergasse 6, 93047  
Regensburg, Germany



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

*Produced with the contribution of the LIFE Programme of  
the European Union. Responsibility for the information and  
views expressed in this publication lies entirely with the authors.*





# A SUSTAINABLE JOURNEY



**EUROPARC**  
Sustainable Tourism  
in Protected Areas

Transboundary Sustainable Destination, Alpi Marittime Nature Park (IT)/ Mercantour National Park (FR) © Francesco Tomasinelli

We believe that Sustainable Tourism is a state of mind, a conscious choice, to work, live and be on holiday in a different way. Realising how our choices affect the local environment, culture and economy, can positively reshape our behaviour.

To inspire this change, EUROPARC produced the film "A Sustainable Journey".

Watch it in English, German, Italian, French and Spanish at

**[europarc.org/sustainable-tourism](https://europarc.org/sustainable-tourism)**