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## Subject: STAR Awards, new members and many more updates from the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism! 😊

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

# Updates from the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Dear readers,

We start a new year, full of hope and **exciting initiatives** for you to take part in. In this newsletter we will provide a short balance of the past year, the second one in which we have been conditioned by the effects of the pandemic.

First of all, we are very happy to announce that the **STAR Awards are now opened again!** We are picking up where we left off, as we had to postpone this award for Sustainable Businesses working together with Protected Areas awarded with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism last year. If you applied in 2021, your application will still be considered this year. For all others: find the information to partake down below!

We can also congratulate ourselves that last year **16 Protected Areas** were awarded with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. All verifications could take place on-site. We especially welcome the three new Parks that were awarded. From Italy, **Isola Pantelleria National Park, Ligurian Alps Regional Nature Park** and **Vesuvio National Park** are joining the network!

The **Nordic-Baltic Section** has also reached a new milestone: the first business was awarded as a **sustainable partner** in the Kullaberg Nature Reserve. More business are expected to follow soon.

2021 will also be remembered as the year of the **Glasgow Declaration on Climate Change**, with a special Climate Action in Tourism, you can find more info below.

We will celebrate all these achievements and those postponed from the past two years in a **special award ceremony** that we are preparing to take place during our [Conference in Austria](#) from the **2nd until the 6th of May**. This will also be the occasion to celebrate the 21 years of the Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. **So, save the date!**

**We wish you cheerful reading,**

**The Sustainable Tourism Team.**

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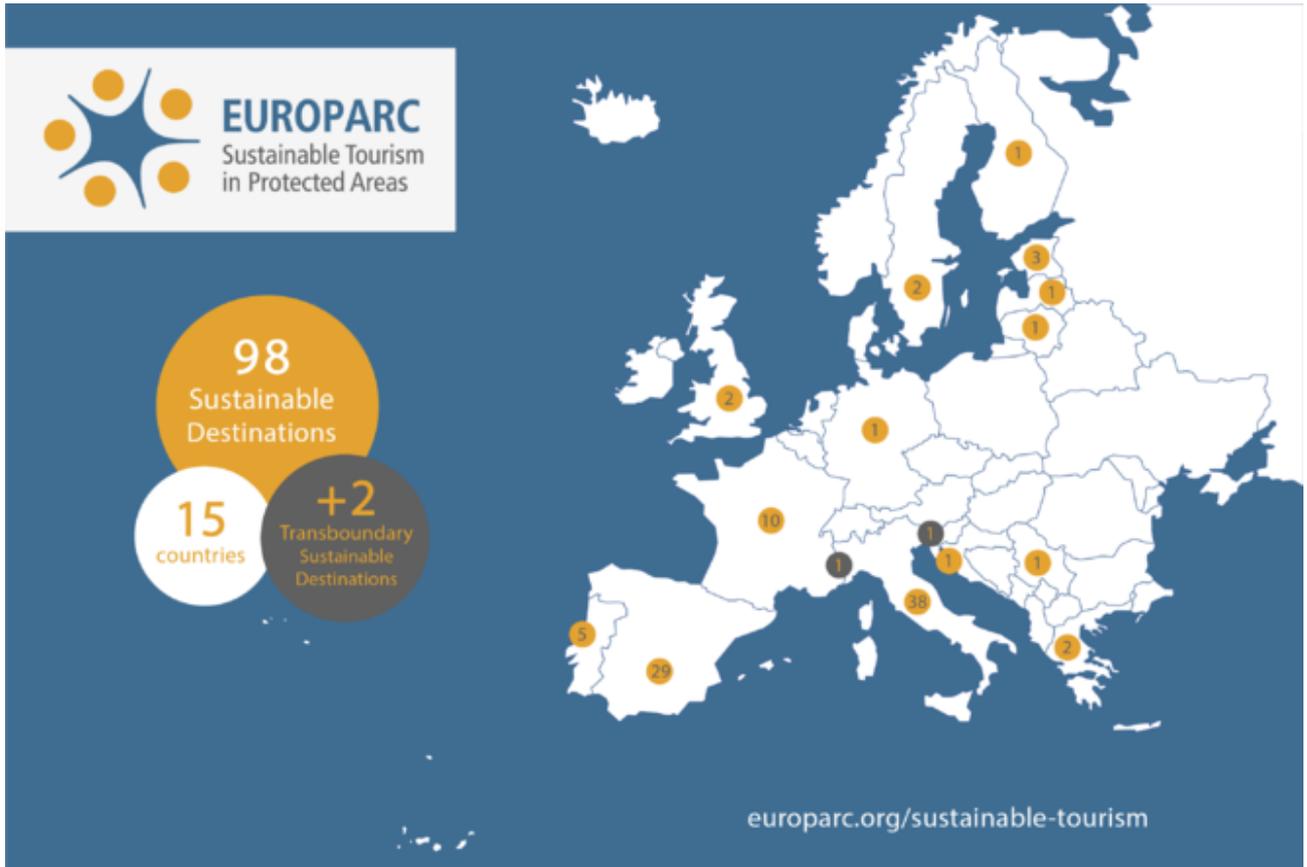
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## 16 new Sustainable Destinations!



### 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 2021 we welcomed 3 new Parks and 13 Sustainable destinations renewed their commitment.

#### The 3 New Sustainable Destinations:

We are happy to welcome three Italian Parks to the Network! All three possess a wealth of natural and cultural heritage and as such, are popular tourist destinations. [You can get to know Isola Pantelleria National Park, Ligurian Alps Regional Nature Park and Vesuvius National Park here.](#)

#### The 12 Sustainable Destinations that renewed their commitment are:

##### Italy

- [Cinque Terre National Park](#)
- [Foreste Casentinesi Nationalpark](#)
- [Tuscan Archipelago National Park](#)

##### Portugal

- [Alto Minho Intermunicipal Community](#)

##### Serbia

- [Gornje Podunavlje Special Reserve](#)

##### Spain

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- [Montserrat Nature Park](#)
- [Montseny Nature Park](#)
- [Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac Nature Park](#)
- [Sierra de Gredos Regional Park](#)
- [Valle de Iruelas Nature Reserve](#)
- [Zona Volcanica de la Garrotxa Nature Park](#)

On this [interactive map](#), you can find the whole Network of ECST Protected Areas and Partners

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 **98 destinations in 15 countries**. The biggest of it's kind in the world!

## STAR Awards



### EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Partners' Award

**Charter Part II and III can now apply!**

Sustainable Destinations depend on businesses, communities, and municipalities that are all working for a common purpose.

That is why, with the biannual **STAR Awards**, EUROPARC seeks to celebrate, champion and acknowledge the effort and investments made by tourism businesses to be more sustainable and help to protect their natural and cultural heritage.

In 2021 we sadly had to postpone the STAR Awards due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to open them again this year.

**Applications that we received last year are still valid and will be considered!**

Winners of the STAR Awards **and the Protected Area** in which they operate will receive free entrance to either the EUROPARC Conference or the Charter Meeting. Additionally, they can attend the high-profile award ceremony at the European Parliament in Brussels.

**Apply now: deadline is the 1st of April. We welcome you to share this information across your networks!**

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## Updates from the ECST Network



### First ever business awarded in Sweden!

#### Kullagårdens Wårdshus in the Kullaberg Nature Reserve

Kullagårdens Wårdshus in Mölle, is the **first company in Sweden** to become a certified sustainable partner of Kullaberg through the "European Charter for Sustainable Tourism".

Malin and Petter Sandström, who have run Kullagårdens Wårdshus since 2019, together with their staff, have created well-specified and measurable goals in both environmental, social, and economic sustainability for the next three years. The overall goal is to contribute to **protecting the rich flora and fauna** of Kullaberg through close cooperation with the County Administrative Board and **increase accessibility** for visiting guests all year round to get a more even distribution of the increasing domestic demand that has occurred after the Corona pandemic.

Get to know them better here!

### Sustainable Tourism across borders

#### Living Pyrenees Education Network



The Parc naturel transfrontalier du Hainaut, a legal Transboundary Park composed of the French [Parc naturel régional Scarpe – Escaut](#) and the [Wallonian Parc naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut](#) participated in the **Transboundary Meeting** of the [Living Pyrenees Education Network](#) to

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is to follow the steps of the [Alpi Marittime Nature Park](#) (Italy) and [Mercantour National Park](#) (France) and that of the [Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps](#), which includes Triglav National Park (Slovenia) and Prealpi Giulie Nature Park (Italy), awarded as Transboundary Sustainable Destinations.

## Interesting Reading

### Glasgow Declaration Climate Action in Tourism

The Glasgow Declaration is a catalyst for increased urgency about the need to accelerate climate action in tourism and to secure strong actions and commitment to cut tourism emissions in half over the next decade, as well as reaching Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050.

The signatories of the Glasgow Declaration agree on five shared pathways to ensure climate action is aligned across all of tourism sector: **Measure, Decarbonise, Regenerate, Collaborate, Finance**. You can find the full text of the Glasgow Declaration [here](#)

### Tourism and visitation to Protected Areas amid COVID-19 Guidance for protected area authorities and managers

The pandemic has had a serious impact on local livelihoods linked to tourism in Protected Areas. A rapidly changing environment and new health and safety regulations make the approach toward visitors even more challenging than it used to be.

The publication "Tourism and visitation to Protected Areas amid COVID-19" offers guidance for Protected Area authorities and managers. It gathers information from a global perspective about planning and distribution of visitors, health and hygiene standards, wildlife tourism guidance, and other useful insights. It's available in six languages [here](#).

[7 Travel-Related Observations in a "Post-Pandemic" World](#), JoAnna Haugen - Rooted Storytelling.

[Towards Sustainable Tourism Practices in National Parks, Exploring lessons learned from diverse European approaches](#). Channah Smith-Barneveld, Arjaan Pellis, Roel During and Machiel Lamers

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