

Terms of Reference

EUROPARC Nature Regional Landscape - NRL Parks Task Force	
Purpose Why is this group being formed	<p>The NRL Parks Task Force is formed to support the work of the Nature Regional Landscape Parks of Europe and to strengthen the strategies and initiatives of the EUROPARC Federation Steering Committee and Directorate. Our purpose is to strengthen the knowledge and analysis about the integrated contribution of NRL Parks on critical societal issues like climate change, regional development and conservation. The Task Force will increase the visibility of this category of parks and the positive contribution they make across Europe. The taskforce will also contribute to the work of the EUROPARC directorate in analysing the new and more integrated park policies developing across Europe. The task force will develop projects and find funding streams to further strengthen the work of the Task Force and the EUROPARC Federation.</p>
Links to Strategy What specific area of the strategy this work is linked to?	<p>The NRL Parks Task Force is well positioned to realize the EUROPARC vision (sustainable nature, valued by People) since our work is on a landscape-scale which include both nature and people. The NRL Parks Task Force will be able to link its work to all strategic goals of EUROPARC – in an integrated way. The Task Force will strengthen and grow the network of parks.</p> <p>Strategic goal 1: With close to one thousand Nature Regional Nature Parks the NRL Parks Task Force has a unique position to promote EUROPARC membership and network activities.</p> <p>Strategic goal 2: The NRL Parks Task Force will be able to strengthen parks and protected areas in implementing EU and national policies on climate, biodiversity, agriculture and rural development. Our integrated approach is an asset in combination with other sectoral policies and initiatives.</p>

	<p>Strategic goal 3: To build connection between people and nature is at the heart of NRL Parks. We will contribute to this goal with our knowledge of effective processes, school, partnership- and interpretation programs.</p> <p>Strategic goal 4: Sustainable development is one of the most important contributions of NRL Parks in comparison to other parks and protected areas. The NRL Parks Task Force will provide experience and insight into key sustainable development areas, like tourism and regional product development.</p>
<p>Membership</p> <p>who is membership of the group open to? What kind of expertise or skills are needed.</p> <p>Are representatives from external organisations included, who and why?</p> <p>Please list proposed members and their organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Task Force are representatives of national or regional associations of Nature Regional Landscape parks. • All national or regional associations of Nature Regional Landscape parks are invited to join the Task Force. • The chair (s) are elected by the members of the Task Force. • All work is done on a voluntary basis. <p>Current members of the Task Force (November 2022) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulrich Köster, Association of German Nature Parks • Tina Müller, Swiss Parks Association • Eric Brua and Clara Fontana, Federation of Regional Nature Parks of France • Kristian Bjørnstad, Chair, Norwegian Parks Association • Francine Keiser and Simone Zanter, The Nature Parks of Luxembourg • Nina Zitz, Association of Austrian Nature Parks • Nicolas Nederland and Baptiste Hottekiet, The Federation of Nature Parks of Wallonia • Ruth Colbridge and Elliott Lorimer, The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

<p>What benefits will membership of this group bring to its members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate capacity building and the exchange of information between NRL Parks. • Increase the visibility of this category of parks at a European and national level. • Coordination of thematic sub-groups. • Publications and studies on NRL Parks and relevant issues. • Support in lobbying and promotion towards EU bodies and national governments. • The development of joint projects.
<p>Chair of Group</p>	<p>Kristian Bjørnstad</p>
<p>Council Liaison</p>	<p>Dominique Lèvêque</p>
<p>Directorate Liaison</p>	<p>Marit Schnepf</p>
<p>Term What is the anticipated duration?</p>	<p>The Task Force is supposed to be a permanent body as long as the members and the EUROPARC Federation will support it. Its composition and structure can be modified according to current needs. With growth in numbers, the representative structure of the Task Force will be revised to reflect these changes.</p> <p>A revision of the Term of Reference will be done each 3 years, corresponding to the Council renewal.</p>
<p>Outcomes/Results What are the intended results or conclusions of the group?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased communication and exchange of information between the members and with EUROPARC. • Increased support from EU institutions and national governments. • Increased visibility internally and externally. • Acquisition of new members into the Task Force and into the EUROPARC Federation. • The realization of projects contributing to key societal issues benefiting from the strengths and number of NRL Parks.
<p>Outline workplan What do you plan to do and achieve for the period to 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a list of all relevant members across Europe and invite these members into the Task Force. • Send out a survey to relevant association of NRL Parks to update the number, the current status and relevant policies of this category of parks. This will again form the basis for updating existing policy papers and the creation of future publications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force meetings with difference themes two-three times a year. • Establish a Teams group for sharing of documents and resources. • Minimum of one webinar per year (internally or externally) in cooperation with EUROPARC directorate • Joint actions celebrating the European Day of Parks. • Update information on NRL Parks together with the EUROPARC directorate. • Increase knowledge of NRL Park communication and lay the foundation for a joint communication strategy at the European level. • Increase visibility of NRL Parks at the European and national levels. • Start a joint video project. • Establish two working groups. One on communication and one on climate change with two to four meetings a year. • Share information on climate change adaption strategies in NRL Parks to form the basis for national strategies in at least 3 countries. • Create the NRL Parks Climate Charter and gather all members to sign it at a relevant place and event. • The development of one project proposal. • Contribute jointly at the EUROPARC Conference in 2024 with knowledge and workshop facilitators. • Collaborate with EUROPARC Sections with relevant information and activities.
<p>Challenges and Opportunities what do you envisage being the main challenges to a successful achievement of your workplan and what they opportunities can you take advantage of that would support assist or multiple your efforts.</p>	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings in presence. • Different national legislation. • Little knowledge and visibility of NRL Parks. • Project funding. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly motivated members and a positive group. • The number and size of NRL Parks in Europe.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new policies and positions of this category of parks in countries like France, Germany and Great Britain.
<p>Working methods How will the group function? Meetings/online access/F2f etc approx. how many/when How will the group be managed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two to three meetings per year. One in presence during EUROPARC conferences and two online. • One chair (agenda, organization of meetings, reporting) and two chairs of working groups, with support of EUROPARC Directorate.
<p>Reporting How will the group report its work, when and by whom. All working groups will need to ensure their work is recorded in EUROPARC's annual report and may too be subject to technical reports from funders if the work is related to projects or NGO grant.</p>	<p>End of each year. An overview of annual working program for year to end and preparation of annual working program for following year. All Task Force members will be involved.</p>
<p>Review How and when will the work of the group be reviewed</p>	