



**EUROPARC**  
Sustainable Tourism  
in Protected Areas

## **ECST part 3 – European Methodology**

### **Who can become a Sustainable Tour Operator?**

- Travel Agencies and Tour Operators that organise tours to and within ECST Protected Areas

### **How to get awarded?**

1. Make sure that the **Protected Area** you want to operate has been awarded the **ECST1** and communicate to it your interest in starting the ECST 3 award
2. Contact the **local tourism businesses** that have been awarded the ECST2 to define your tourism package and make a partnership agreement with the support of the Protected Area
3. Register as an **ECST 3 candidate**
4. Upon registration approval, submit an **Application Dossier** via the Protected Area
5. EUROPARC Federation, through its **Joint Evaluation Commission**, evaluates the documentation received and makes a decision. If positive, the TO will receive the **ECST 3 Certificate**

### **Prior conditions to be met by the Travel Agencies and Tour Operators (TO)**

- ✓ Have a **commercial license** in force or a document certifying its registration in the corresponding Register.
- ✓ Comply with the applicable **legislation**.
- ✓ Develop its activities in accordance with the **ECST Principles**.
- ✓ Undertake activities in the Sustainable Destination which are **compatible with the Protected Area's management plans** and sustainable tourism strategy.

Contact EUROPARC for more detailed information:

**[sustainable.tourism@europarc.org](mailto:sustainable.tourism@europarc.org)**