



Protected Areas In-Sight



The Journal of the **EUROPARC Federation**

**NATURE FOR PEOPLE,
PEOPLE FOR NATURE**

**NATURE
RESTORATION
REGULATION**

Insights from DG-ENV
on its implementation

WILD ATLANTIC NATURE

Changing conservation in Ireland

MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

Protected Areas and Outdoor Sports join forces

Contents

4

Editorial

6

RESTORING EUROPE'S NATURE

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

8

WILD ATLANTIC NATURE

HOW RESULTS-BASED PAYMENTS ARE
CHANGING CONSERVATION IN IRELAND

FINANCING NATURE RESTORATION

THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
OF PRIVATE FUNDING SCHEMES

10

BECOMING A FRIEND OF NATURE:
VOLUNTEERING IN PROTECTED AREAS

12

Imprint

Vol. 17 – 2025

Publisher: EUROPARC Federation 2025, www.europarc.org

Editorial team: EUROPARC Directorate, communications@europarc.org
Waffnergasse 6, 93047 Regensburg, Germany

Graphic Design: Václav Hraba

Printing: Printed by Contour Mediaservices, GmbH

Cover picture: Sandra Grego

Back picture: Vaidas Garla

Translations: EuroMinds Linguistics

Co-funded by the European Commission



The production of this publication has been supported financially by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition.



20

NATURACONNECT

CONNECTIONS ACROSS A CONTINENT

TRANSBOUNDARY RESTORATION PROJECT
LIFE FOR MIRES

24

18

100MPA MEDALLIANCE

BUILDING RESILIENT MPAS TO FACE
THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY BY 2030

14

LIFE PAME-EUROPE

ADVANCING PROTECTED AREA
MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

26

SOCIAL TRAINING COURSE

ASSESSING THE SOCIAL IMPACTS
OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS

28

HOW TO CREATE A NATIONAL PARK IN 334 DAYS?

A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO
PROTECTED AREA GOVERNANCE

30

**JUNIOR RANGERS ENHANCING
POLLINATORS IN KRKA NATIONAL PARK**

**JOINING FORCES: OUTDOOR SPORTS
AND NATURE CONSERVATION:**

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
WITH THE EUROPARC-ENOS JOINT AWARD

32

Gardens of Rumai Palace, Lithuania, photo by Sandra Grego

Nature knows no boundaries and EUROPARC therefore facilitates international co-operation in all aspects of Protected Area management. Through networking, advancing policy and practice, sharing best practices and developing new solutions to the challenges of Protected Area management, we want to deliver on our vision, 'Sustainable Nature, Valued by People', and ensure the value of Protected Areas is recognised at the heart of Europe.



www.europarc.org



Written by **ALBERTO ARROYO SCHNELL**

Director EUROPARC Federation

*Wild Nephin National Park, Ireland.
Photo by Esther Bossink*

Editorial

In a period when the world is searching for direction and renewed purpose, despite political uncertainties and shifting priorities, our Protected Areas offer a compass: they remind us of what endures, sustains us, and unites us. They embody solutions, carry stories of success and collaboration, and demonstrate the tangible value of nature to citizens and leaders alike. They remind us that even in uncertain times, there are spaces where Europe's aspirations — for biodiversity,

climate, culture, and society — come together. And this is a key contribution to a global effort: Europe's Protected Areas are essential infrastructure for life, sustaining economies, health, and cultural identity, and contributing to a worldwide movement seeking balance between people and nature.

I have just started my new leading role in the Directorate of EUROPARC, and I do so with humility, responsibility, and above all, optimism. This optimism comes from



witnessing the extraordinary dedication of managers, rangers, scientists, communities, and policy makers across Europe. Their combination of passion and technical expertise gives me confidence that we can respond to today's challenges while shaping a renewed vision for Europe's relationship with nature.

This year's EUROPARC Conference, with its focus on nature restoration, highlighted both what is at stake and what is possible. Restoration is no longer secondary; it is central to Europe's future. Protected Areas are not only guardians of intact landscapes but pioneers of renewal: living laboratories where communities, practitioners, and decision makers test solutions and nurture long-term visions. Though complex, these efforts demonstrate how trust, collaboration, and shared purpose can transform challenges into opportunities.

Looking ahead, my commitment as Director is to ensure EUROPARC remains a strong, clear, and constructive voice. We shall empower members, strengthen partnerships, and bring forward the evidence, expertise, and inspiration needed to guide decision making. We will honor our history while embracing innovation, new ideas, and energy. The journey ahead will require courage and creativity, but I am confident in the collective power of this community. As we move into this next chapter together, let us be ambitious, confident, and united in our belief that protecting nature is not merely a duty — it is a gift for generations to come.

Wall of Connections, EUROPARC Conference 2025.
Photo by Vaidas Garla



RESTORING EUROPE'S NATURE

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE



Article written by **ANDREA VETTORI**

Head of Unit Nature Conservation at Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

It was an honour to address the EUROPARC Conference 2025 – an event that brings together those who dedicate themselves to protecting Europe's natural heritage. EUROPARC and its members are essential partners for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment. Together, we share one mission: to safeguard the health of Europe's ecosystems and preserve the biodiversity that sustains life across our continent. This mission is not only an ecological necessity but a moral responsibility, and it requires collaboration at every level, from local stakeholders to national authorities.



Reisa National Park, Norway. Photo by Nella Sergejeva

For more than three decades, Europe's nature policy has rested on two strong pillars: the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive. These Nature Directives have provided a clear and robust legal framework for protecting our most vulnerable species and habitats, creating the Natura 2000 network. As the world's largest coordinated network of Protected Areas, Natura 2000 is a tangible achievement and a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we act together.

One key concern remains the effectiveness of conservation measures within these Protected Areas. We need to continuously monitor and assess the actions taken on the ground. While many Natura 2000 sites have seen improvements in habitat quality, others remain in a poor or deteriorated state. We must ask ourselves whether we are

doing enough — not just to protect what exists within the boundaries of these sites, but also to maintain the integrity of the broader ecosystems they contain. It is equally important to address the drivers of biodiversity loss beyond Protected Areas, including unsustainable land use, pollution, and the growing pressures of climate change.

ACT NOW: THE NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION

Scientific evidence makes it clear that we must act now. The IPCC, IPBES and EEA scientific reports remind us that we have only a narrow window of five to ten years to prevent irreversible biodiversity loss and climate impacts. Our response must therefore be decisive and integrated. Biodiversity cannot be treated in isolation and must be woven into all areas of policy: from agriculture and industry to urban planning and finance.

This is why the European Union has adopted one of its most important and forward-looking initiatives for nature: the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), which entered into force in August 2024. The NRR represents a new chapter for Europe's environmental policy: one that is action-oriented, outcome-driven, and built on the principle of subsidiarity. It sets binding targets for restoring degraded ecosystems, reducing biodiversity loss, and strengthening the resilience of our territories against the growing impacts of climate change.

BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Every Member State will prepare a National Restoration Plan, developed in close collaboration with experts, stakeholders, and citizens. These plans will translate European goals into practical, locally tailored measures to be developed at national level. Until 2030, restoration efforts will likely focus primarily on Natura 2000 areas, as indicated in Article 4 of the Regulation. This gives those working in Protected Areas a central role and responsibility in shaping and carrying out national restoration measures.

The good news is that we don't start from scratch to develop the National Restoration Plans, as it will build on two decades of experience under the Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and the Regulation on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.

We have the data, the experience, and the financial instruments in place (like the Cohesion Policy, the Common Agricultural Policy and the LIFE Programme) to turn knowledge into concrete results. The NRR provides the missing link between existing nature, water, and climate policies, allowing us to build true synergies across sectors. As President von der Leyen said at the time of the adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, a healthy nature is an ally in the fight against climate change.



WILD ATLANTIC NATURE

Article written by **DR DEREK MCLOUGHLIN**

Project Manager at LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature

Wild Atlantic Nature is a LIFE Integrated Project that brings together farmers, landowners and local communities to support peatland restoration projects in Ireland. These blanket bog habitats, (a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive) experienced years of ecological deterioration, which not only drastically affected the quality of the habitats, but also the services they provide to the local community, such as clean drinking water. One of the key tools the project has assisted in developing is a hybrid Results-Based agri-environment Payment Scheme (RBPS), which relates the farmers' payment to the ecological quality of their habitats, as determined using a simple scorecard. The higher the score, the higher the payment a farmer receives. Financial and technical support are available to farmers who wish to undertake actions to improve their habitat. This approach promotes a shared understanding of habitat quality and creates an implementation mechanism for nature restoration. This work has helped lay the foundation for Ireland's 2023-2027 agri-environment policy which has scaled up the RBPS approach to over 20,000 farmers across >1m hectares.

A NEW APPROACH TO NATURE CONSERVATION

Blanket bogs serve a vital ecosystem function, supporting climate change mitigation, water management, biodiversity, and food production. However, in Ireland, and worldwide, we are experiencing an ongoing decline in quality as a result of pressures from inappropriate grazing regimes, peat cutting, invasive species, erosion, and overall inadequate land use management. Previous nature restoration efforts included payment schemes based on actions rather than outcomes, often leading to unsuccessful results. A set of partners, coordinated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, formed the LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature project in order to transform the approach to nature restoration and land management. This new approach had a focus on ensuring strong engagement of farmers and landowners in conservation, making their knowledge and expertise a central element. For this to be a success, better coordination between the relevant land use policies was needed. The project included a mechanism to reward conservation outcomes: the Results-Based Payment Scheme (RBPS), along with financial and technical support to implement actions to improve the farmers' ecological score.



HOW RESULTS-BASED PAYMENTS ARE CHANGING CONSERVATION IN IRELAND

BUILDING CAPACITY

A pilot Results-Based Payment Scheme was tested in 2021-2022 in six Natura 2000 sites covering over 65,000 hectares. Participation was voluntary and over 800 farmers joined the pilot phase, representing an 85% uptake of eligible farmers. The pilot proved the RBPS is an effective mechanism and incentive for farmers and landowners to improve or maintain high habitat quality.

The farmers and 50 agricultural advisers received training from the project team on the scoring process and on the implementation of actions designed to improve their score. Building capacity through education and training are key elements in this project, which are achieved not only by training farmers and advisors, but also through school and community programmes, and community seed funds to enhance local buy-in. This exemplary work has been acknowledged with the 2024 Natura 2000 Award in the category 'Working together for nature'.

INFLUENCING AND INSPIRING NATIONAL POLICY

The successful pilot has been rolled out via Ireland's Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027, which included a new programme called ACRES Cooperation Project (CP). ACRES (Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme) uses the same results-based approach as deployed by Wild Atlantic Nature and has a similar focus on including farmers and local communities. The project clearly showcases that when working together, across sectors and demographics, the best results for nature and people are achieved. This means that the RBPS approach is being delivered in all 55 of Ireland's Natura 2000 blanket bog sites, showcasing the effectiveness of this new approach in restoring nature.

Wild Atlantic Nature meeting. Photo by Derek McLoughlin

SUCCESS FACTORS

- **Clearly defined objectives and indicators** ensure a common understanding of objectives and how to achieve them
- **Appropriate supports for farmers**, including advice, training, finance, scientific, peer-to-peer and technical supports
- **Participatory processes** ensure the active involvement of farmers in decision-making
- **Autonomy and flexibility** balance agriculture, restoration and conservation through adaptive management
- **Locally-adapted** approaches ensure solutions are suitable for social and local contexts
- **Integration with policy** ensures compatibility with existing policy and opportunities to influence future policy

MORE INFORMATION HERE



FINANCING NATURE RESTORATION

THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF PRIVATE FUNDING SCHEMES



Article written by **JOÃO CARDOSO DE MELO**

Treasurer EUROPARC Federation

Across Europe, nature restoration and conservation projects face similar challenges: finding the resources and long-term commitments to make them happen. Public funds remain essential, but they are not always enough to meet the growing needs of our ecosystems. This is where private financing (from businesses, foundations, or even individual visitors) can play an increasingly important role. However, attracting private investments is not without challenges: it relies on clear policies, stable regulations, and market conditions that make investments realistic. And while private financing schemes can help, they must work alongside sound policies and long-term public support for nature.

At the EUROPARC Conference, I had the pleasure of moderating a workshop on this topic. Together with three inspiring guest speakers we explored how innovative partnerships are helping to fund restoration efforts across Europe: Sonja Miller (EUROPARC Germany/National Natural Landscapes, formerly), Sjakel van Wesemael (PWN), and John Watkins (National Landscapes Association) shared their innovative ideas on how to fund nature restoration.

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDSCAPES, GERMANY

As the umbrella organisation for Germany's Protected Areas, National Natural Landscapes (NNL) connects parks across the country to raise awareness and appreciation of nature. By promoting restoration projects to businesses, NNL is attracting private funding to support these projects. Two key success factors in working with business stand out: being a trusted, positive brand and creating measurable impact through certification.

A strong, trusted brand boosts recognition and visibility in society and business, and it inspires people to join a "community" to protect nature. Through a unified Corporate Design and social media templates, all Protected Areas within the NNL can share a consistent message about the value of nature and the shared responsibility we have in protecting it.



*Nationaal Park Zuid-Kennemerland.
Photo by Myrthe Fonck*

Measurable impact and certification are equally important. NNL gives businesses a clear view of the benefits for the project, for society, and for the company, so they can see the impact their investment will make. Orchard Meadow certificates, for example, guarantee the preservation of 1 m² of biodiversity per year and are valid for five years, creating a lasting impact.

PWN, THE NETHERLANDS

Drinking water company PWN manages two Natura 2000 dune areas and supplies clean water to 1.7 million people. By relying on natural processes in the dunes to filter water, PWN shows how healthy ecosystems are essential for securing clean drinking water in the future.

Sjakel van Wesemael, director of PWN's nature department, highlighted the challenges they face, from water quality and quantity issues to the pressures of climate change and human activity. Protecting both water and nature requires a mix of solutions, such as: connecting and expanding dunes, creating buffer zones, and improving the balance between people and the environment.

Emphasising economic value plays a key role. While part of PWN's annual budget goes to nature protection, the company also seeks external funding and collaboration. Buffer zones, for example, are designed with local businesses and agriculture in mind, benefiting everyone through cleaner water and lower treatment costs.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPES ASSOCIATION, UNITED KINGDOM

The National Landscapes Association brings together 46 national landscapes across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. With the national government aiming for £1 billion per year in private funding for nature by 2030, the Association contributes by creating a strategic network that connects regional initiatives with private investors. In this role, it acts as both consultant and facilitator. John Watkins, Chief Executive, described the need for an "environmental broker" - someone who links restoration projects across National Landscapes, connects investors with projects, and helps build and maintain long-term relationships.

A crucial question for attracting private investment is: on what terms do we want to collaborate? The Association has developed clear guidelines for itself and its partners, including science-based restoration, local engagement, and transparency, while partners must align with the Association's objectives and sign robust agreements. Certain sectors, like oil, are excluded entirely.

John Watkins emphasized that these partnerships are not a one-size-fits-all solution. Stakeholder expectations are

diverse, which makes it difficult to simplify the process. These partnerships require careful planning and commitment, and while private finance can support restoration, it is not a quick fix or a substitute for core conservation work.



*Clwydian Range and
Dee Valley National
Landscape, UK.
Photo by Jessica
Micklem-Kolenic*

BECOMING A FRIEND OF NATURE: VOLUNTEERING IN PROTECTED AREAS



Article written by **AUŠRA ČEBATORIŪTĖ**

Communications specialist for the
Naturalit project

**The LIFE Integrated Project
“Optimizing the management
of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania”
(Naturalit), together with the Lithuanian
State Service for Protected Areas and the
Directorates of Protected Areas, invites
volunteers to take part in nature conservation
activities. Over five years, the initiative
has expanded significantly, engaging an
increasing number of participants dedicated
to protecting Lithuania’s natural environment.**

AROUND 100 VOLUNTEERING DAYS EACH YEAR

Volunteer groups across Lithuania are growing in popularity as companies grant their staff paid days to engage in volunteering. In the first year (2021) of the volunteering in Protected Areas initiative, only 13 volunteering days were organized, bringing together 145 participants. In contrast, 2024 marked a record year, with 198 volunteering days and 3,850 participants. Over the four years of the volunteering initiative, an average of about 100 volunteering days has been held annually, involving around 1,650 people from various companies nationwide.

A large part of these activities took place in Natura 2000 sites, which are essential for protecting natural assets. In such areas, the contribution of volunteers is particularly significant, as they help preserve biodiversity and improve the condition of ecosystems.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON A VOLUNTEERING DAY

To make the initiative as accessible as possible, most volunteering days do not require special physical fitness, technical knowledge, or equipment – the main requirement is simply the desire to contribute. At the beginning of each event, specialists (landscape managers and ecologists working for the State Service for Protected Areas) provide the volunteers with information about the site, its conservation value, and the planned activities. They also ensure that participants have the necessary tools, while volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves, comfortable footwear, and appropriate clothing.





Activities take place throughout the year, but their type depends on the season. For example, in spring the focus is mainly on forest planting, litter collection, and meadow management – it is a time for general environmental clean-up. In summer, volunteering days are usually held in reserves or Natura 2000 sites, where volunteers remove invasive plant species, mow meadows, clear shrubs, and repair information stands.

HOW DOES VOLUNTEERING CHANGE PEOPLE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE?

As Agnė Jasinavičiūtė-Trakimienė, Director of the State Service for Protected Areas, reflects: the importance of volunteering in Protected Areas connects people with nature and helps foster a genuine connection with nature. By taking part in these activities, people become directly involved in conservation – they not only learn about ecosystems and biodiversity, but also contribute to their protection with their own hands. Such direct involvement helps them understand how much effort is needed to maintain the balance of nature.

She observes that through volunteering, people begin to see nature differently – not simply as a place to relax, but as a living system that needs our protection: “They start changing their daily habits, becoming more mindful of sustainability and more committed to protecting the environment. Once people experience volunteering, they often wish to participate again – and many inspire their friends and colleagues to join them.”



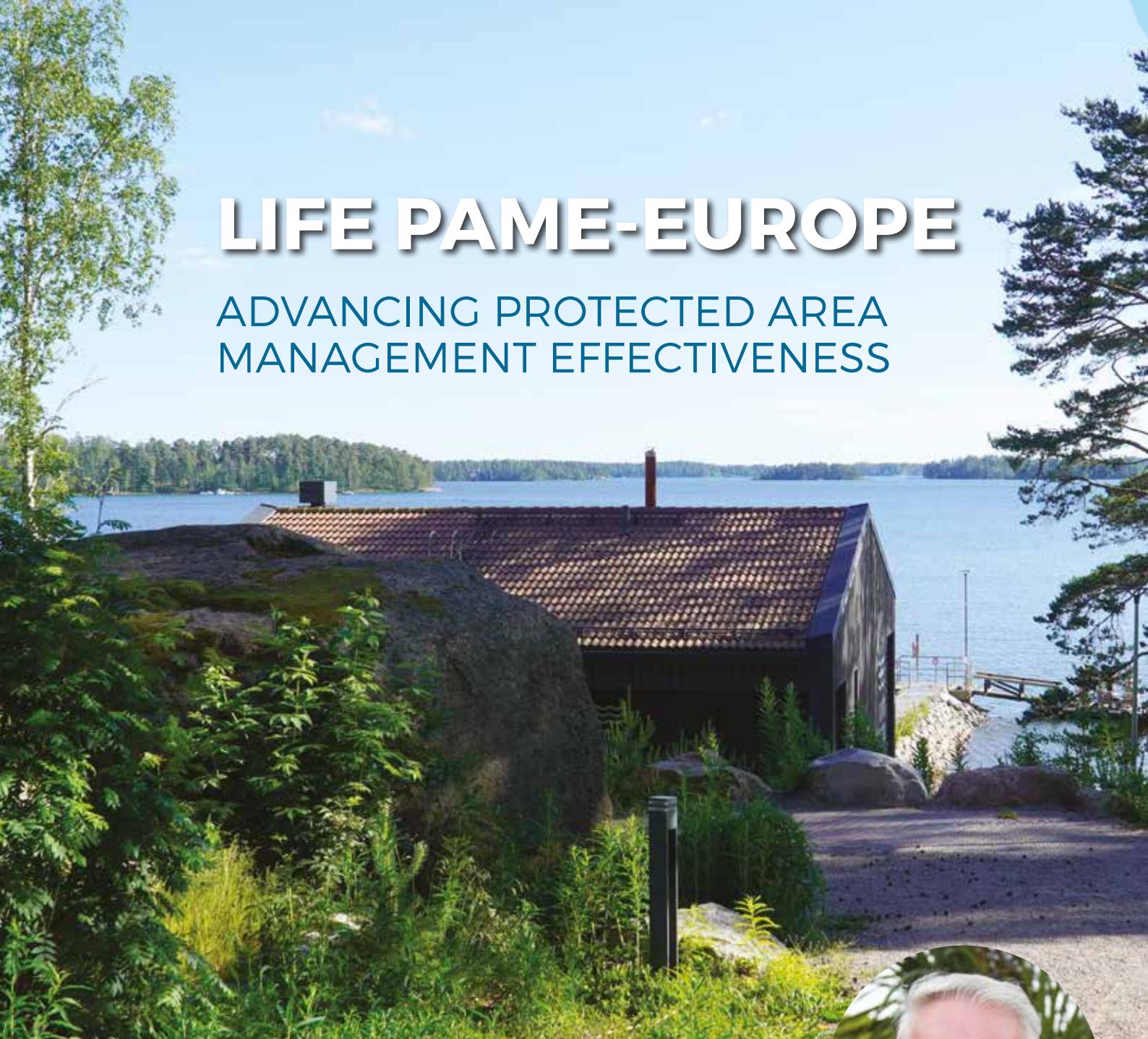
*Volunteering day at the Curonian Spit, Lithuania.
Photo from the Naturalit project archive*

READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Volunteering day in Kernavė, Lithuania. Photo from the Naturalit project archive

LIFE PAME-EUROPE

ADVANCING PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS



Article written by **NEIL MCINTOSH**

Head of Communications & Capacity Building/
Project Manager for LIFE PAME-Europe
at EUROPARC Federation



Europe's Protected Areas are precious strong holds for nature and people: our biodiversity, landscapes, economies, cultures, well-being and communities depend on them. That is why it is essential to manage Europe's Protected Areas effectively and know that what we are doing works.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

The 5 project partners are: EUROPARC Federation (DE & pan-Europe), DHP Conservation (CZ), Metsähallitus (FI), Nationale Naturlandschaften EV (DE), and Departament de Territori, Habitatge i Transició Ecològica (DTER, ES). They form the Project Coordination Team (PCT) and work closely with the project's Advisory Board, made up of 15 associate partners including representatives of national organisations from the Czech Republic, Estonia and Spain, as well as leading experts on PAME from Ireland and the UK. In addition, the European Commission Directorate-General for Environment (DG-ENV) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) are key stakeholders and project collaborators.



EUROPARC
FEDERATION

METSÄHALLITUS
FORSTSTYRELSEN
MEAHCIRÁÐÐEHUS

Nationale
Naturlandschaften



DH&P
CONSERVATION



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament de Territori, Habitatge
i Transició Ecològica**

Led by the EUROPARC Federation, the LIFE PAME-Europe project runs from 2024 to 2028. It aims to develop and test the 'PAME-Europe Framework', a coordinating approach to evaluate and self-assess management effectiveness in Protected Areas across Europe.

In 2026, working together with 45 pilot Protected Areas, the first version of the PAME-Europe Framework, will be applied and evaluated, together with a tool (to be developed by the European Environment Agency (EEA)). Based on their experience and feedback, the aim will be to produce a final tested version by 2028 which can be widely used as an 'enabling framework' (not a new methodology) to comprehensively assess Protected Area Management Effectiveness in Europe.

THE PAME-EUROPE FRAMEWORK

The process to develop the PAME-Europe Framework is at the heart of the project. Building on existing tools and methods, the Framework will be designed to be:

■ **Functional** and **beneficial to users**, providing valuable data and feedback, both for Protected Area managing authorities and EU institutions.

- **Time-efficient** using existing data and datasets, which can be pre-filled and further analysed – e.g. data and information about conservation objectives, pressures, conservation measures, monitoring of habitats and species, and conservation outcomes.
- **Flexible, simple to use** and **accessible** for application across a range of sites reportable to the EEA, including Natura 2000 sites and nationally/regionally designated Protected Areas.
- **Consistent**, with respect to the frequency of data collection and reporting practices for Natura 2000 sites and other Protected Areas.
- **Purpose-built**, to improve data management and identify gaps in information.

Integral to the project ethos is a non-judgemental approach: the main aim is to help and support Member States and Protected Areas across Europe to self-assess their progress towards their conservation objectives and planned conservation outcomes.

1. Site information
2. Conservation objectives
3. Pressures
4. Conservation measures
5. Monitoring
6. Conservation outcomes

ABOUT THE LIFE PAME-EUROPE PROJECT

Effective management of Protected Areas is central to the achievement of targets in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and commitments by the EU and its Member States under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. However, there are large gaps in knowledge about how to assess and report the effectiveness of management of Europe's Protected Areas. Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessment is often conducted inconsistently, sometimes only partially, or not at all.



The project timeline from the 2025 EUROPARC Conference in Lithuania to 2027 is summarised as follows:



PAME-EUROPE IT TOOL

The EEA's IT Tool will mirror the PAME-Europe Framework and ensure consistent collection of data and information about PA management effectiveness. The main elements are:

To avoid duplication and unnecessary burden, the EEA's PAME-Europe Tool will use (pre-filled) data already routinely gathered. The main aim is to improve reporting and enable meaningful assessment about the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts at national and European levels.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Working predominantly at site level, the PAME-Europe Framework and EEA Tool will be applied, tested, and evaluated across a wide diversity of Protected Areas – this includes terrestrial and marine ecosystems; small, medium and large Protected Areas; and Protected Areas with either one or multiple (overlapping) site designations, such as Natura 2000 sites and Protected Areas with other international or national designations.

In 2026, training will be provided for Protected Area practitioners in ~45 pilot sites across Europe about how to use the Framework and build greater understanding about why management effectiveness assessment is important for Protected Areas.

During 2027, based on their experience, a Pilot Action Report will be produced. Ten of the pilot PAs will be selected to host a one-day workshop to promote further roll-out and use of the PAME-Europe Framework. The 10 Protected Areas will be selected as 'models of excellence' to showcase best practices in using and applying the Framework, the practical solutions they developed to address any challenges, and the quality of data and PAME assessment results they have produced. In essence, they will be recognised as PAME-Europe pioneers.

Based on the experience and feedback gathered from all users, the Framework will be refined and finalised by 2028. The final version and accompanying recommendations will be presented at an end-of-project conference.



Advisory Board meeting in Helsinki.
Photo by Esther Bossink

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

The project's training and capacity building programme will mobilise the expertise of project partners and Advisory Board, share best practice case studies, and provide practical guidance and advice to support application, testing and evaluation of the PAME-Europe Framework.

The main aim of the training is to establish an active, 'co-learning community' of Protected Area practitioners engaged in assessing management effectiveness in PAs. Focused firmly on practical 'how to' training, the training and capacity building programme will help the pilot Protected Areas to apply the PAME-Europe Framework, support decision-making about nature conservation objectives, consider appropriate measures and enable progress towards desired conservation outcomes. There will be dedicated PAME-Europe space on the European Nature Academy (ENA), which will act as the online learning platform and Knowledge Hub for all materials and resources produced.

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

Throughout the project, LIFE PAME-Europe will work closely with the European Commission, the EEA and EU Member States (via the EU Commission Expert Group on Birds and Habitats Directives, NADEG). To complement this, the project is establishing a 'Management Effectiveness Community' (MEC) to ensure an inclusive engagement process. The MEC will act as a platform for broad collaboration and consultation with a range of stakeholders, including site managers, representatives of competent national, regional, and site-level authorities with overall responsibility for management of protected areas, NGOs, and other stakeholders. As key stakeholders and tool users, the MEC will be invited to give feedback so that what the project produces is justified by and beneficial for stakeholders.

GET INVOLVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

neil.mcintosh@europarc.org





Dusky grouper. Photo by Josep Clotas

100MPA MEDALLIANCE

BUILDING RESILIENT MARINE
PROTECTED AREAS TO FACE THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY BY 2030



Article written by **FERNANDO PINILLOS**

Communications and IT officer at EUROPARC Federation
and Project Manager for MPA4Change

The devastating effects of climate change on marine environments worldwide are well documented. These impacts often manifest as rising sea temperatures and marine heatwaves, which in turn trigger mass mortality events, ecosystem shifts, and other disruptions.

The 100MPA MedAlliance has been built in the framework of the Interreg Euro-MED MPA4Change (EURO-MED0200736) project

**100MPA
MedAlliance**
Building resilient MPAs
to face the climate
emergency by 2030

**Interreg
Euro-MED**



Co-funded by
the European Union

MPA4Change



In the Mediterranean Sea, these effects are particularly pronounced. This region, renowned as a biodiversity hotspot, is also among the most severely affected by climate change, with an alarming warming rate three times faster than the global average. The speed and scale of these changes have created a state of emergency, a climate emergency, that demands urgent and coordinated action.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND THEIR CLIMATE RESPONSE

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are widely recognised as effective Nature-based Solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, MPAs currently cover around 8% of the Mediterranean basin, an area insufficient to ensure the long-term protection of marine ecosystems. On top of that, only a small fraction of these MPAs have integrated climate adaptation measures into their management plans, limiting their ability to respond to the climate crisis and fulfil their conservation objectives.

THE 100MPA MEDALLIANCE - A FRAMEWORK FOR RESILIENCE

To address this gap, the Interreg Euro-MED MPA4Change project has launched a joint framework to strengthen the Mediterranean's resilience to climate change: the 100MPA MedAlliance.

This collaborative initiative aims to enhance the resilience to climate change and management effectiveness of the Mediterranean MPA system through the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in 100 MPAs across the basin by 2030.

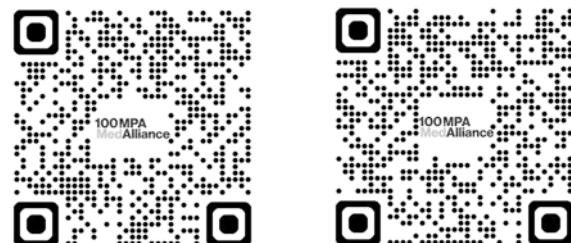
The 100MPA MedAlliance will support this effort by providing MPAs with validated climate adaptation toolkits, offering guidance throughout the adaptation process from a roster of experts, and promoting the integration of climate adaptation strategies into relevant EU and Mediterranean policies.

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

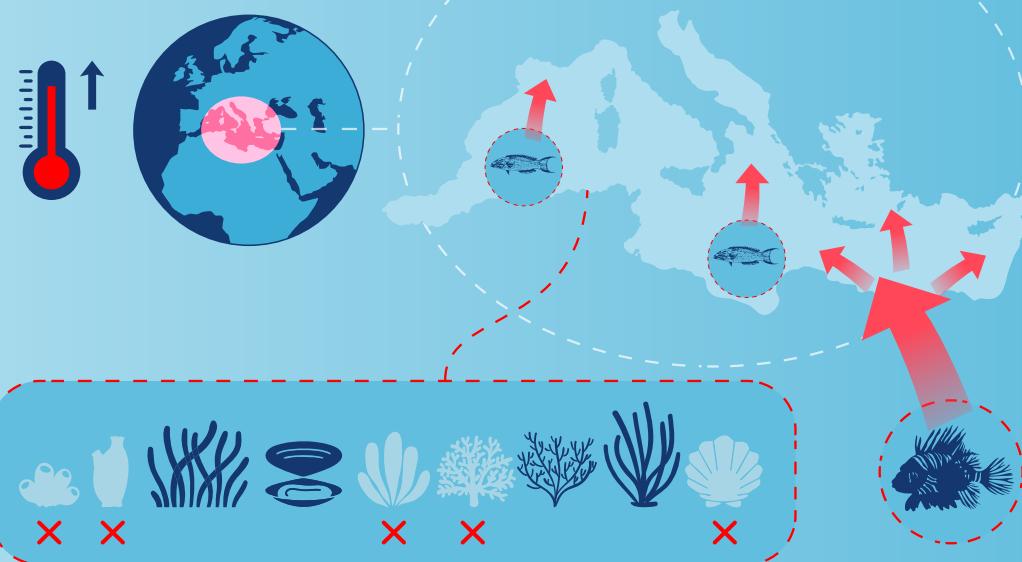
Among its recent milestones, MPA4Change has developed a series of policy briefs and advanced advocacy efforts at key international events. These briefs are strategic instruments designed to embed actionable recommendations into policy frameworks at all levels, with a particular focus on regional governance. They also aim to mobilise support from key stakeholders across the Mediterranean.

The first policy brief - *100 MPA MedAlliance: Empowering MPA Managers for Climate Resilience* - outlines strategic recommendations for embedding climate adaptation into MPA management. It serves as a call to action for governments, policymakers, MPA managers, and institutions to endorse the 100MPA MedAlliance, urgently integrate climate resilience into national and regional strategies and strengthen institutional support for the implementation of climate adaptation toolkits across Mediterranean MPAs.

For more information, visit the 100MPA MedAlliance website, subscribe to our mailing list, and follow us on LinkedIn.



“Climate change is affecting the Mediterranean more intensely than other regions of the world.”



Graphic by
Ondeuev

NATURACONNECT



Article written by **JEREMY DERTIEN**

Postdoctoral Researcher for Biodiversity Conservation at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig

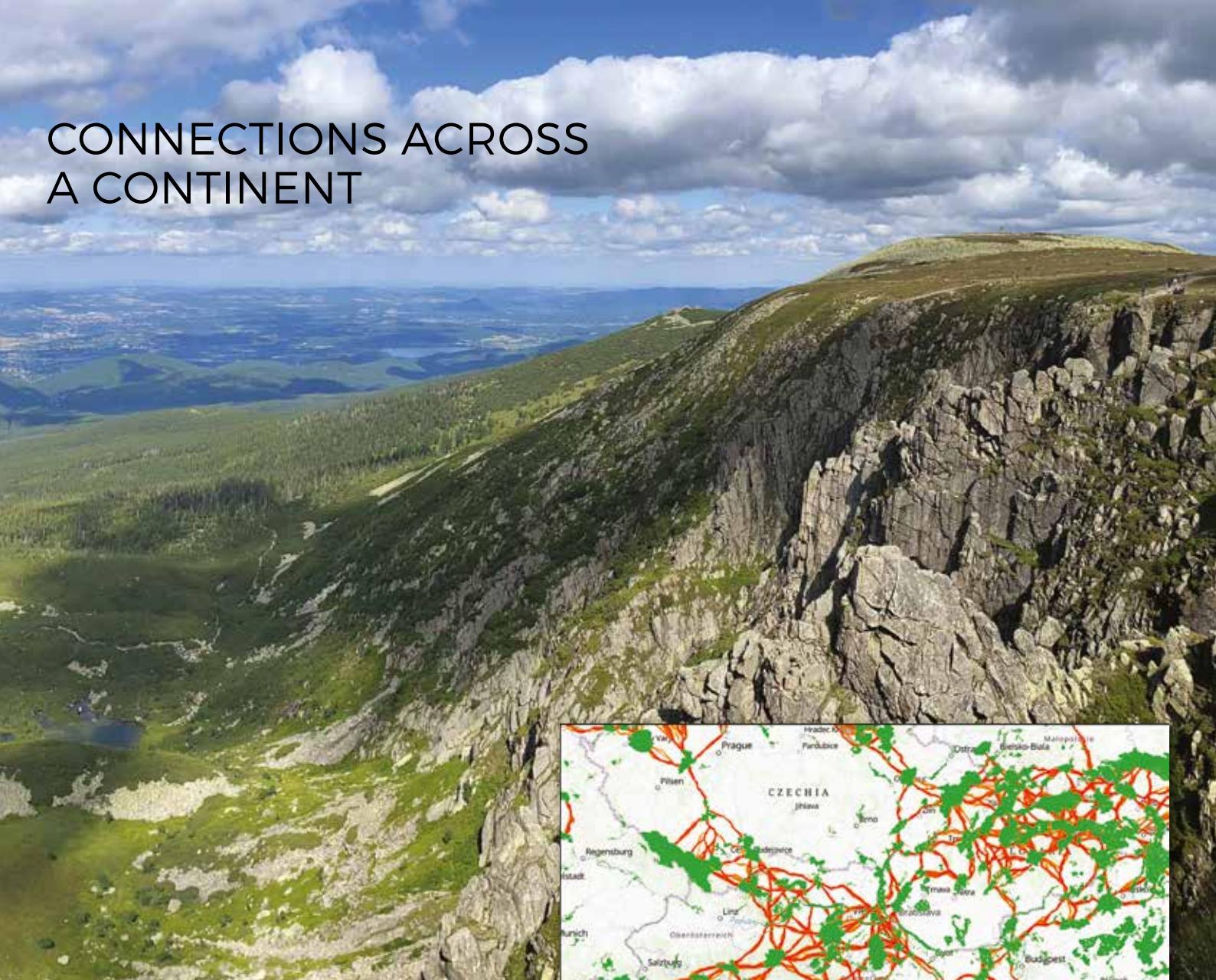


Funded by the European Union

NaturaConnect receives funding under the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 101060429

In the NaturaConnect project we have been working to identify the best means to create a Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) that expands the connectivity and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe. Our work in connectivity modelling specifically has combined multiple analytical methods to assess connectivity of both terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species. This work has included consolidating datasets on the locations of over 1,000 wildlife passages (e.g., green bridges) and over 12,600 freshwater barriers and utilising distribution data for nearly 1,000 wildlife species. Together, this is likely the most comprehensive connectivity assessment for any sub-continental region in the world.

CONNECTIONS ACROSS A CONTINENT



Transboundary landscape on the Poland/Czechia border, Karkonosze/Krkonoše National Park. Picture by Jeremy Dertien

PATHWAYS OF PROTECTION

In order to protect the connectivity for as many species as possible, we must first identify the corridors across Europe these species are likely to take or would likely take in the future. We analysed this "functional connectivity" for 30 terrestrial wildlife groups and over 40 select freshwater/riparian species. From these maps, we identified and prioritised ecological corridors between Protected Areas and priority watersheds for connectivity conservation.

These results also showed where wildlife movement is being compressed into very narrow corridors or where it is likely being blocked altogether. This data is of great importance if we want to improve ecological connectivity and biodiversity. Areas where movement is highly compressed are of high priority for protection or restoration, as these are the most likely to be cut off, or where human-wildlife conflict (such as roadkill) may be most likely.



Wildlife corridors of central Europe and the northern Balkans. Data and map by Jeremy Dertien

The importance of transboundary regions for connectivity conservation recurred frequently in the project results: transboundary connectivity was often highly prioritised, both for connectivity across borders and for corridors leading away from transboundary Protected Areas to non-transboundary Protected Areas.

Conservationists have long underlined the importance of transboundary areas to Europe's Protected Area network. Our findings contribute more evidence to that understanding of these Protected Areas' disproportionately large role in overall conservation.



Giant sandstone pillars of the transboundary Sächsische Schweiz National Park, picture by Jeremy Dertien

STRUCTURAL CONNECTIONS

We also assessed the structural connectivity (the physical connectedness) of 230 different habitats classified by the European Nature Information System (EUNIS). Structural connectivity shows how well habitat patches are linked, for example: a forest with isolated patches having low connectivity and a continuous forest having high connectivity. The result of this work is a series of EU-wide maps that show the structural connectivity score for each habitat type. Ongoing work is linking these results to the Annex I habitat types of the EU Habitats Directive. These maps will allow authorities to see for each Annex I habitat how well its patches are connected across the landscape, which will help with conservation planning and habitat management.

The project has also greatly contributed to the knowledge on structural connectivity of freshwater habitats. Our results highlight the sheer extent of disturbance that barriers have on dissecting freshwater streams and rivers. Across the greater EU area, the distance between barriers on streams and rivers was on average about seven kilometres. This points to the great lack of free-flowing connections for freshwater species. This could also be an overestimate as there are possibly hundreds or thousands of smaller unmapped freshwater barriers. Using our map data on freshwater structural connectivity can be a first step in restoration planning. However, increased efforts to map all freshwater barriers inside and outside of Protected Areas is key to best plan restoration efforts.

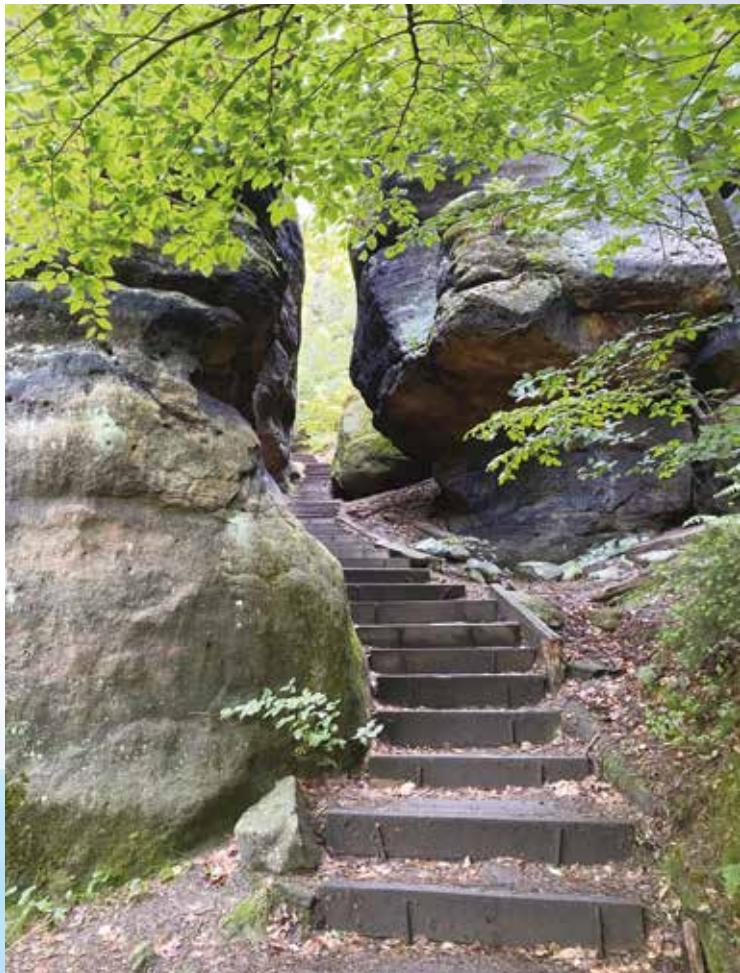


Maintaining and restoring structural and functional connectivity between natural areas is essential for functioning and robust ecosystems and wildlife populations. Using the data and maps provided by the NaturaConnect project will hopefully provide greater insight into how Protected Area and regional authorities can best conserve and restore our network of vital ecological connections.

The data is available on personal request and will be made publicly available fully in February 2026 at the NaturaConnect Zenodo webpage.

READ THE FULL REPORT

Narrow corridor between the rocks, Sächsische Schweiz National Park. Photo by Jeremy Dertien



A personal note from the author:

A GAP IN THE ROCKS: CONNECTIONS ACROSS A CONTINENT

Looking through the narrow gap in the rocks I knew it would be a tight squeeze. A path that had seen thousands of steps just this season, likely by many a more casual recreator, yet one I knew still needed my full attention in order to maintain my footing. Balancing my respect for the lichen and moss with the need for traction, I scraped my body through, assisted by an iron railing drilled into the rock over a century prior. With only a few more meters to the top I dusted myself off and continued only to be met by another barrier.

Hiking amongst the sandstone giants of Germany's Saxon Switzerland National Park is a true privilege. A unique transboundary landscape shaped by the mighty Elbe and shared with Czechia, it is a link in a chain of protection connecting western Europe with the northern Carpathian Mountains and beyond.

Traversing through those rocks was an all-day reminder of my work with the NaturaConnect project mapping connectivity across the continent for nearly a thousand species of animals.

Just like these towers of rock were natural barriers and provided very few cracks and crevices for my movement, human-built infrastructure and land alteration constricts pathways for animals trying to move between areas of habitat. Obstacles such as roads and railways, dams and powerlines, clear-cuts or very dense forests can act as physical or even deadly barriers to many animal species. The highly fragmented landscape found across much of Europe provides only isolated patches of usable habitat. This fragmentation breaks or leaves only narrow corridors for species to move between many of Europe's Protected Areas.



TRANSBOUNDARY RESTORATION PROJECT LIFE for MIRES



Article written by **IVANA BUFKOVÁ**

Geobotanist and Wetland Ecologist at Šumava National Park, Czechia

The Bavarian Forest National Park & Šumava National Park are characterised as the largest forest region in Central Europe. Together they are part of EUROPARC's Transboundary Parks Programme in 2025: they collaborate on conservation, education, tourism, and management practices.

One of their shared conservation projects is LIFE for MIRES, an initiative aimed at the restoration of peatland ecosystems across both National Parks and their surrounding areas.

Šumava is an important headwater area, as almost a third of the territory is covered by various wetlands with a high proportion of mires. About two thirds of Šumava's mires and more than half of other wetlands have been damaged by drainage, peat extraction or stream regulation. Hydrological restoration has been carried out in the Šumava National Park for 25 years: a third stage taken forward under the transboundary project LIFE for MIRES (LIFE 17/NAT/CZ/000452) was completed in 2024.

With wetlands recognised as some of the most important habitats for biodiversity and ecosystem services, LIFE for MIRES was dedicated to restoring wetlands over 2000 hectares. Also, the project aimed to improve public awareness about the importance of wetlands and the challenges in protecting them. Four institutions joined this challenging project: the Šumava National Park, the Bavarian Forest National Park, BUND Naturschutz, and the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice.

WATER RETURNS

The restoration of the water regime was carried out within entire micro-catchments. The aim was to return the natural form to springs, streams and wetlands and restore their functioning in the landscape. In the wetlands, the drainage ditches were closed by a cascade of wooden dams and then infilled with soil. The streams were returned to their original shallow and undulating beds. Several streams were returned from underground pipes back to the surface. The project highlighted the poor condition of drained springs and developed a technology for their restoration. The experience gained with hydrological restoration in the upper catchments was summarized and published.

FIELD MEASURES IN NUMBERS

During the six years of the project, the water regime was restored across a total area of 2,181 ha. There were 212 km of drainage channels closed, 35 km of natural streams and 28 springs restored. It is estimated that the measures helped to retain an additional 500 thousand cubic meters of water in the landscape.



INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Many volunteers participated in saving the wetlands, especially in places which machinery could not access. They helped with transport of material or with distribution of wetland vegetation. A total of 122 volunteer events called 'Days for Mires' were organised, in which 1,840 volunteers participated. They significantly contributed to the success of the restoration measures and huge thanks go to them.

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

A comprehensive teaching programme for schools on water and wetlands was developed. A picture textbook for pupils and a practical workbook were published in German and Czech. These were distributed to partner schools and environmental education centers in the Czech Republic and on the Bavarian side of the Transboundary area. A total of 3,230 pupils participated in the tutorial programme and many training courses for teachers were delivered. Three years of the „Great Wetland Competition“ for elementary school students have been announced. Their enthusiasm and the successes of the LIFE for MIRES project gives us hope that better times are ahead for wetlands.

READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT

*Volunteers help with infilling of the dammed drainage ditch by soil in site U Tremlů, Sumava National Park.
Photo by Lukas Linhart*

A snapshot from field teaching and an excursion for students on the restored Hučina stream, Sumava National Park. Photo by Lukas Linhart



SOCIAT TRAINING COURSE

ASSESSING THE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Article written by **NIKOLETA JONES**, Professor at the University of Warwick

and **SIMONE PRESTES DÜRRNAGEL**, Project Developer at EUROPARC Federation

In September 2025, the EUROPARC Federation and the University of Warwick launched the SOCIAT Training Course hosted on the European Nature Academy (ENA). This self-paced online course enables participants to utilise the SOCIAT tool to assess the multiple benefits that nature conservation provides for people.

SOCIAT Training Course

Social Impact Assessment Tool for Nature Protection and Restoration projects



UNIVERSITY
OF WARWICK



BENEFITS AND KEY COMPONENTS

The SOCIAT - Social Impact Assessment Tool for Nature Protection and Restoration projects helps conservation practitioners align nature conservation goals with community needs, while actively engaging them in the process and strengthening the relationship between people and nature.

The SOCIAT tool is a structured questionnaire grounded in conservation social science, environmental sociology, and behavioural science. It was developed alongside other innovative tools as part of the FIDELIO project (Forecasting Social Impacts of Biodiversity Conservation Policies in Europe), funded by the European Research Council through the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The FIDELIO project developed a framework to understand how Protected Areas are perceived, recognising that their effective management is often hindered by conflicts related to the social impacts they impose on local communities.



The SOCIAT tool provides evidence-based insights to:

- Capture community perspectives
- Strengthen governance and trust
- Align conservation goals with community wellbeing

Built around four key components that were identified during the FIDELIO research project, the SOCIAT tool offers a comprehensive framework by integrating aspects of:

- Governance
- Social Impacts
- Social Capital
- Public Support

SELF-PACED TRAINING COURSE

SOCIAT's holistic approach engages local communities to capture their perceptions, values, and concerns to foster trust and enhance collaboration in nature conservation.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FIDELIO PROJECT

JOIN THE SOCIAT TRAINING COURSE

The SOCIAT Training Course provides participants with step-by-step guidance on how to apply the tool, explanations of the indicators, and standards for analysing the collected social data. It guides participants through defining the research area and stakeholders, designing the research protocol, collecting and monitoring data, analysing trends and gaps, and turning findings into actionable recommendations.

This online self-paced course is organised into four modules, with lessons and quizzes in English, and a completion time of approximately 2.5 hours. It is tailored for NGOs and civil-sector professionals involved in management and decision-making, including Protected Areas practitioners such as guides, rangers, administrative staff, technical specialists, and managers.

SOCIAT REPORTS

SOCIAT is a user-friendly, cost-effective, and tested tool adaptable to all stages of Protected Area designation, policy development, or nature restoration projects. The tool has been applied at over 25 sites across Europe, engaging more than 6,000 participants in completing the questionnaire.

The SOCIAT Training Course provides access to a range of reports on the tool's applications, as well as testimonials from Protected Area practitioners who share their experiences and lessons learned in assessing social impacts. In the fourth module, participants can explore examples of SOCIAT applications, data analysis, and recommendations for Black Forest National Park (Schwarzwald) in Germany, Triglav National Park in Slovenia, and Sighișoara-Târnava Mare Natura 2000 Protected Area in Romania.

Sustainable conservation relies on recognising and integrating the social impacts of nature protection and restoration projects. SOCIAT helps practitioners understand community values, their perceptions and needs, fostering trust, collaboration, and inclusive participation. By addressing social challenges, conservation efforts can achieve outcomes where nature supports people, and people actively care for and sustain nature.

Kullaberg Nature Reserve, Sweden. Photo by Océane Bailly



HOW TO CREATE A NATIONAL PARK IN 334 DAYS?

A PARTICIPATORY
APPROACH TO PROTECTED
AREA GOVERNANCE



Article written by **JOHANNA BREYNE**

Director of the Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse
National Park, Belgium

THE PROJECT CALL

2021 marked a turning point for Protected Areas in Belgium: a unique combination of circumstances came together. It was the post-COVID period, which had highlighted the importance of natural spaces for recreation and public health; the European Union had launched its Recovery and Resilience Facility, providing significant funding for green development projects; and in Wallonia —nature policy is a regional competence in Belgium — a green Minister of Nature was in office. Inspired by the success of the Hoge Kempen National Park in Flanders, the Walloon Government decided to create two national parks, a category of Protected Area that was missing in the region until then.

The national park creation process was structured as a project call in two-phases. Territories were invited to submit their candidacy, from which an independent, multidisciplinary jury selected the best four projects three months later. Ten months later, the two most promising projects were chosen. A key condition for candidacy was the formation of a partner coalition, committed for 20 years, bringing together municipalities, the regional forest agency, key nature and tourism organisations, and other relevant stakeholders deemed relevant.



Fondry des Chiens. Photo by Peggy Schillemans



Due to the limited timeframe and competitive nature of the selection process, Coalition members had to make quick but ambitious decisions. Importantly, the Coalition agreed to operate on a consensus basis - both at the board and coalition levels - ensuring an equal voice for all members. Access was denied to individuals or entities with private interests, reinforcing the idea of the National Park project as a common good.

SECURING AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Since January 2023, the Partner Coalition has expanded to 26 members. In 2025, these members were formally integrated into the General Assembly of the National Park Association, reinforcing the legal and operational responsibilities of the Coalition. The National Park board was also expanded beyond the five founding associations to include representatives from all five participating municipalities. This naturally resulted in a diversity of political perspectives, reflecting the project's broad support and unifying vision.

The Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse National Park's 20-year vision is built around three central pillars: Renature, Reconnect, and Rethink. For the ESEM NP, rethinking Protected Area governance is not about finding compromises between conflicting interests: rather, it is about uniting stakeholders around an ambitious, values-driven project—one that envisions a just and resilient future for both nature and people.

THE CANDIDACY PROCESS

For the Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse National Park (ESEM NP), the process began in June 2021 with one motivated mayor and two nature organisations. What followed was a door-to-door effort to explain and advocate for this unique opportunity—both for nature and for local communities. Through meetings, workshops, thematic groups, summary reports, guided walks, field visits, and more, over 50 local partners came together to co-develop a 20-year vision for the National Park and a first 5-year operational plan.

Eventually, 18 partners formally committed by signing a 20-year collaboration agreement as part of the Partner Coalition and the new National Park Association was founded to submit the candidacy. In January 2023, ESEM NP was officially recognised as one of the two selected national parks, ranked as the jury's top choice.

**READ MORE ABOUT
THE EU'S RECOVERY AND
RESILIENCE FACILITY**



JUNIOR RANGERS ENHANCING POLLINATORS IN KRKA NATIONAL PARK



Article written by **NELLA SLAVICA**

Director of the Public Institute of
Krka National Park, Croatia

On the 24th of May 2025, the European Day of Parks, held this year under the theme 'Together for Nature', the first Croatian group of Junior Rangers was established in Krka National Park. A cooperation agreement was signed with the EUROPARC Federation as part of the Erasmus+ project *Raising environmental awareness among young people from Protected Areas*, which is fully financed by the European Union.

ABOUT THE PROJECT: INSPIRING YOUTH

The aims of the two year project are to: inform youth about climate change, raise awareness of the need to conserve nature and the environment, exchange experiences via joint platforms of Protected Areas, develop a system to motivate youth to participate in environmental conservation, to become connected in networks, and to exchange ideas. The project leader is the Ķemeru Nacionālā Parka Fonds (Latvia), the project partners are Gaujas Nacionālā Parka Fonds (Latvia), Kehittämisyhdistys Sepräry (Finland), and the Public Institute of Krka National Park (Croatia).



The long-standing dedication of the project partners in developing educational programmes intended for children and youth has played a key role in the successful implementation of the project activities. Creative workshops are designed for young rangers to develop their knowledge and wisdom. Nature inspires and enriches, and the young people living near Protected Areas have the opportunity to be in touch with the benefits of biodiversity every day. Given this, their task is even more important and special.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: THEY ARE SMALL, BUT ESSENTIAL

One of the first activities was a workshop on familiarisation with pollinators. The Junior Rangers were most interested in the colourful butterflies and the bees, known to be one of nature's greatest miracles: if the bees were to disappear, the world as we know it would cease to exist within three years. In addition to the bees, other pollinators also play a role in nature. They may be small, but they are essential, both our youth and the pollinators – their benefits to humanity and future generations are immeasurable. The focus on pollinators was a success: the pollinators received a new hotel and the youth got involved in nature restoration.



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

For the forty youth and their leaders, participation in this project was a rewarding experience. The project aims were achieved, and all project activities implemented. The first Croatian Junior Ranger group was established, a guide and methodology were drafted for implementation of the Junior Rangers programme, workshops with youth were held, and an art competition was carried out to design the project visuals. However, the greatest result of the project was the connection between nature and youth, which is sure to make them better students, wiser rangers, and more conscientious protectors of nature as they enter into adulthood.

We hope to see more Junior Rangers preserving and learning about the natural world, and that they inspire others to do the same!

READ MORE ABOUT THIS ERASMUS+ PROJECT



Photos of the Junior Rangers during the European Day of Parks. Photos by Katia Župan



JOINING FORCES: OUTDOOR SPORTS AND NATURE CONSERVATION

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE WITH THE EUROPARC-ENOS JOINT AWARD

This season, the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and Moors for the Future Partnership are celebrating receiving the EUROPARC-ENOS Joint Award for Outdoor Sports and Nature Conservation for their collaboration in peatland restoration. As part of the UK's Peak District National Park, Moors for the Future have been restoring once degraded peatlands, in partnership, right across the Dark Peak and South Pennine region since 2003.



Article written by **EMILY JONES**

Senior Communications Officer at Moors for the Future Partnership



Moors for the Future and BMC volunteer group in the Goyt Valley, UK. Photo by Emily Jones

WORKING TOGETHER: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

At the EUROPARC Conference Senior Conservation Works Officer, Jim Randle, proudly accepted the award on behalf of the whole team, acknowledging that the award recognises more than a successful project; it celebrates what is possible when peatland enthusiasts across conservation and sports come together to share their passion and commitment to nature recovery.

Building partnerships requires a high level of commitment to deliver shared goals: this is what successful partnership looks like in action. The BMC represents climbers, mountaineers and hillwalkers in England and Wales. They have a long history of conservation volunteering and fundraising to protect the landscapes they cherish. In this collaboration they were not only able to provide seed funding to kickstart an ambitious project of restoration but were more than happy to be 'hands on' as part of their Get Stuck In! programme. With great spirit, they joined the conservation

team on the moors in large numbers throughout the winter period. The volunteers meticulously hand-planted over 55,000 tiny sphagnum moss plug plants to help re-wet the moors.

Moors for the Future Partnership's evidence-led conservation approach and detailed restoration planning ensured that the sphagnum moss was planted into areas where re-wetting work had been carried out so it could thrive: the BMC's network of members provided the dedicated hands necessary to help to carry out the work with care and precision.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES: WE DID IT TOGETHER!

Coordinating volunteer days around factors like weather, access, and ecological or seasonal timing can be a challenge. However, embracing these challenges often leads to great rewards, even if that is merely a hot drink, a good conversation and a biscuit sat side by side on a windswept moor. What is great about doing sphagnum moss planting is it involves braving fickle weather conditions to do physically demanding tasks as a team. BMC members, more familiar with scaling peaks and covering great distances than crouching in bogs, found themselves learning to read the landscape in a different way, under The Partnership's guidance. What better way to bond than to share a day's work on the moors?

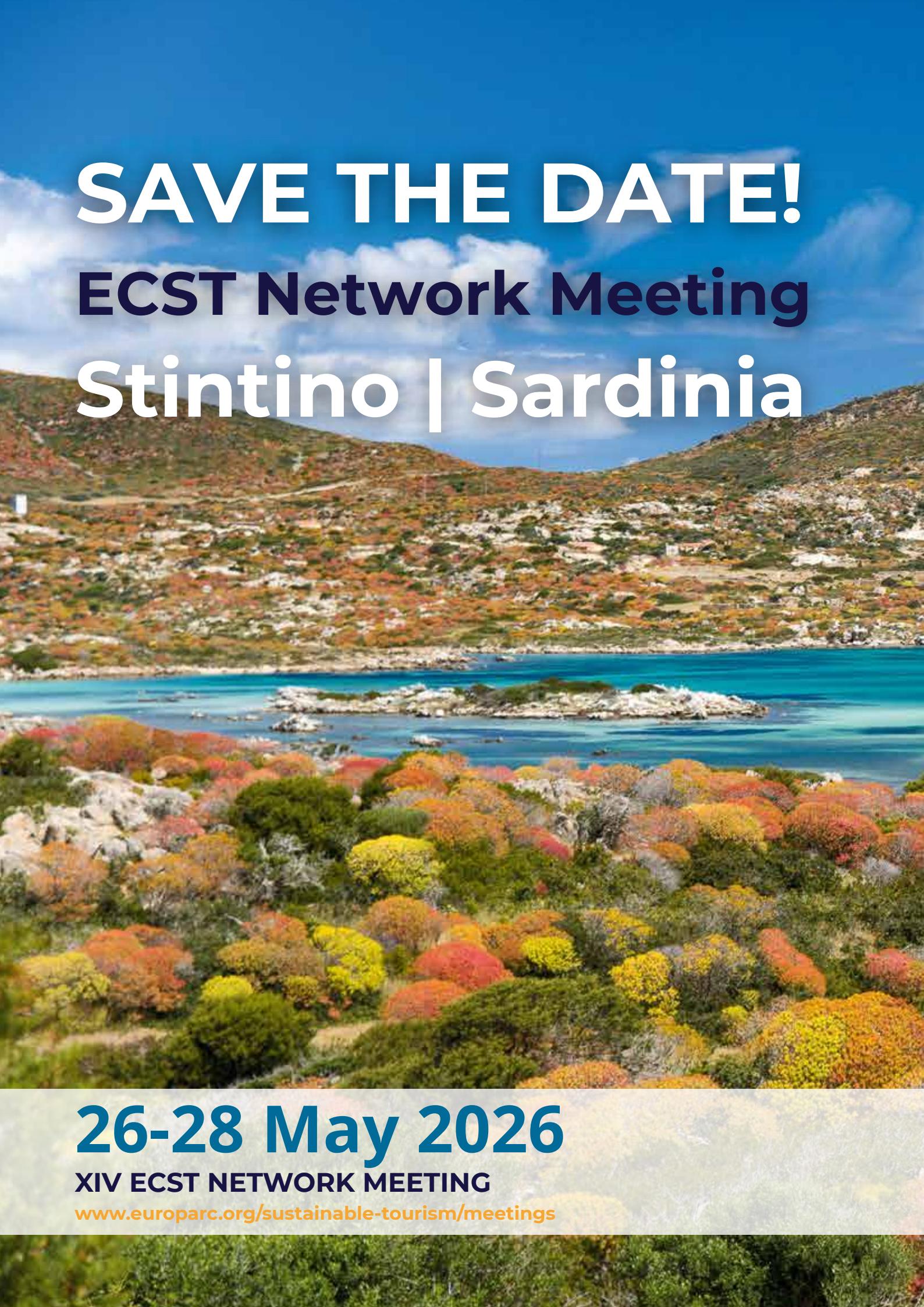


*Moors for the Future volunteers planting sphagnum moss in the Goyt Valley, UK.
Photo by Emily Jones*



**READ MORE
ABOUT THIS
PROJECT**

*Award ceremony at the
EUROPARC Conference 2025.
Photo by Vaidas Garla*



SAVE THE DATE!

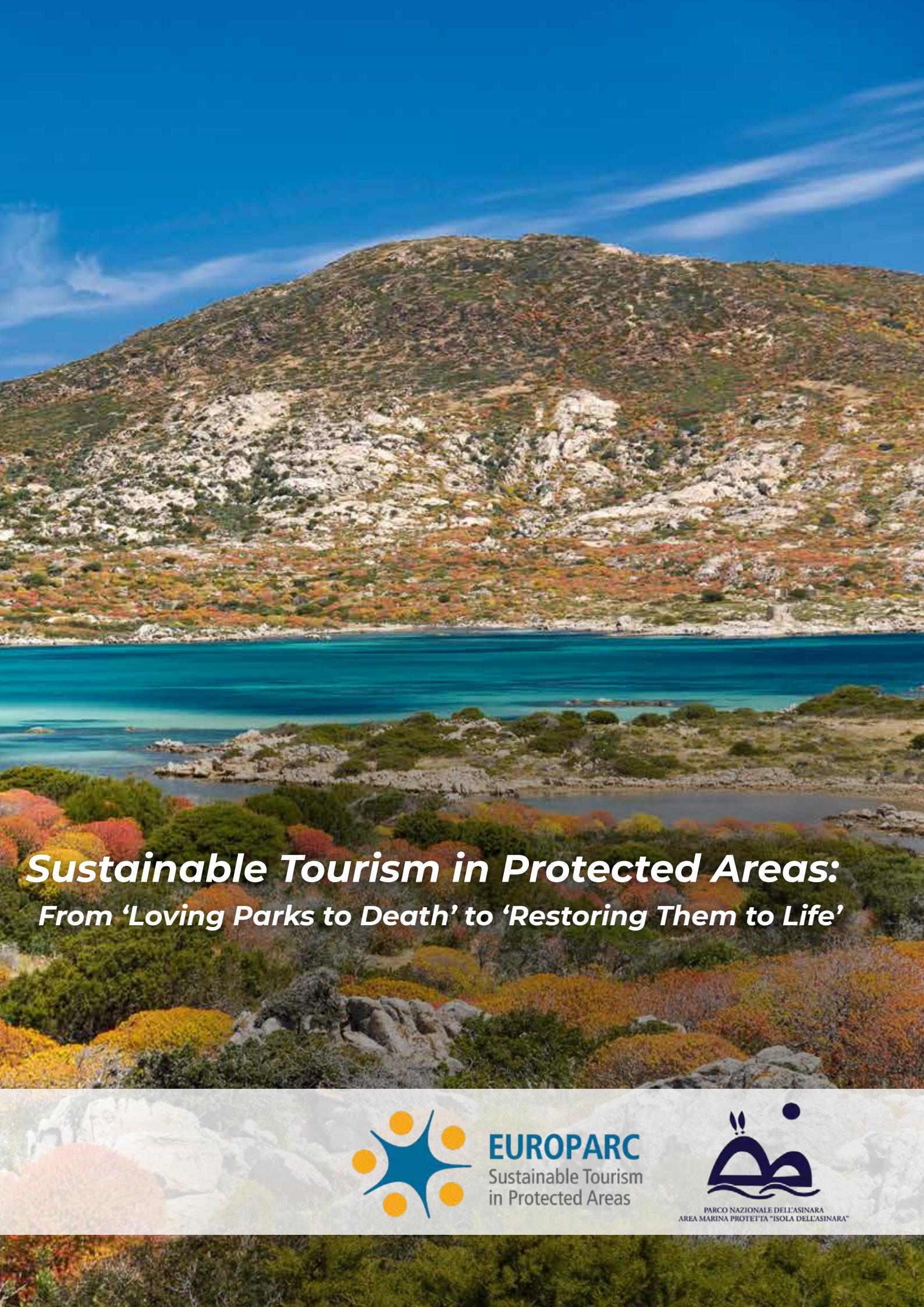
ECST Network Meeting

Stintino | Sardinia

26-28 May 2026

XIV ECST NETWORK MEETING

www.europarc.org/sustainable-tourism/meetings



Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas:

From 'Loving Parks to Death' to 'Restoring Them to Life'



EUROPARC
Sustainable Tourism
in Protected Areas



PARCO NAZIONALE DELL'ASINARA
AREA MARINA PROTETTA "ISOLA DELL'ASINARA"



WWW.EUROPARC.ORG