



24 MAY
2026

**Connected
by Nature**

#EuropeanDayofParks

European Day of Parks **2026** impact report

Activities, outreach and events



European Day of Parks 2026

Across Europe, the Parks and Protected Areas of Europe were **#ConnectedByNature** for the 2026 edition of the European Day of Parks!

Events, communication campaigns and social media activities once again shone a light on the vital work of Protected Areas across Europe.

The theme focused on ecological connectivity and its importance in supporting healthy, resilient ecosystems.

Read on to discover what happened this year!



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Connected
by Nature
#EuropeanDayofParks

The 2026 theme: Connected by Nature

All of us need connections to grow, live and learn. Our Protected Areas are no different.

Healthy ecosystems do not exist in isolation: they thrive when ecological connections are in place - wildlife corridors, linked habitats and landscapes that allow species to move, adapt and flourish.

Ecological connectivity ensures that our natural spaces are stronger and more resilient to pressures and change.

These connections often extend beyond the boundaries of any single Protected Area. To nurture nature, we need to think across borders, restore linkages, strengthen ecological networks, and build partnerships that bring together people, communities and nature.

For the 2026 European Day of Parks, we invited the Protected Area community to celebrate and strengthen these vital lifelines on and around 24 May.

The theme was developed together with our partner [Rewilding Europe](#), which works at a landscape scale to restore natural processes and reconnect nature. Together with a consortium of more than 20 universities and organisations, Rewilding Europe and EUROPARC are also partners in the Horizon Europe [NaturaConnect project](#), which focuses on creating a coherent Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N).

Outreach & Promotion

The European Day of Parks (EDoP) comes to life thanks to the active engagement of the Parks and Protected Area community. As organiser of EDoP, the EUROPARC Federation produces a range of materials to support Parks in organising events and raising awareness.

This year, EDoP generated:

+1200 views of the official guidelines.

+6000 views of the EDoP Pages

19 translations of the 2026 EDoP banner

All of this resulted in over **110 events registered** on our website. Across Europe, thanks to the support of our Sections and partners, many more events took place. Learn more on page 11 of this report!

Official EDoP Webinar

To celebrate the European Day of Parks, EUROPARC organised a webinar together with Rewilding Europe on 22 May. The webinar explored actions to strengthen ecological connectivity both within and beyond Protected Areas.

EUROPARC Webinar
22 May 2026
10:30 CEST

Connected by Nature
Ecological Connectivity in and beyond Protected Areas

europarc.org/europarc-webinars

Organised by: **24 May 2026**
Connected by Nature
Co-organised by Rewilding Europe

Together with:

Picture: © Juan Carlos Muñoz / Rewilding Europe

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0:06 / 12:13

Official EDoP Webinar

With contributions from the **EUROPARC Transboundary Park Maas-Schwalm-Nette**, **the NaturaConnect project and Rewilding Portugal**, participants learned about the diverse range of initiatives taking place across Europe to enhance ecological connectivity and increase the resilience of nature.

Based on the statistics, interest was high:

516 people registered

243 participants

+150 views of the recording

Social Media

The EUROPARC Federation created a dedicated social media pack to support everyone interested in raising awareness of the European Day of Parks.

Alongside the official banner in multiple languages, the pack included ready-made messages and additional graphic materials for use across different platforms.

These promotional efforts paid off, and **social media was buzzing with activity on 24 May!** We recorded:

+11.000 views on EUROPARC's EDoP posts

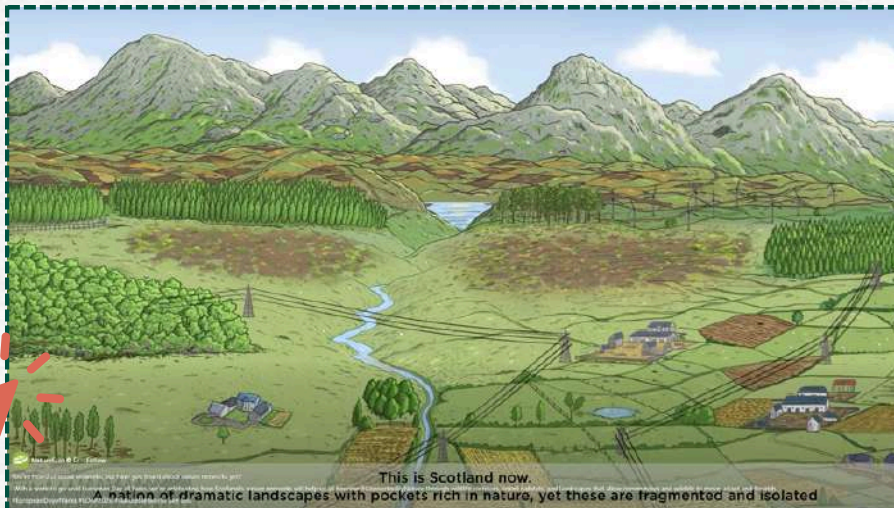
350 posts mentioning EDoP
with many more using national translations

Social Media

Parks and Protected Areas across Europe also took to social media to celebrate.

Nationale Naturlandschaften e.V., the German Section of EUROPARC, organised a social media campaign in which Germany's National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Nature Parks highlighted the importance of working across boundaries to create a stronger, better-connected natural environment.

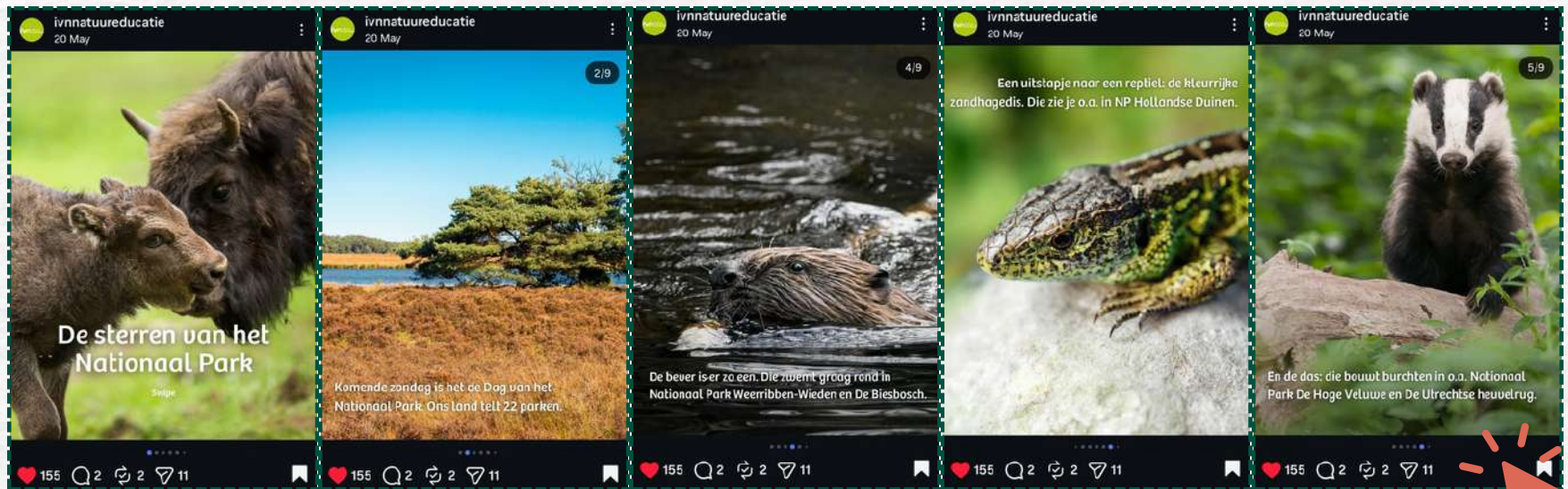
NatureScot, responsible for Scotland's natural heritage, produced videos showcasing how Scotland's Nature Networks will help the country become **#ConnectedByNature** through wildlife corridors, linked habitats and landscapes that allow both people and wildlife to move, adapt and flourish.



Post by NatureScot on Facebook

Social Media

IVN Natuureducatie, the leading nature education organisation in the Netherlands, highlighted the “Stars of the National Park” in a social media post, introducing some of the animals—large and small—that visitors can encounter in Dutch Protected Areas.



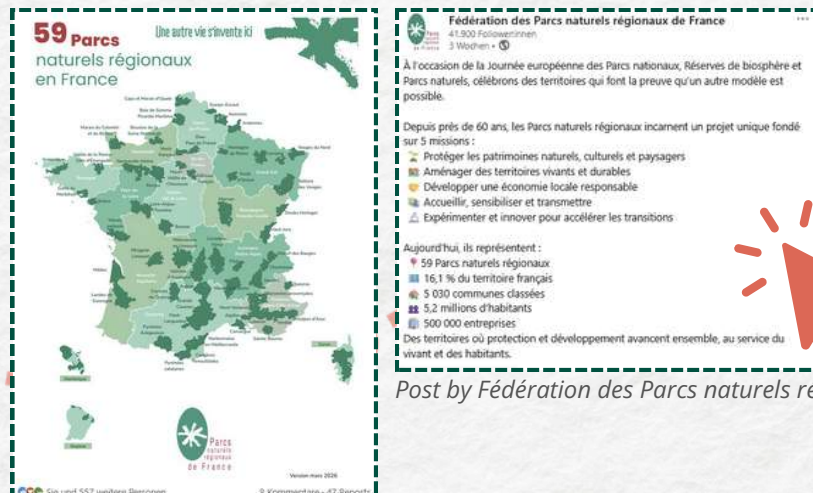
Post by IVN Natuureducatie on Instagram

The **Catalan Rural Agents** used the opportunity to remind visitors about responsible behaviour in protected spaces, emphasising that protecting the environment is everyone’s responsibility. The post gathered **over 1100 likes** - clearly resonating with the audience!

Social Media

Natuur en Bos in Flanders, Belgium's agency for nature and forest conservation, introduced the nine Protected Areas of Flanders through a **beautiful social media video**, highlighting what makes each of these places unique.

Fédération des Parcs naturels régionaux de France took to LinkedIn to showcase how the Nature Regional Parks from France have been working towards sustainable regional development for the past 60 years - underlining that **Protected Areas are places for nature AND people!**



This is just a small selection of the many posts celebrating **#EDoP2026**. On 24 May, the remarkable diversity of Europe's landscapes, cultures and Protected Areas was reflected across social media, demonstrating how Parks and people alike are truly **Connected by Nature**.

Events

Events are at the heart of the EDoP.

With more than **110 events** registered on the EUROPARC website, and many more taking place across Europe, there was plenty to discover and enjoy on and around the European Day of Parks.

Parks and Protected Areas invited people to get **#ConnectedByNature** through a wide range of activities - from guided hikes and family workshops, to biodiversity surveys and cultural celebrations, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Let's take a look at some of the events that took place across Europe.

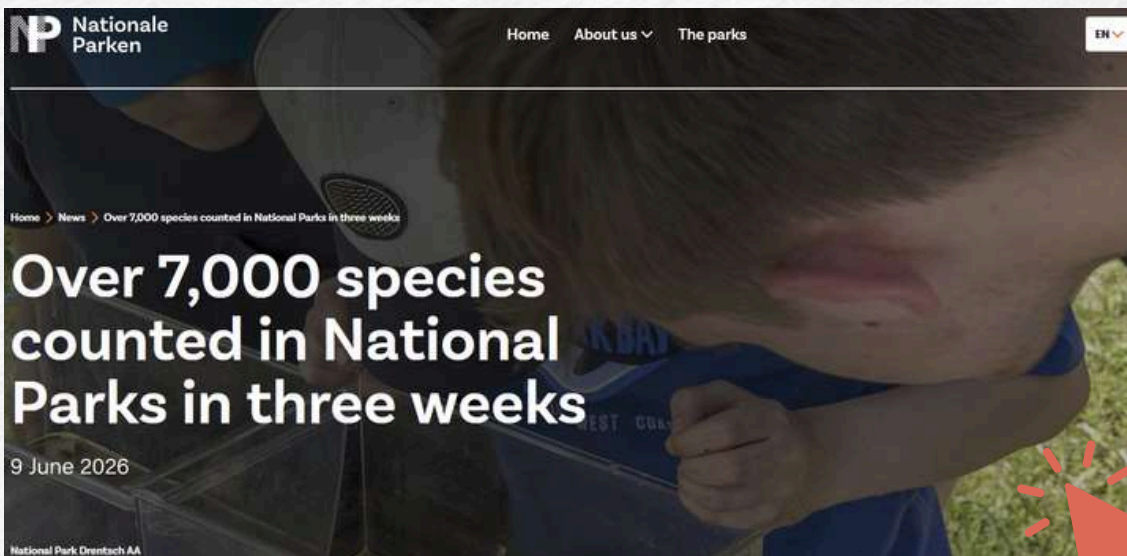


Events

Nationale Parkendag in Drentsche Aa, the Netherlands

National Park Drentsche Aa organised **a day full of activities** to celebrate the European Day of Parks. Children could discover aquatic species in ponds, while adult visitors learned more about the management and conservation initiatives of the National Park.

This was just one of more than **80 events organised across the Netherlands**. In addition, all Dutch National Parks came together to organise the Species Challenge. Using a dedicated observation app, visitors could record species encountered during their visit, helping to map the country's biodiversity. Approximately **15,000 participants** made nearly **482,000 observations** and recorded over **7,000 species!**



Article by Samenwerkingsverband Nationale Parken on their website

Events

Rewilding Landscapes join the celebrations

Rewilding Landscapes in France and Spain **organised a range of events** together with Protected Areas - from a Nature Observation Tourism Fair in Alto Tajo Nature Park, to a screening of a documentary on the Iberian lynx by Rewilding France, rewilding initiatives joined in the European Day of Parks celebrations.

National Parks of Austria showcase their beauty

Austria's National Parks celebrated the European Day of Parks with a **diverse programme of activities**. National Park Donau-Auen explored the habitats of the small reptiles that call the Park home, National Park Gesäuse introduced visitors to the fascinating world of orchids and explained why these delicate plants can only thrive in specific conditions, while National Park Neusiedler See–Seewinkel organised a guided bike tour highlighting the many responsibilities of National Parks.



Discovering butterflies in National Park Kalkalpen

Events

Czech Parks unite for the European Day of Parks

All four Czech National Parks — Krkonoše National Park, Šumava, Podyjí and Bohemian Switzerland — joined forces to celebrate the European Day of Parks with a **unified message**. While each Park hosted its own programme, they shared a common theme and coordinated communications to create a single, collective story.

Particularly special was the **celebration in Podyjí National Park, which marked 35 years since its designation**. The Park is also a EUROPARC-recognised Transboundary Protected Area together with its Austrian counterpart, Thayatal National Park. A varied family programme included nature-themed educational stations, games and creative activities.



Junior Rangers in Action in the Lake District National Park, UK

To celebrate #EDoP2026, young rangers from the Lake District National Park spent the day **repairing and maintaining footpaths** alongside Fix the Fells volunteers at Far Easdale on the Coast to Coast National Trail. The activity demonstrated how volunteering and youth engagement help bring Protected Areas to life.

Picture by the Lake District National Park

Events

Spanish Parks take EDoP to the next level

With 39 events registered on the EUROPARC website, Spanish Protected Areas once again embraced the European Day of Parks with enthusiasm. From a **BioBlitz** in Cap de Creus, to a **fair** celebrating the natural, cultural and gastronomic heritage of the Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu, there were many opportunities for people to connect with nature and the communities that help care for it.

Parkfest in Parco Prealpi Giulie, Italy

The 24th edition of Parkfest was also held on the European Day of Parks. The event showcases the nature reserves and **Parks of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Austria, Croatia and Slovenia**. Visitors could learn more about participating Protected Areas through exhibition information stands featuring local products, publications and examples of good practice from across the region. Participants also enjoyed guided walks and performances by Italian, Slovenian and Austrian folk groups.

Parkfest was just one of around **80 events organised in Italy** to celebrate the European Day of Parks.

Events

Connecting children to nature in Montenegro

At Biogradska Gora National Park, children from a local primary school were invited to **explore Biogradsko Lake**, surrounded by the primeval forest of Biogradska Gora — one of Europe's last remaining primeval forests.

The students also took part in an **educational workshop** and had the opportunity to ask questions to the Head of the Protection Service (Park Rangers Service), learning more about the work involved in protecting this unique natural heritage.

A #WalkInThePark in National Park Brabantse Wouden, Belgium

National Park Brabantse Wouden invited participants to take part in a **walk through the Park**. Park ambassadors were stationed at three locations throughout the Protected Area, highlighting its rich cultural and ecological values. The activities were specifically designed to be **accessible to a wide range of visitors**, helping more people connect with and learn about the Park.



Connected by Nature Across Europe

These examples represent only a small selection of the many events that took place across Europe.

It is impossible to highlight every activity organised in celebration of the European Day of Parks, but together they reached and engaged thousands of people: through hikes, games, celebrations, workshops and volunteer activities around 24 May, Parks and Protected Areas helped even more people become Connected by Nature.

It is the collective effort of Parks and Protected Areas that shines a spotlight on Europe's natural heritage, demonstrating just **how essential these places are to society as a whole.**

**EUROPARC sincerely
thanks everyone who
helped make EDoP 2026
such a success.**

About EDoP

The European Day of Parks is the most important awareness raising event for Protected Areas in Europe.

Taking place annually on 24th May, the multiplier effect of all events organised, as well as the outreach on (social) media, ensures that the importance of Protected Areas is drawn to the attention of a large audience. In turn, stimulating social acceptance and political support.

It is organised and promoted by the EUROPARC Federation.

www.europarc.org/european-day-of-parks



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