# Terms of Reference of

# Fedenatur/EUROPARC Periurban Working Group

| Periurban Parks / Fedenatur Working Group | |
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| **Purpose**<br>Why is this group being formed | The purpose of the working group is both to produce and promote policies for conservation and sustainable management of natural protected areas located in urban regions and peri-urban contexts and to advocate for the recognition of periurban parks as strategic infrastructures for ecological transition, public health and social wellbeing. |
| **Links to Strategy**<br>What specific area of the strategy this work is linked to ? | The Working Group's work is linked to all four pillars of EUROPARC's strategy. All strategic goals are important and well connected to the role that Periurban Parks play. However, due to their location in relation to the cities where most citizens live, work of this working group plays a more a central role and can give a stronger contribution in two pillars:<br>o 3rd pillar "Enhance the status of nature on land and sea and people's connection to it"<br>o 4th pillar "Promote sustainable development tools and approaches for people and nature". |
| **Membership**<br><br>who is membership of the group open to?<br>What kind of expertise or skills are needed. | The members of the Working Group are experienced managers of periurban parks (which are also members of EUROPARC) and executives in policy matters.<br>- The composition of the Working Group covers a wide range of entities such as public bodies, municipalities, private sector, NGOs, which contributes significantly to the more complete picture of the issues under consideration. Also, a wide geographical coverage of the whole of Europe is represented among the members of the Working Group.<br><br>The PU Working Group aims to collaborate with experts from other organisations and ensure their participation according to the issues addressed. It also seeks to establish an internal network of Protected Urban Parks within EUROPARC, facilitating the exchange and receipt of information, whilst improving geographical representation and cooperating with international associations (e.g. in outdoor sports or other sectors) to advance a more sustainable balance between public use and protection of nature. |
| **What benefits will membership of this group bring to its members.** | Networking, exchange of experience, promotion policy, participation in projects through meetings, workshops, webinars, technical meetings, and collaboration in projects |

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| **Term**<br>(Operating time-scale)<br>What is the anticipated duration? | Permanent |
| **Outcomes/Results**<br>What are the intended results or conclusions of the group? | The intended outcomes are that the whole society and, in particular, policy-makers value the role of periurban natural areas in the balance of cities and the well-being of urban dwellers.<br>Periurban Parks should be seen as important poles of ecological importance, biodiversity conservation, outdoor recreation, health promotion areas, education and research.<br><br>In order to achieve this, the PU WG will work to produce and promote both policies and guidelines for the conservation and sustainable management of natural protected areas located in urban regions and peri-urban contexts at local, regional, and European level. |
| **Outline workplan**<br>What do you plan to do and achieve for the period to 2028 | The group aims to address several topics most relevant to periurban parks. This may include (but is not limited to) managing nature under new challenges, addressing high visitor numbers, enhancing biodiversity, supporting pollinators, improving accessibility, restoring nature and landscapes, exploring new trends in environmental education, and developing new communication methods This will be done by:<br>● Organizing yearly webinars through EUROPARC<br>● Organizing workshops at EUROPARC's Conferences. Topics will be adapted to the main conference theme<br>● Enriching EUROPARC's knowledge hub with case studies<br>● Produce targeted reports (e.g. policy position papers) in the form of a toolkit, online brochure, case studies collection, or other best-fitting communication tool.<br>o Enlarge the inner network of PU Parks within the EUROPARC, whilst expanding geographical coverage.<br>o Collaboration with the other EUROPARC WG's (e.g. through organisation of shared webinars)<br>o Collaboration (creating synergies) with EEA , IUCN groups connected with the topic of PU parks, s Eurocities/ICLEI NBS group (as started through of the Life "UrbanGreeningPlans" project)<br>o Identify the most important themes that can be promoted through a joint project, such as with the help of LIFE funding |
| **Challenges and Opportunities** what do you envisage being the main challenges to a successful achievement of your | The main challenge:<br>- Time and resources limitations (human and financial)<br><br>Opportunities |

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| workplan and what they opportunities can you take advantage of that would support assist or multiple your efforts. | - EU DG ENV Unit D3 has already recognised periurban parks as a distinct type of natural area requiring differentiated recognition and treatment. In this context, the PU Working Group will continue to strengthen its work, increase visibility, and mobilise resources to support its goals. |
| **Working methods**<br>How will the group function?<br>Meetings/online access/F2f etc approx. how many/when<br>How will the group be managed? | Meet five times a year. Every two months with holiday season breaks.<br><br>Ideally, four times yearly online and once a year in presence, with sufficient dedicated discussion time.<br><br>If required, smaller groups can additionally meet for specific topics.<br><br>External collaborators may be invited to contribute specific insights and ideas. |
| **Reporting**<br>How will the group report its work, when and by whom.<br>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. | The group will draw up an annual report to be submitted to the Council before the general assembly, to review and evaluate the work of the WG and incorporate it into the annual report. The responsibility for drafting the report lies with the chairman.<br><br>If a special report is needed e.g., for a funder, the relevant adjustment can be made. Securing project funding is a constant goal of the PU WG. |
| **Review**<br>How and when will the work of the group be reviewed | The review of the WG's work is planned at the end of the term of this Council. To complete the process, a comprehensive report on the activities of the four years will be prepared. We also foresee an internal mid-review to assess that actions are going in the right direction and pace and to adapt as needed. |