



21-22 May 2015: 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and International Day for Biological Diversity

The European Diploma areas are of more than merely regional or national importance and have special significance for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of Europe's natural heritage. It was precisely to acknowledge the exceptional character of such areas that in 1965 the Council of Europe instituted the European Diploma, which places landscapes, nature reserves, national parks and other protected areas of European importance under the Council of Europe's auspices.

Strasbourg, 15 May 2015 – On 21-22 May the Council of Europe will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and the International Day for Biological Diversity through an international Workshop on “Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years”. The Workshop will take place at the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli (Italy), and is organised with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment of Italy and of the Tuscany Region, and in cooperation with EUROPARC Federation.

The participants will address the challenges that protected areas face in an interconnected world, where technology and globalisation are changing people's perception of the natural environment. The workshop will also serve to exchange experiences and ideas on: the use of information technologies and citizen science for sustainable conservation of areas of importance for biological diversity; how climate change, globalisation and invasive alien species will change the nature conservation policies and management; and innovative management of protected areas.

A video celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma will be officially launched during the Opening session.

For more information see [here](#).

Sustainable development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Bern Convention

Since more than 30 years the [Bern Convention](#) (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Bern 1979), underlines humankind's role in the conservation of the European natural heritage. Human beings have the duty to preserve wild flora, fauna, and their natural habitats, including water, both for the benefit of future generations and for the numerous services that nature provides for all of us. The Bern Convention is much more than a regional agreement about environmental protection: it is a tool for achieving sustainability and as such, it is an important European contribution to the sustainable development of life on this planet.