

E-News June 2009

Dear Members,

Welcome to our June E-News! This month we entered into the regular registration fee time slot for **EUROPARC 2009**. The deadline for regular registration is 14th August. After that we enter the more expensive late fee period. We also started intensifying intern organisation for the conference, visited numerous events and still found time to work on numerous projects all of which you can read about here.

When you have finished reading this great issue, why not have a look at Mr Dominique Leveque's election video, which will be available within the next few days; log in to our [members area](#) and answer some of the notices or add something to the [notice board](#); read the June [news from Brussels](#); or register for [EUROPARC 2009](#).

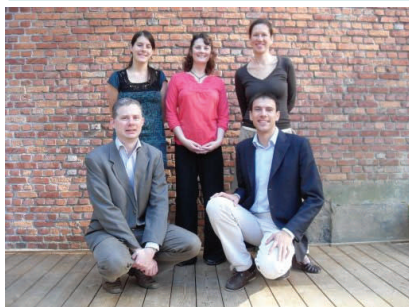
Your EUROPARC Team

Grafenau team visits Brussels

The EUROPARC Directorates first team meeting in Brussels took place from 22 – 24th June. Regular communication between the two offices also includes joint team meetings at various times throughout the year to discuss work planning, activities and policy. This however was the first time a meeting had been held in Brussels enabling the Grafenau team to experience the new Brussels office in The Brussels Sustainable House and attend some of the Green Week events which started that week.

Apart from having fun using different icebreaking techniques for creativity, the team also discussed project management possibilities, looked at new projects in which EUROPARC is participating, for example the Parks and Benefits project and planned the tasks of the Directorate at the Conference this year. In addition an in depth look was taken at the whole Federation work plan and at individual work plans as well for 2009 and 2010 and work monitoring systems were agreed on.

Director Carol Ritchie and Vice Director Richard Blackman also met with Neil McCarthy and Zoe Wilkinson of the [Australian and New Zealand Parks Forum](#) to discuss possible cooperation and the rest of the team joined them for a great meal in the evening and discussions about issues in Australia protected area management and much more.



Above: The EUROPARC Directorate (minus two) in Brussels. EUROPARC with Neil and Zoe from the Australian Park Forum



Read the June Brussels News online now.

The Brussels Bulletin is compiled by EUROPARC for its members to keep them informed about current news, legislation and policy affecting protected area management from Brussels.

This month we bring you news about the Swedish Presidency of the EU, The Green Week 2009, the EU annual environmental policy review, a new agriculture and food education scheme and much more.

[Login and download the PDF](#)

EUROPARC's annual General Assembly 2009

A reminder to all members that the annual General Assembly of the EUROPARC Federation will take place on the 10th September at the Quality Spa hotel in Strömstad, Sweden.

Any matters you wish the assembly to consider, please submit them to me as soon as possible so that the council can agree the agenda. The agenda will be released at the end of July. Official notification will be sent directly to members via email, with reports and papers to follow. **All members are very welcome to attend!**

As indicated in the March issue of the E-News, the election of the one remaining place on the EUROPARC council will take place at the general assembly. There is one candidate: Mr Dominique Leveque, President of the Montagne De Reims Regional Park in France. His election material will be available on the website next week.

Members please note: if you are wishing to cast a proxy vote in this election, or for any other matter that will be on the agenda, the statutes regarding proxy voting have changed. The statutes now read: **Article 3 f) Voting rights may be delegated in writing to a member present. One member however, shall not have votes from more than five different members.**

So this means member attending the general assembly **may carry the proxy votes with written authorisation from only 5 other members**. A section representative **does not** constitute a member. So **section directors or co-ordinators cannot carry proxy votes on behalf of members** (except where, in the case of section presidents, they are acting as a member). If you need clarification on this point don't hesitate to [get in touch with us](#).



At the end of the month 22 Junior Rangers of between 12 and 18 years, from 10 European countries will be travelling with their mentors to join Parc Natural de Aiguamolls de l'Emporda in Catalunya (ES) for a week of Junior Ranger antics at the 8th International Junior Ranger Camp.

You will enjoy a fun packed programme including fieldwork in the park, games on the beach and cultural activities, e.g. a visit to the Dalí museum in Figueres. They will also get to discover the beautiful Catalonia through a visit to three of the regions natural parks: Parc Natural de Cap de Creus, the Paratge Natural de l'Albera, Parc Natural de les Illes Medes.

In addition, the Junior Rangers will give a short presentation about the country and park that they come from as well as their Junior Ranger activities.

For information about how the camp went watch this space...

It is with sadness that we announce the death of honorary EUROPARC member Dr Jean Friedrich.

Mr Friedrich was our internal auditor for a considerable period and as such was considerably involved in the Federations work. Aitken Clark, chairman of the EUROPARC Consulting Board and long term EUROPARC'er said "I am sorry to learn of Jean Friedrich's death. He was a charming, kind man. At 87 it is a life celebration, is it not?"

EUROPARC sends its condolences to family members and those who were close to Jean Friedrich and will remember him for his active involvement in the Federation.

If you no longer wish to receive these updates from us or you have any questions or comments please write to us at office@europarc.org. Please circulate this E-News within your organisation and to others who might be interested!

EUROPARC Council and Sections meet in the Peak District National Park

Representatives of the EUROPARC Sections came together with the EUROPARC Federation Council at Losehill Hall in the **Peak District National Park** (PDNP), England, on 22 May. Discussion focused on optimizing the working relationships of the Sections and the Directorate to ensure that the goals of the EUROPARC strategy can be fully achieved and in turn make the Federation stronger. An exchange of information on recent, current and forthcoming activities took place. In addition, the meeting also looked at the lobbying role of the Federation and how this could be developed.

After the joint meeting the EUROPARC Federation Council continued talks in the Peak District. Agenda items included future cooperation with Eurosite, the role of working groups within the Federation and the development of EUROPARC's lobbying strategy. Council was joined by Martin Lane, Chair of EUROPARC Atlantic Isles and Director of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, as co-opted member representing the EUROPARC Sections.

The Council also enjoyed a productive meeting with the Acting Chair of Natural England, Poul Christensen, and other senior representatives of the statutory nature conservation agencies in England, as well as Narendra Bajaria and Jim Dixon, Chair and Director of the PDNP Authority.



Chrome Hill, Peak District National Park.
Picture: PDNP Authority



100 years of National Parks in Europe - Sweden, where this year's **EUROPARC Conference 2009** will be held in September, is a long country with a varied landscape, from fertile deciduous forests in the south to barren arctic mountain tops in the north.

EUROPARC Conference 2009: From pollard trees to polar breeze

It's **Right to Public Access** gives everyone the unique right to roam and enjoy the countryside freely as long as the nature and wildlife are not disturbed and provides access to diverse and unspoilt natural gems...

Sweden has a large number of lakes, more than most other countries in Europe. In the north several large rivers are kept completely free from hydroelectric power plants, thus providing unspoiled watercourses for naturally breeding fish populations. Various types of pristine peat lands cover large areas of the country, ranging from huge aapa mires in the north, to raised bogs in the southwest. Sweden is therefore an important country for migrating birds that nest in subarctic wetlands.

Unfertilised pasturelands still carry remnants of the ancient mammoth. They also contain ancient oaks and old pollard trees, home to numerous species of lichens, insects, and fungi. The deciduous forests of southern Sweden are among the most important remnants of the vast nemoral forests that once covered north western Europe. The Swedish nemoral forests are relatively unaffected by air pollution and forestry.

Few countries have such a variety of surrounding sea water as Sweden. The salinity ranges from almost oceanic on the west coast, brackish in the Baltic Sea, to almost fresh water in the northernmost Gulf of Bothnia.

Within a few hours from the town of Strömstad, the location of EUROPARC 2009, it is possible to explore and experience several characteristic Swedish ecosystems. Conference delegates are offered a variety of choices to explore these natural gems both during pre-conference tours and conference excursions.

Text and photo: Dr. Johan Rova

Garphyttans National Park, Sweden



Parks and Benefits Interreg group starts thematic work

Representatives of the partners in the Parks & Benefits Interreg project gathered in the Maribosoerne Nature Park in Denmark from 8-11 June to start the thematic work of the project, which aims to generate socio-economic effects through the sustainable management of protected areas for the benefit of their regions.

At the heart of the project is the implementation of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, and as such, presentations were made on the Charter – both from a theoretical perspective (Richard Blackman, EUROPARC) and from a practical point of view (Saara Airaksinen, Finnish Charter member Syöte National Park). The group also heard about the state of play relating to tourism

development in the partner parks intending to implement the Charter during the project: Müritz National Park (D), South East Rügen Biosphere Reserve (D), Kemeru National Park (LV), Maribosoerne Nature Park (DK), Zemaitija National Park (LT), Kurtuvenai Regional Park (LT) and Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella National Park (N).

Participants also examined the issues of the Charter in the context of the European Landscape Convention, visitor



Maribosoerne Nature Park (DK)



Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund)



New notices on the notice board at EUROPARC's exclusive online members area.

Call out for information for a project on the evaluation of protected area management effectiveness; invitation and information about this year's EUROPARC AGM; free training possibilities in the Carpathians for protected area employees organised by EUROPARC Consulting; search for people interested in working with protected areas in the Ukraine; call out for partners for a LAG project in France concerning eco buildings.

Login at www.europarc.org/members

Forgotten your password? Please write to Morwenna Parkyn for a reminder.

European Charter Partners: the biggest Network of sustainable tourism businesses in Europe?

143 local tourism businesses belonging to nine Charter areas in three European countries have so far been certified as Charter Partners in the framework of Charter Part II. Ten Charter areas from five countries are preparing the start of Part II of the Charter or are already in the process of certification, involving around 150 local tourism businesses. This growing network of tourism business is on its way to be one of the biggest networks of tourism companies dedicated to the principles of sustainable tourism and working in close cooperation with their protected area.

Preparing...

The EUROPARC Federation started drawing up a framework for Part II of the European Charter in 2005. The official text was approved by the EUROPARC Council in May 2007. A major part of part II is the European Charter Partner Programme, which enables individual tourism businesses working together with protected area authorities, to become recognised as European Charter Partners. Finding an approach that works for all Charter protected areas located in different European countries with diverse approaches is major challenge.

[Read more about the European Charter Partner Programme](#)



Certified Charter Protected Area Coto Doñana national park. Photo: Coto Doñana national park

New Natural UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Eight new World Heritage Sites were added to the [United Nations World Heritage List](#) at the heritage committee's meeting in Seville on June 26. Two of these were natural sites: Italy's Dolomite mountains and the Wadden Sea Ecosystem, tidal flats in the North Sea basin between Germany and the Netherlands.



The Dolomites (Italy) comprise a mountain range in the northern Italian Alps, numbering 18 peaks which rise to above 3,000 metres and cover 141,903 ha. The area includes seven protected areas (four of which are EUROPARC members): the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, the Natural Parks of Paneveggio Pale di San Martino, Adamello Brenta, Dolomiti Friulane, Dolomiti d'Ampezzo, Dolomiti di Sesto and Fanes Senes Braies. It features some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes, with vertical walls, sheer cliffs and a high density of narrow, deep and long valleys. The nine areas present a diversity of spectacular



The Dolomites (IT)

landscapes of international significance for geomorphology, for example steeples, pinnacles, rock walls, glacial landforms and karst systems. The site is characterized by dynamic processes including frequent landslides, floods and avalanches and also features one of the best examples of Mesozoic carbonate platform systems with fossil records...

The Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park (DE)

[Read more about the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park](#)

Networking world natural heritage sites

The Thuringian Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and the Environment (D) hosted an international conference in Bad Langensalza, Thuringia, from 12-14 June on the subject of networking in nature conservation in the face of climate change, which EUROPARC attended.

With the nearby [Hainich National Park](#) as part of a collective application to nominate beech forests in Germany on the UNESCO world natural heritage list, the first day focused on the networking of world natural heritage sites in Europe. The second day examined wider issues relating to networking, nature conservation and climate change, with workshops on biological diversity, sustainable economic development and environmental education.

Participants were also able to hear EU perspectives on rural development in the context of climate change thanks to a presentation from Antonis Constantinou, Director in DG Agriculture of the European Commission, as on EU climate change policy in its entirety through a speech from Johannes Enzmann, who works on Emissions Trading in DG Environment.

A new Ambassador for Protected Areas in the EU

Congratulations to Franco Bonanini, the 57 year old president of the Cinque Terre National Park, in Italy since 1999, who has been elected to the European Parliament!

After discovering the news Franco commented: "Apart from not forgetting to put some "Limoncello" in my suitcase, I will bring the needs and expectations of the protected areas to Strasburg. This is a great opportunity for parks and reserves requiring protection and enhancement."



The future of Europe is in the improvement of valuable, rural areas, which, at the same time, cannot do without the great opportunities offered by the EU. After years of urbanisation and development of towns and cities, I am convinced that the coming years will mark the return of the environment. This will not only benefit individual protected areas such as Cinque Terre but also the entire network of protected areas in Europe: I will work to give a voice to the potential from these places!"

Czech EU Presidency conference's message on wilderness

Some 250 people from across Europe attended the Czech EU Presidency conference on wilderness and large natural habitat areas in Prague on 27 and 28 May. Around 40 delegates representing EUROPARC member organizations were present as well as EUROPARC's Vice Director, Richard Blackman.

On the first day, which saw a key note speech from former Czech President, Vaclav Havel, the conference considered the extent of wilderness in Europe, how a wilderness approach to nature management could be applied in Europe and how partnerships could be developed to aid protection of wilderness. The second day was devoted primarily to restoration issues and opportunities for re-wilding in Europe.

By the end of the conference participants had put together a "Message from Prague" including recommendations to the European Commission, EU Member States and other stakeholders to work on the areas of policy development, awareness building, information provision and supporting capacity. Download the [full text of the "Message from Prague"](#).



Scenes from the wilderness conference. Photos: Barbara Merlino



EUROPARC Consulting's Corner: more action in the Carpathians

EUROPARC Consulting's involvement in the Carpathian Eco-region continues vigorously. The village of Szarvasko, on the edge of the Bükk National Park (HU), was the venue for the second 'Training Champion' seminar. The Training Champions Programme, supported through the WWF 'Protected Areas for a Living Planet Programme', is designed to develop the skills of a core group of trainees from protected areas in the Carpathian Eco-region, particularly in communication, management planning, sustainable tourism and community involvement. This is being achieved through training events led by Rosie Simpson and Keith Buchanan from EUROPARC Consulting.

The ambitious programme aimed to introduce the concept, principles and implementation of sustainable tourism in protected areas; review and develop thinking on protected area management planning; evaluate approaches to training and communications for protected area management. Included were sessions on training nature guides, involving local stakeholders in developing tourism, management planning software and adaptive management. Participants contributed through plenary and group discussions, oral reports, presentations, written records of sessions and feedback. The group also developed ideas and material to use after the course.

14 participants from seven countries in the Carpathian Region took part in the event which ran from the 21st to the 25th April. Included in the programme was an excellent field visit to the Szilvasvarad valley and the Bükk Plateau where many issues in relation to visitor management and sustainable tourism were explored.

Feedback from participants was very good and positive and all involved are looking forward to the next event in Romania in September. EUROPARC Consulting is continuing its close involvement in Eastern Europe and would love to hear of other initiatives going on in the region.

Keith Buchanan, Rosie Simpson and [Wilf Fenten, EUROPARC Consulting GmbH](#).



Participants of the Training Champions Course. Photo: EUROPARC Consulting

ESPARC 2009: 15th EUROPARC-Spain Annual Congress

The 15th EUROPARC-Spain Annual Conference (ESPARC 2009) was held in Comillas, Cantabria, from 10 to 14 June. The topic of the event was Towards a sustainable rural development: the contribution of protected areas. This year's conference was organised by the Government of Cantabria and EUROPARC-Spain, in collaboration with the National Parks Authority. More than 170 participants attended.

The opening speech was given by Jesus Casas, representative of the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs. The Conference was divided into 4 technical sessions:

- Sustainable tourism: an engine for development and all for conservation
- Quality measures for nature conservation in protected areas
- Rural development and conservation: joining efforts from institutions
- Rural development and conservation: stakeholder experience

In addition, 20 practical experiences were presented, as well as two technical sessions related to the on-site visits, where participants learnt about pasturelands and coastal ecosystems management.

[Martha Mugica](#) and [Javier Puertas](#), EUROPARC Spain



ESPARC 2009, attended by EUROPARC's project manager Diana Gallrapp, was a great success and the Sobrellano palace was a perfect surrounding for the ratification of the new Programme of Work for Spanish protected areas 2009-2013 presented by the EUROPARC Spain.



This year the conference, which looked at the contribution of protected areas to sustainable rural development, demonstrated once again the competency of the Spanish EUROPARC team and enabled lively discussions about priorities and current issues of nature conservation and protected area management. Topics such as sustainable tourism, quality management standards and the contribution of protected areas to a sustainable rural development are not only of

interest for Spain but are also significant for all EUROPARC members and will, in fact, be followed up at the EUROPARC Conference in Sweden.

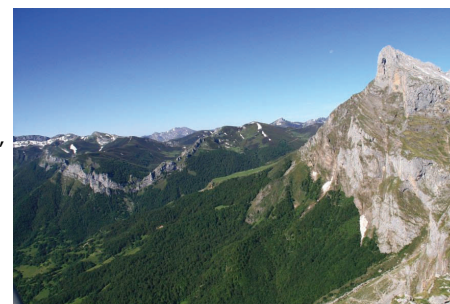
In the two workshops on **rural development** the common efforts of public institutions at different levels and private stakeholders to assure a better balance between the objectives of rural development and those of nature conservation were highlighted. Particular attention was given to European Union policies and legislation in this field and their implementation at national and regional levels.

The workshop on **sustainable tourism** focused on the European Charta of Sustainable Tourism, which has been consolidated as a great planning instrument for tourism in Spanish protected areas and their socioeconomic influence.

In addition, EUROPARC Spain presented their **guidelines for quality standards**, which are one of the main parts of the Programme of Work for Protected Areas in Spain. They aim to ensure the efficient management of protected areas and with it their natural and social values and benefits.

Last but not least we cannot forget to mention the great excursions to the Picos de Europa National Park and the Marismas de Santona Nature Park. They gave participants the chance to enjoy Cantabria's wonderful and unique natural values to learn about the challenges that these areas face.

[Diana Gallrapp](#), the EUROPARC Directorate



The Picos de Europa National Park

New NORDIC Baltic Section coordinator



Just a short note to inform you that Miss Lena Malmström has replaced Evelina Selander as the new coordinator for the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section! She will work from Stockholm County administration and you might have noticed her work on the European Day of Parks.

Lena has a degree in biology and has recently worked for the Swedish public service television company, SVT, as a journalist on their successful wildlife and environmental shows. She is also currently working for the County Administrative Boards of Sweden with Nature's Year 2009 – the celebration of 100 years of nature conservation and national parks in Sweden.

You can contact her under 0046 8 785 43 43 or at lena.malmstrom@naturvardsverket.se

Evelina left a few months ago to go on pregnancy leave and the Nordic-Baltic Section is very happy to announce that Ms Evelina Selander gave birth to healthy twins on June 19th.