

The EUROPARC Federation

The voice of Europe's protected areas



E-News October 2008

Stepping up to the challenge — EUROPARC 2008



A dozen Romanian dancers, brimming with vitality, kicked off the 2008 EUROPARC conference in Poiana Brasov with strength and style.

Three busy days later, it seemed as if some of their exuberance was catching, as smiling delegates joined hands and, led by dancers, circled the room in a lively traditional folk dance at the closing celebration dinner.

Over 250 protected area professionals from 26 countries around Europe and beyond had gathered, listened, debated, voted, and studied together at what, in their words, was 'inspiring, provocative and positive' - a conference which 'will help us operate effectively'.

From the start - with opening addresses from no less than two ministers - to the end, when one man's lifetime of conservation work was honoured, the event lived up to its 'High Conservation Values – High Management Standards' title.

EUROPARC Federation President Erika Stanciu's welcoming wish, that 'most of all I hope you will benefit from the exceptional contacts you can make' came true, as lively connections and conversations were sparked across the rich range of over 50 presentations, training sessions, seminars and outings.

Opening proceedings, minister Attila Korodi of the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development said it was an honour to participate: 'Protected areas are an important topic on the agenda at European level – the role of the Europarc Federation is key...'

Read on at www.europarc.org/whats-happening/news. Full conference report available soon at www.europarc.org. Conference photos available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/europarc2008>.

12 new Charter protected areas

12 new protected areas from Italy, Spain, France and the UK were awarded Charter Certificates at EUROPARC 2008 by EUROPARC's president Erika Stanciu. The European Charter Network now boasts 58 protected areas in seven European countries.

In 2009 and 2010 a further 20 Charter Candidates will hand in their application documents for evaluation.

Please visit www.european-charter.org for more information and for the latest charter newsletter.

New EUROPARC website launch

We're excited to announce that our brand new website www.europarc.org bursting with new features (easy to use navigation, up to date news from around the continent, exclusive members area with the possibility to contact members across Europe) was launched in September at EUROPARC 2008 in Brasov (Ro).

The site has so far been visited by over 900 people in 58 different countries. So if you haven't already please visit it and enjoy the new-look. Please be aware, however, that we are still working on the content and the site is not yet fully functional. The members map will be up and running and exclusive access passwords and usernames for members available soon.

EUROPARC would like to extend a huge thank-you to the Alfred Toepfer Foundation (D) for their generous contribution to the funding of the website.

If you wish your protected area to feature in the site please send us some images of the area to office@europarc.org

EUROPARC 2009

100 years of National Parks in Europe.
A shared inheritance; A common future.

Preparations have started already for EUROPARC 2009. Hosted by the Swedish Environmental Agency, it will take place from 9 - 13 September 2009 in Stromstad (S). It will be focused in Kosterhavet and Ytre Hvaler National Parks either side of the Norwegian/Swedish border, to be officially designated on the 9th Sept. The conference aims to be as sustainable as possible.

Registration will begin early in the Year.

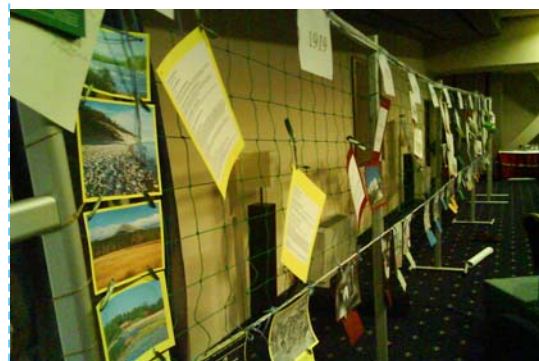
In the meantime please contact Mia Olausson at Mia.Olausson@naturvardsverket.se for more information or visit www.europarc.org for new developments.



Call to all EUROPARC National Parks

Thanks to all those parks who contributed to the 100 years of National Parks timeline at the conference this year. Due to it's success we will be repeating the event in Sweden 2009.

We still need information and pictures from all EUROPARC members who are national parks, to commemorate 100 years of National Parks in Europe. So if you have not done so already please download the questionnaire from www.europarc.org/working-together/on-current-activities and send us your answers with some pictures of your park. More information about the project can also be found at this link.



If you no longer wish to receive these updates from us or you have any questions or comments please send an e-mail to office@europarc.org or phone us on 0049 8552 96 100.

Please circulate this E-News within your organisation and to those who might be interested!

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Working for Nature (WfN) internships come to an end

One year after the introduction seminar in the Bavarian Forest an evaluation seminar (16.-19.10) in the National Park Podyji (CZ) brought the WfN internships to an end. Both interns and mentors got together to evaluate the 12 pilot internships and the website

www.workingfornature.org. The main aim of the seminar was to create guidelines to improve the quality of internships in protected areas. They will be available on the WfN website soon.

Participants of the seminar greatly helped to bring final changes to internship platform www.workingfornature.org, which aims to increase the number of internships offered in protected areas, in order to make it even more user-friendly. The website will continue to run after the internships end.

EUROPARC would like to thank all the project participants and is especially grateful to the staff of Podyji National Park for hosting the seminar. Pictures of the seminar will be available soon at <http://workingfornature.org/blog>

Please contact Damien de Chantérac at d.dechanterac@europarc.org for more information.



URGENT!! TAXUS and ILEX forest partners required for Life Project.

Abruzzo National Park in Italy is urgently looking for protected areas with TAXUS and ILEX forests to take part in the LIFE Project '**Strategic preservation of Apennine beechwoods with Taxus and Ilex in the PNALM, to develop the knowledge base about them and preserve their biodiversity**' of which they are willing to be the main project partner.

If you are a protected area with the above forests an interested in taking part in the project please contact the EUROPARC Directorate at office@europarc.org by **Friday 7th November** at the latest.

2nd European Ranger Seminar - a success!!

The II. European Ranger Seminar of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) was organised between 14-20 September 2008 by the Kiskunság (KNP) and Danube-Dráva National Park (DDNP) Directorates (H). The Seminar aimed to introduce the operation and functions of the Hungarian Nature Conservation Ranger Service to the participants and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge about the work of European Rangers. 68 nature conservation rangers from 14 countries were present at the Seminar.

During the Seminar, the participants became acquainted with the Hungarian Nature Conservation Ranger Service and its work and got a taste of Hungary's natural values, culture, cuisine and hospitality.

The seminar opened with welcome speeches from Dr Tamásné Vajna director of the KNP, Szabolcs Závoczky ...

Read more at www.europarc.org/whats-happening/news



Notes from the WCPA meeting in Barcelona

During the IUCN congress in Barcelona this October, Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Director, had the pleasure of attending the WCPA meeting. During the meeting a review of work to date across the world was presented and the WCPA indicated an internal governance issue, much of which EUROPARC have struggled with in recent times. They discussed how best to represent their regional groups, whilst reflecting the IUCN's structure.

The attendees were asked to consider 10 issues relevant to protected area (PA) management including PA contribution to climate change adaptation and management; increased protection of the high seas; communicating the benefits of community engagement; community conserved areas; involving youth in PAs; increasing recognition of the Ranger and their role in PA management; more effective use of information gathered; the use of scenario planning in PAs; and greater coherence and co-ordination between WCPA conventions.

Attendees were asked to recognise and deal with their own Blinkers (what we fail to see because our attention is focused elsewhere), Blindspots (things we refuse to recognise for what they are) and Blindfolds (what we do not wish to see at all).

Overall the meeting was very positive, but gave some cautionary advise about future - proofing protected areas, not just in biological systems but in the political arena too. In addition, EUROPARC are starting to think about how they can co-operate more effectively with the WCPA in the future.

www.iucn.org/wcpa

EUROPARC publications

Hopefully you enjoyed the EUROPARC Newsletter number 14 with it's new features, which was sent out via e-mail on 19.09.

The new-look EUROPARC Annual Report 2007/2008 is now also available and will be sent out to our members shortly.

Download both documents and the complete interviews from the newsletter now at www.europarc.org/whats-happening/news

European Forum: "Jobs for nature", 12-14 Nov, Lyon (F)

An event for dedicated managers of natural areas, where EUROPARC, event partner, will present it's projects Working for Nature and NatuRegio. If you are attending come and say hello!

<http://jobsfornature.espaces-naturels.fr>

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