

EUROPARC Consulting: Seminar Specialists

EUROPARC Consulting GmbH (www.europarc-consulting.org) is the consultancy arm of the EUROPARC Federation. The company specialises in the policy and practice of protected area management and is uniquely placed to provide advice, training and expertise. Members benefit from EUROPARC Consulting's expertise, which are offered at a competitive rate. Profits made by EUROPARC Consulting are invested back into the EUROPARC Federation.

EUROPARC Consulting has been organising successful seminars ever since the company was founded by the EUROPARC Federation. However, one particular series of seminars deserves to be highlighted. These are the **EUROPARC Atlantic Isles Seminars**, lively events where protected area professionals and those in related fields meet to share stimulating presentations and discuss best practice.

Now in its sixth year, the series features twice-yearly seminars on key topics in diverse locations. The format is flexible, but events usually extend to 24 hours to allow networking during an evening, followed by a day of presentations and workshops. A minimum of six expert presenters (with input from all over Europe as a constant feature) share their knowledge in plenary session. Discussion sessions chaired by protected area professionals follow, and a report goes out to all participants and is available online.

To date over 500 participants have attended this wide-ranging and dynamic set of events, including:

- When renewables met sustainables (Bath 06)
- Protected areas and the coastal and marine environment: what challenges lie ahead? (Manchester 06)
- The European Landscape Convention: implementation in protected areas and beyond (Peak District 06)
- Climate change: the challenges and opportunities for protected areas (Cambridge 07)
- Community engagement in protected areas: what works and what you need to do... (Newcastle 07)
- Protected areas in the 21st century: what does the future hold? (Cardiff 08)
- Making sustainable tourism a foundation of the rural economy (Belfast 08)

The latest seminar took place on 27th Jan in London and looked at the theme: "Beyond boundaries – protected landscapes, cities and the European Landscape Convention" will take place later this month in London. The event was aimed at advancing the application of the European Landscape Convention by Protected Landscape organisations which border major conurbations and interact with them. The seminar report will be available soon at www.europarc-ai.org.



Participants of the EAI Seminar in London, Jan 09. Pictures: EAI



EUROPARC Consulting could, of course, organise such events for any Section within the EUROPARC Federation. If you want to find out more please contact Wilf Fenten, Director at wilf.fenten@europarc-consulting.org.