



E-News

Dear readers,

The first month of 2012 has already flown by and the EUROPARC Directorate have been unusually busy since the start of the year. This month we tell you about the new staff exchange programme for protected area practitioners, inform you of the useful results from the PARKS & BENEFITS projects, open the Alfred Toepfer Scholarships 2012, offer you job opportunities at the EUROPARC Directorate and update you on the cooperation between EUROPARC and Eurosite. That and of course much, much more.

Please also note that the E-News will only be published once every two months this year.

Your EUROPARC team



A bog covered with Birch and Alder forest swamp. Picture: Egbert Beens

EUROPARCFeatures - EUROPARCFeullitons - EUROPARCReportage

Launch of the Parks Forum - EUROPARC staff exchange programme!

This week we launched our International Staff Exchange Programme with our partners [Parks Forum Australia and New Zealand](#). EUROPARC Members can now engage in this valuable programme by registering their interest via the [Parks Forum website](#).

The International Staff Exchange Programme represents a means of broadening an individual's experience and the organisation's overall capability. The programme was initiated at the request members from both organisations and its development has been sponsored by the [New Zealand Department of Conservation](#). EUROPARC is working closely with Parks Forum, who are responsible for the development of the programme and who will assist their members to participate.

[More information in our member's area](#)

Alfred Toepfer Scholarships are now open

The [Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships 2012](#) are now open for applications! The award provides three young European conservationists with €3000 to undertake a study visit to one or more protected areas in European countries other than their own. They are awarded by the [Alfred Toepfer Foundation](#) and the [EUROPARC Federation](#). The deadline for applications is Friday May 11th 2012.

[Find out more about the scholarships and how to apply](#)

The PARKS & BENEFITS project comes to a close

The [PARKS & BENEFITS](#) project which ran from February 2009 to January 2012 has now come to a close. The project was a great success for the partners involved and in the results it produced. Many of these publications and reports produced within the project and experiences collected are useful for other protected areas across Europe and around the world. This addition of our E-News is dedicated to this project. In it we present you with an overview of the many interesting results that the project generated.

[Find out what the PARKS & BENEFITS project was all about](#)

Introducing Europe's Protected Natural Areas: Staatsbosbeheer, the Netherlands

The Netherlands has 20 national parks that cover a total surface area of 120,000 hectares, 3% of the country. Each site has a characteristically Dutch landscape and together they tell the story of Dutch nature. [Staatsbosbeheer](#) is commissioned by the Dutch government and manages a large part of the nature reserves in the Netherlands. This amounts to 260,000 hectares of natural landscapes.

[Follow this link to find out more about Staatsbosbeheer](#)



EUOPARCNews - EUOPARCNeuigkeiten - EUOPARCnouvelle

Cooperation between EUOPARC and Eurosite

Following the historic decision by the General Assemblies of the EUOPARC Federation and [Eurosite](#) in September last year to seek a merger, a new joint committee was formed to take forward the mandate given by the respective members.

The joint committee recently met in Brussels to consider the legal, technical and financial considerations necessary to further the merger. Naturally these discussions are detailed and will take some time to complete. Progress is being made and both parties remain positive that a strong network and representative body for Europe's protected areas will emerge.

Jobs at EUOPARC

There are currently two openings available at the EUOPARC Federation. Regina Schoefer and Morwenna Parkyn will unfortunately both be leaving the Federation at the end of March. The Directorate is therefore looking for two capable people with English and German skills to fill the posts of the Executive Administrator and Communications Officer. [Download the job descriptions for more information.](#)

EUOPARC begins to Twitter

As of last Monday EUOPARC now has a Twitter profile and will also be able to Twitter with members, friends and the wider world about what we do and Europe's protected areas. Our Twitter and Facebook profiles are now interlinked and we hope to use both to raise the profile of the network either more.

Stay connected: Follow us on Twitter, [@EUOPARC](#), and [Facebook](#)

Workshop "Green Volunteering in Latvia Matters"

At the end of 2011 the [Latvian Nature Conservation Agency](#) organised the workshop "Green Volunteering in Latvia Matters". The event was held in the framework of the [GRUNDTVIG multilateral Project "Volunteer management in European Parks"](#). Its aim was to give a wider knowledge for managers of Latvian protected areas about issues related to volunteer management and their implementation of these issues.

[Read more](#)

Exchange opportunities for volunteer coordinators

There are volunteer exchange possibilities within the [EU-GRUNDTVIG funded project Volunteer Management in European Parks](#). If your protected area is interested in hosting a volunteer coordinator from elsewhere in Europe then there are opportunities for you. Similarly if a volunteer manager in your park might benefit from tutoring in another European protected area then this is also possible. The project has funds to support a small number of exchanges, which can last between five days and three weeks.

For more information contact [Federico Minozzi](#)

A Benefit Monitor for protected areas

One of the outcomes of the [PARKS & BENEFITS project](#) was the implementation of a Benefit Monitor in the protected areas that participated. This research was carried out by the Institute for Geography at the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald. The following article is written by Prof. Steingruber who lead this part of the project.

[Read this article](#)

Access for all in protected areas - the PARKS & BENEFITS approach

Experiencing unspoiled nature has become one of the most important leisure and holiday activities in our fast moving every day life in a mostly cemented surrounding. However, what most people enjoy very easily and in different activity forms provides a barrier for those who have got a physical handicap either in mobility or perception.

[Find out more](#)

Carrying Capacity in PARKS & BENEFITS partner protected areas

The main challenge for the sustainable development of tourism in protected areas is to balance the flow and behavior of visitors with the protection goals set up for the area at different political levels. This is based on the need to combine the protection of nature and cultural resources with the fulfillment of visitor expectations to ensure visitor satisfaction on the other hand.

[Read more](#)

Sustainable mobility for all in protected areas

Transregional relations, trade and tourism have a long tradition in the Baltic Sea. With 29% of the EU-population (147 million people) and 29.3% of the gross domestic product in the EU (see HWWI future Baltic Sea Region: Potentials and Challenges, April 2011) there is a big potential for development and innovation. This was another topic of research in the [PARKS & BENEFITS project](#).

[Find out more about this research](#)



Lifelong Learning Programme



PARKS & BENEFITS
Baltic protected areas and tourism

EUOPARCMembers - EUOPARCMitglieder - EUOPARCMembres

Have you discovered our member's notice board yet?

In 2008 we launched [our new website](#), which included some new pages specifically for EUOPARC members. The notice board was developed to help EUOPARC members to share ideas, advertise for partners, and ask for help with projects. Unfortunately this pin board had one major flaw – members were not getting informed about the posts it contained. This has now changed. Any posts on the pinboard will now be passed on to EUOPARC members.

Looking for partners, have a question about something, want to start an exchange? Login into our website and start using the [notice board](#) today to reach colleagues from 36 European countries.

A new year, a new opportunity! Secondment possibility at the EUOPARC Federation

With the coming of a new year it may be time to consider a fresh challenge, a new approach a different perspective! The EUOPARC Federation is inviting enquiries from members who may wish to take up a temporary secondment, a work placement or a career break with EUOPARC!

We offer opportunities for members to come to Regensburg for an agreed period of time and work alongside the Directorate team. We have defined areas of work within the Charter for Sustainable Tourism, Junior Rangers, Transboundary programmes and other projects. We can guarantee you some interesting and informative work which will give you an insight into protected area management across Europe. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested.

Promoting your protected area through pictures

The EUOPARC team is currently working on the Annual Report from 2011. We are looking for good quality pictures (print quality) from protected areas in our membership to make the publication look beautiful. We would also like to use these pictures to promote your area in other EUOPARC Communications. If you would like to send us some photos please contact [Morwenna Parkyn](#) by Friday 17th February

Finnish Sports Gala Awards Metsähallitus for Promoting Outdoor Recreation

On 16th January at the annual Finnish Sports Gala in Helsinki, [Metsähallitus](#) was granted a special award for designing facilities that encourage people to enjoy outdoor activities in natural settings across Finland.

[Read more](#)

Syöte National Park is implementing the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy 2011

The recent re-evaluation of the [Syöte National Park](#) for the [European Charter for Sustainable Tourism](#) had a prerequisite - updating the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy (STDS) and drawing up an action plan for the next five years' period.

[Find out more about Syöte's Tourism Plan](#)

"Feuchtgebietstourismus – Eine großartige Erfahrung"

Unterirdische Höhlen, riesige Seen und Karstebenen, die über unterirdische Zu- und Abflüsse überschwemmt werden und wieder trocken fallen – die östliche Adria hat mehr zu bieten als nur Strände und stahlblaues Meer. Anlässlich des Weltfeuchtgebietstags am 2. Februar macht die europaweit tätige Naturschutzstiftung EuroNatur auf den Wert der Feuchtgebiete auf der Balkanhalbinsel aufmerksam.

[Lesen Sie mehr über EuroNatur's Arbeit mit Feuchtgebieten](#)

Exploring Nature along the Danube River

The Danube River Network of Protected Areas published the edition Exploring Nature along the Danube River, introducing 15 protected areas, among which also the [Derdap National Park](#). Tourism in the nature may be an important source of incomes for the region, especially bearing in mind that the most protected areas are located in less developed regions.

[Find out more](#)

Seminar & Workshop: Naturvermittlung erfolgreich vermarkten

Bereits zum vierten Mal veranstaltete der [Umweltdachverband](#) am 8. November 2011 in Linz in Kooperation mit der Abteilung Naturschutz des Landes Oberösterreich und der Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik eine Seminar- und Workshopreihe zum Thema Naturvermittlung und Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung, die als jährlicher Fixpunkt im Herbst als Plattform für NaturvermittlerInnen dienen soll. Ziel dieser Drehscheibe ist es, den Austausch und die Vernetzung von im Naturvermittlungsbereich tätigen Menschen zu fördern.

[Mehr Information](#)

Dive in! Nature interpretation for divers.

Self-guided nature interpretation trails under the sea surface have become increasingly popular. In the waters of Kullaberg Nature Reserve in Sweden, divers can learn about the marine environment from a number of signs suspended above the seabed. Those of you who cannot visit Kullaberg yourselves can simply [follow reserve manager Daniel Åberg](#) along the subsurface trail on your computer screen.



EUROPARCNetwork - EUROPARCNetzwerk - EUROPARCRéseau

EUROPARC Consulting News: Sustainable Tourism Project gets even larger

Earlier this year, a large contract for one of Europe's most important UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Dutch and German stretch of the famous Wadden Sea, was awarded to [EUROPARC Consulting](#) (full article August 2011). The Wadden Sea region requires a sustainable tourism strategy that will help reduce the negative impact of visitors whilst improving the economic contribution of visitors to this part of the Dutch and German North Sea coast.

[Find out more about this project](#)

Land Stewardship in Europe - please complete Eurosite's landlife questionnaire

[Eurosite](#) has recently started the LIFE+ information and communication project LANDLIFE with four other European environmental organizations. The aim is to spread the knowledge of land stewardship, and its use for involving citizens, landowners and users, NGOs and local groups in nature conservation in Europe. To complete the project efficiently Eurosite are looking for people to fill in a questionnaire on the topic. They would be very grateful if EUROPARC members could take the time to fill in the questionnaire by Friday 17th February. [Access the questionnaire](#).

If you know other people and/or organisations which might be interested in the subject and willing to complete the questionnaire, please pass on the link.

Adapting management for nature: building know-how

An international [Eurosite](#) workshop on Adaptive Site Management was held in Doorn, in the Utrechtse Heuvelrug National Park, in the heart of the Netherlands, from 13 to 15 December 2011. Co-hosted by Eurosite members Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten, De12Landschappen and the Conservation Management System Consortium (UK), 36 nature conservation professionals, project leaders and specialist IT staff from 12 countries across Europe participated.

[Read more](#)

BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards

The [BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards](#) are intended to recognize basic research and creative work of excellence, as embedded in theoretical advances, models and fundamental perspectives for an improved understanding of the natural, social and artificial or technological worlds, technological innovations and developments, and the creation of outstanding works or new artistic or interpretative styles in contemporary classical music. Awards also go to significant achievements that advance our understanding or deliver material progress with regard to two key challenges of the global society of the 21st century: climate change and development cooperation.

Films wanted for the Barents Ecology Film Festival

The [Barents Ecology Film Festival](#) (BEFF) will take place from 18 - 22nd April in Petrozavodsk, Karelia. It brings individuals together who are interested in learning something new, to share their opinions and to find creative problem solutions with regards to nature. The festival shows the positive sides of the environmental issues in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia and is looking for films that do just that. It is also a forum for discussion, workshops, lectures and more on the topic of environmental films. The theme this year is ecological businesses and the exchange of ideas.

For more information please contact [Anna Rybalova](#)

ECONNECT project results

The [ECONNECT](#) has now ended. The project strove towards an ecological continuum across the Alps. The concept was to use protected areas as core zones and focus on linking these areas in order to achieve connectivity between alpine ecosystems. The [ECONNECT results](#) are available for the following target groups: different stakeholders, experts, policy makers and practitioners.

The creation of a new French Regional Park

In the north part of the Ardennes unexpected and remarkable landscapes arise: the meandering forest covered Meuse and Semoy Valleys, the peaty moors of the Rocroi plateau and the soft valleys of the Ardennes region. To ensure that this extraordinary heritage is recognised appropriately and to sustainably develop the landscape, local actors campaigned for the creation of a new natural regional park. The [Parc Naturel Regional des Ardennes](#) was inaugurated on 26th January and is the 47th regional park of France. EUROPARC congratulates the local communities and the new board of the park and welcomes the Parc des Ardennes to the wider European network.

WWF Campaign Gains Strict Protection for Romania's Virgin Forests

Virgin forests in Romania will receive the status of strictly protected areas after WWF's campaign collected 100,000 signatures in support of virgin forests.

[Find out more](#)

Spain opens the public process to designate 41 marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

On 18 October, the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM), published a proposal designating 41 marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Spain.

[Read the original article from Birdlife International](#)

Three protected natural areas designated in Serbia

Serbia designated three natural protected areas, Special nature reserves "Paljevina" and "Gutavica" and Natural monument "Park Bukovicka Banja" in December 2011. SNR "Paljevina" is a natural area of special importance, put under protection to conserve the only natural habitat of one variety of a pyramidal fir tree in Serbia.

For more information, please contact [Maja Radosavljevic](#), Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia
Original article in the IUCN South-Eastern European e-Bulletin, Issue 28

Two new national parks created in the United States

Two new parks were added to the United States National Park Service (NPS) this fall - Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park and Fort Monroe National Monument. The United States now has 397 national parks. Both of the new areas are mainly historic sites. The NPS has a responsibility for protecting the country's important historic areas, which make up the majority of sites in the system.

Original article in the December edition of [Guardaparque](#)



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European Funding streams

Information on relevant funding streams for protected areas in Europe that are currently open can be found now in the [library of our member's area](#).

Moving towards the new LIFE programme regulation

The European Commission has recently presented a draft for the new [LIFE regulation regarding environment and climate action](#). Apparently this new LIFE will be better structured, more strategic, simplified and more flexible. Emphasis will also be placed on better governance. The regulation has been submitted to the Parliament and the European Council for approval.

What do you think about these changes? How can the LIFE regulations be further improved? Please send your comments and views to [Federico Minozzi](#).

[Questo articolo è disponibile anche in Italiano](#)

A new European Tourism Quality Label

The European Commission envisages the development of a European Tourism Quality Label, based on existing national experience, to increase consumer security and confidence in tourism products and reward rigorous efforts by tourism professionals whose aim is quality of tourism service for customer satisfaction.

[Read more](#)

[Questo articolo è disponibile anche in Italiano](#)

EU Cormorant Platform online

With its new [EU Cormorant Platform the DG Environment](#) will disseminate information about cormorants, their numbers, management and conflicts related to the birds, fish, fisheries and aquaculture. The Platform has been developed as part of the EU 'CorMan' project ('Sustainable Management of Cormorant Populations').

Tree species maps for European forests

In cooperation with the Alterra/Wageningen University, the European Forest Institute (EFI) has released a set of maps showing the distribution of 20 tree species over Europe.

[Find out more](#)

Invasive Alien Species - EU looking for contributions

The European Commission has started an open Consultation on a dedicated legislative instrument on invasive alien species. [Find out how you can contribute to the discussion](#).

"Europe's regions and cities: Making a difference", Brussels 8-12 October 2012

"Smart and Green growth for all" is one of the thematic priorities of the conference this year. The event gives EUROPARC's member Regions the opportunity to present best practices and experiences concerning the role of protected areas. Interested Regions should submit applications by the 5th of March 2012.

[More information about the event](#)

EUOPARCResources - EUROPARCressourcen - EUROPARCResources

In this section we provide you with a list of internal and external resources that we think our readers might find useful and a link to the place you can download them.

Publications from EUROPARC activities:

- [Public-Private Sector Partnerships mutual benefits for business and protected areas](#). Produced in the framework of the PARKS & BENEFITS project, this publication introduces the reader to Public-Private-Partnerships and how have been used to deliver sustainable tourism products and services in protected areas. [Get a printed copy from EUROPARC](#).
- [A Guide to Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas](#). A comprehensive book from the PARKS & BENEFITS project pointing out the economic, social and ecological benefits that sustainable tourism can bring protected areas. [Order your free copy from EUROPARC](#).
- [Protected Areas In-Sight: Quality Counts](#). The EUROPARC Journal Vol 3, September 2011. A collection of articles from protected areas across Europe and the EU about quality in protected areas.
- [Living Parks: 100 Years of Protected Areas in Europe \(EN\)](#) Take a journey through Europe's national parks. Order your copy of this publication by clicking on the link above.

Communication

- [The Common Cause Report. The Case for Working with our Cultural Values](#). (2010 WWF-UK). This report is intended to catalyse debate on current approaches to tackling a wide range of challenges - including global poverty, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- [What influences our commitment to the environment?](#) Researchers have used the psychological concept of 'commitment', normally used to understand relationships between people, to investigate our relationship with the environment.
- www.generationawake.eu Generation awake is an awareness campaign from the EU that invites people to open their eyes to the impact their choices make on the environment.

Biodiversity

- [Best LIFE Nature Projects 2010](#). A collection of the best LIFE Nature Projects from 2010.
- [52 Tips for Biodiversity](#). A booklet from the EU that provides tips for people to help save biodiversity. Available in English, French and Dutch.
- [Fragmented forests and grasslands: plant sensitivity to habitat loss](#). A new study exploring the sensitivity of grassland and forest plants to decreasing habitat size and isolation in north-central Europe.

Connectivity

- [The results of the ECONNECT project](#), looking at connectivity between ecosystems in the Alps

- WEBS OF LIFE - biodiversity needs ecological connectivity. This booklet describes the major achievements of the ECONNECT project. It is available in English, German, French, Italian and Slovenian. For a free printed copy please email [Riccardo Nigro](mailto:Riccardo.Nigro@europarc.org)
- "[The Danube River Basin - Facts and Figures](#)" is a collection of condensed information and data, presented in a lively and accessible layout.
- [Green infrastructure and territorial cohesion](#) (2011 EEA). The concept of green infrastructure and its integration into policies using monitoring systems.
- [Protect biodiversity to safeguard ecosystem services](#). Most species in an ecosystem could help supply essential ecosystem services, according to a recent study.

Sustainable development

- [Blue carbon policy framework](#). A document looking at strategic policy and incentive mechanisms for blue carbon-based activities in coastal conservation, restoration and sustainable use.
- The newest background report "[Water in Climate Change](#)" from CIPRA has just been published. It is available in English, French and Italian
- [Intensive farming methods affect birds and plants in Europe](#). A recent study has investigated the effects of intensive farming on plants, beetles and birds in Western European regions and found that plants and birds are particularly affected.
- [Traffic in Villages. Safety and Civility for Rural Roads. A toolkit for communities](#). This is a toolkit from the Dorset AONB for communities to help them solve traffic problems in their villages.
- [Forests, health and climate change \(2011 EEA\)](#). Urban green spaces, forests for cooler cities and healthier people.
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EUROPARCEvents - EUROPARCVeranstaltungen - EUROPARCEvénements

Some relevant up-coming events:

February 19 - 24: [Wetland Tourism: A Great Experience. Responsible tourism supports wetlands and people.](#)

March 19 - 23: [TEEB Conference 2012](#)

March 21: [IEEM Spring conference: Planning and Biodiversity: Developing Opportunities Through Change](#)

April 2 - 5: [Advancing Conservation Planning in the Mediterranean Sea](#)

May 24: [European Day of Parks](#). Theme: See the sky. Touch a tree. Feel the air. Find yourself!

May 20 - 23: [EUROPARC Sigger Seminar](#). Theme: Conflict management in protected areas

October 22 - 25: [EUROPARC Conference 2012](#), Genk, Belgium. Theme: (Re)Connect.

More events from the field of protected area management can be seen on our [online calendar](#). There is also a calendar of internal events uploaded in the [members area of our website](#).

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



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