

## E-News March 2009

Dear Members,

**Welcome to our March e-news!** Spring has finally reached the Bavarian Forest and the snow is slowly melting in the glorious sunshine. We hope that some of our spring fever reaches you with last months e-news! In this issue we bring you a full report from the Director on her three weeks in France and the reestablishment of the French EUROPARC Section, an interview with our long-term partner TUI AG, news about our activities, those of our sections and from EUROPARC Consulting and much, much more.

When you have finished reading why not visit our [events calendar](#) and see what is on in the field of environmental conservation over the next few months, place a notice on our [members notice board](#) (you will need to login to access the members area), let us know what you have planned for the [European Day of Parks](#) in May.

**Your EUROPARC Team.**

### Spotlight on...TUI AG!

**At the Reisepavillon in Munich (DE) last month EUROPARC was busy meeting partners and members and not only managed to interview member Rhin Vivant but also talked to the TUI AG who are strongly involved with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism with whom EUROPARC shared a stand at the fair. We spoke to Mila Dahle, Mike Brauner and Andreas Vermöhlen...**

**TUI is normally thought of as a large tour operator, in what way are you involved in sustainable tourism?**

TUI is a large corporation that is well known in the mainstream tourist industry. In the early 1990's the very progressive board appointed an environmental specialist to look at all of the companies processes. During this examination the board looked for partners who could assist the organisation to fulfill its green aspirations. As a result of this an environmental team of 5 people was appointed to work at TUI's headquarters in Hannover.

Today a worldwide TUI Sustainability Network, comprising of TUI staff and environmental experts, is in place and committed to improving environmental quality, protecting nature and promoting sustainable development in particular in TUI holiday destinations. Environmental management systems (EMS), which meet ISO 14001 or Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) standards (international specifications for EMS's) are put in place across hotels chains and group companies and are verified externally.

As a tourism market leader and employer of over 60 000 staff, we are fully aware of our major social responsibility and therefore voluntarily incorporate social and environmental aspects into our business activities. The aim of TUI's environmental management system is the systematic analysis of the environmental impact of TUI Group companies focussing on climate protection, natural resources management and the protection of biodiversity in TUI destinations. TUI deals with the challenges that it faces and develops measures to strategically counteract the Group's environmental impact. ...

[Read the complete interview with TUI](#)



TUI's Mila Dahle and Andreas Vermöhlen at the Reisepavillon 09. Photo: TUI

### The TUI AG is...

**...an internationally active group with the sectors tourism and shipping. In both these divisions TUI commands a leading market position: number 1 among the European travel companies and number 5 in the world of container shipping.**

**In the financial year 2007 the turnover of TUI AG was €21.9 billion with total earnings of €616 million (underlying EBITA). On 31 December 2007 the headcount totalled 68,500 employees.**

Source: [www.tui-group.com](http://www.tui-group.com)

### EUROPARC at the Reisepavillon 2009

**From 26 Feb - 2 March, the EUROPARC Federation participated in the Reisepavillon 2009 – an international alternative travel fair – at a joint stand with the TUI AG and Charter protected areas from France and Italy.**

Holiday fun and environmental with social responsibility? Of course! The Reisepavillon has offered a platform for sustainable tourism since 1991, bringing together tourism businesses and nature conservationists looking out for the interests of holiday destinations and their guests.

#### Discovering and "tasting" Charter areas

Three Charter areas presented their tourism products with EUROPARC at the trade fair: The [Association Rhin Vivant](#) promoted a variety of leisure activities and holidays, which respect the protected natural environment of the Rhine valley and the sustainable development of the region. "Parks without frontiers" was the motto of the joint presentation of [Mercantour \(F\)](#) and [Alpi Marittime \(I\)](#). The two parks provided information on the areas and were joined by the local tour operator [Destination Merveilles](#) that carries out guided hiking tours in the

Mercantour National Park. Local producers working in partnership with the Charter areas attracted many visitors with honey, sheep's cheese, rye beer, olive oil and spread produced in the areas.

#### Partnership and networking

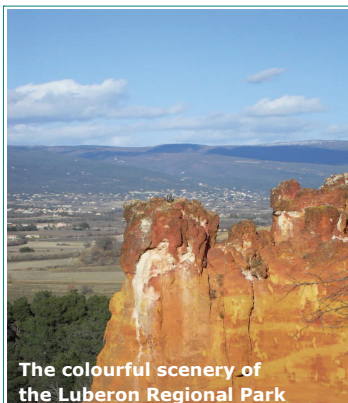
EUROPARC was able to strengthen already existing co-operations and establish new contacts with attending organisations at the fair. The joint stand with the TUI AG, for example, reconfirmed the partnership between the two organisations that began over 10 years ago. Further, the European Charter was presented at a workshop and round table discussion for the project [ECO Destinét](#) and contacts were a group of representatives from South-East Asia who wanted to find out more about sustainable tourism management in European protected areas.

[Download photos of the event](#)



Promoting the Charter at the Reisepavillon

**Bringing the "French" back into EUROPARC - French EUROPARC Section reestablished!**



The colourful scenery of the Luberon Regional Park

Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Director, travelled to France at the beginning of last month for an intensive 3 weeks of meetings with representatives of French protected areas and the regional and natural park bodies. Apart from practising a lot of French, travelling vast distances across France and getting to know its regional and natural parks the Director has successfully managed to reform the French EUROPARC section, to strengthen the French connection to the Federation once more and to secure their interest in a more active role within EUROPARC in the future.

"As many members know, the France had been somewhat "quiet" on the EUROPARC front for some time. SO after some discussions with Gérard Moulinas and Marc Gastambide of PNR and Jean-Marie Petit of PNF all who co-ordinated the trip, I set off to look, listen and learn about protected areas in France with the hope that a French section would re-establish..." writes the Director.

Read about the reestablishment of the section and the rest of Carol's adventures in her [full report](#) on her time in France.

**REMINDER – ELECTION TO FILL VACANCY on EUROPARC COUNCIL**

As stated in the previous edition of the EUROPARC E-News an election for the **one remaining vacant position** on the EUROPARC Federation Council will take place at the General Assembly in September 2009 in Sweden.

Candidates **must be from a member organisation of the Federation** and meet the criteria in the candidacy document (please login to access). They may not be nominated by their own organisation.

The **deadline for nominations** to reach EUROPARC Headquarters is **30th April**. It must be **in written form from a Federation member**.

This is a great opportunity to help direct the future of the Federation. We welcome anyone with experience, commitment and passion to fight for the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas.



**EUROPARC Conference 09 update!**

The annual EUROPARC Conference will be held in Strömstad on the Swedish west coast this year. The conference starts on the **day of the inauguration of the transboundary National Parks Kosterhavet (Sweden) and Hvaler (Norway) on September 9**. The Swedes promise a fun-packed programme including visits to the Kosterhavet and Hvaler National Parks and an inauguration ceremony attended by Swedish and Norwegian royals and the EU's environment ministers in Strömstad. **To avoid missing any of this exciting programme join us in Strömstad on 8<sup>th</sup> September**.

The conference will be **officially opened on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> September**. On the morning of Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September keynote speakers will talk about the conference theme "*100 years of National Parks in Europe - A shared Inheritance; A Common Future*". In the afternoon **EUROPARC's annual general assembly** (sightseeing for non-members) and side meetings will take place. During **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** you will have the opportunity to join any of a number of **interesting excursions** to protected areas in western Sweden and on the **Saturday** you can participate in one of many **informative workshops** after which the day will be rounded off with awards and certifications before the gala dinner. Exhausted but happy and inspired participants will depart for home on the Sunday. Preconference tours will be also be offered.

Read [more about the conference](#) at the EUROPARC website. **Registration will start on 11th May!** We will inform you regularly about the event in upcoming EUROPARC e-news' and other publications.



Fishermen of Kosterhavet NP

**EUROPARC Brussel office move**

EUROPARC has switched offices in Brussels moving to the Mundo-B building housing NGOs working in the field of sustainable development.

The new office is shared jointly with Eurosite and a joint Brussels work programme is to be developed in order to

represent the interests of members of both organisations more effectively. It is very close to the "European district" where many institutions and organisations reside.

A launch event is envisaged for later in the year when all renovations to the Mundo-B building have been completed.

**European Day of Parks (EDoP) approaches**



The 24th of May and thus the EDoP 09 is approaching fast. This year hundreds of protected areas across Europe will be organising events around the theme "Youth - the future of our parks", which connects to the celebration of a century of European national parks this year by looking to the future of nature conservation.

EUROPARC members participating in the EDoP to let us know what and when you are planning your events so that we can keep track on our website and inform others about them. A [form for EDoP events](#) is available online now. Send it to [Morwenna Parkyn](#).

The Swedes have already sent us info about many of their events!! We look forward to hearing from many more of you!

**Junior Ranger International Camp 09**

The Junior Ranger Camp is approaching and we have already received the first registration forms. All protected areas with a Junior Ranger Programme can register for the camp, which is hosted by the Parc Natural de Aiguamolls de l'Empordà in Catalunya (ES) from 25<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August this year.



A total of 30 participants will be able to

attend the camp: 2 Junior Rangers from up to 10 European protected areas represented by 1 mentor ranger. Participants should have already been involved in activities in their park and be between 13 - 16 years.

[Detailed information about the camp](#) is now available online along with the registration form. We have a small amount of money to support some travel costs of the Junior Rangers.

For more information, please contact [Federico Minozzi](#)

**NatuRegio Trainees 08/09 finish their training in Germany.**

In February the NatuRegio trainees 08/09 and representatives of the projects partner organisations (NNA, University of Lüneburg, EURONATUR and EUROPARC Federation) gathered at the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA) in Schneverdingen (D) for the closing workshop of the project year.

Having finished their second traineeship in Germany the nine trainees from Bulgaria and Romania presented their project proposals to a jury who made a decision about how much funding to give each one. All projects, to be implemented this year, will receive a minimum grant of 3 000 €. The best projects, this year from Andreana Trifonova (BL), Simeon Gigov (BL) and Anca Andrei (RO), can receive up to 15 000 €.

In the meantime, the project partners have already started to prepare the 4<sup>th</sup> NatuRegio year 09/10. The application process finished in February and the trainees who were chosen will start their stay in Germany at the end of March 09. There they will take part in training seminars, excursions and a four month placement.

For further information about the programme please visit [www.naturegio-bg-ro.de](http://www.naturegio-bg-ro.de) or contact [Diana Gallrapp](#)



NatuRegio trainees 08/09 and project partner representatives. Photo: EURONATUR

**New internships at  
[www.workingfornature.org](http://www.workingfornature.org)**

Four new placements, in England, Northern Ireland and Germany, were advertised on



[www.workingfornature.org](http://www.workingfornature.org) in March.

EUROPARC would like to remind readers that the platform is a **great way to advertise placements** in your institution, which might be interesting for people from other European countries and it is **free of charge!!** Many young people are looking for experience in the field of nature protection in other European countries ensuring a high level of response.

Please **circulate information** about the placements to anyone who might be interested; **think of the site** next time you have a placement available; and **link [www.workingfornature.org](http://www.workingfornature.org)** to your website.

**PARTNERSHIPS – use your EUROPARC membership!**

There are increasing numbers of partnership projects being set up between protected areas all over Europe, using the EUROPARC network. We ask all members to remember to **use EUROPARC as a resource for partnership searching!**



We have installed an easy to use **notice board** in our members area (you will need to login to the site with your membership password to access it) where you can **post partnership call outs** and we will also be **increasing the search function on our members map** soon to make partner searches even easier.

So **think of EUROPARC** when considering ideas that might benefit from a European perspective, use the tools we have provided and **get in touch** if you need more information.

**Alfred Toepfer Scholarship - application now open!**



Each year the EUROPARC Federation awards three Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships to promising young conservationists with practical experience in the field of conservation and in the work of protected areas.

By supporting the participants financially the scholarships enable them to undertake a study visit to one or more protected areas in European countries other than their own. The aim being to enhance international cooperation and to advance the quality, innovation and European dimension of protected area management. The awards will each be worth EUR 3000,- and are generously donated by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation in Hamburg (D).

Interested parties may now apply for the Alfred Toepfer Scholarships 2009! Please read the new scholarship guidelines carefully before applying.

More information on the scholarships and the online registration form can be found online. Questions and queries to [Diana Gallrapp](#).

**EUROPARC Consulting's Corner: Cultural History and World Heritage Potential**



The Lake District, UK. Photo: The LDNP

EUROPARC Federation's consultancy, [EUROPARC Consulting](#), is particularly delighted to have been engaged to carry out a significant comparator study on a much cherished and world-famous area of the UK. The Lake District World Heritage Project is seeking UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription for the Lake District as a Cultural Landscape.

The spectacular Lake District area of North Western England is considered by many to be the place where some of the first seeds of nature conservation were sown. In very early accounts of journeying through the area, travellers describe the wildness of the landscapes, the extremes of the weather and the rough, hardy nature of the inhabitants as a source of terror and danger. Later, as well-regarded artists and poets began to examine the awe-inspiring scenery more closely, they began to view the landscape as a "frame" within which the drama of man's life events could be framed. And others, travelling in the footsteps of these artists, also came to value these landscapes: as locations for refreshment of the soul, invigoration of the body, and as places for reflection inspired by natural beauty.

Many people love the Lake District, from craggy mountain-tops to calm lakesides – but are they more important than just being a favourite place to visit? Are there similar properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List? Are there others that might be nominated in the future – and could they conflict with the proposed Outstanding Universal Values of the Lake District? A trio of experts from EUROPARC Consulting will contribute to a comparative analysis of the property in relation to similar ones at both international and national levels.

The team's analysis will consider and explain the significance of the nominated property in this broader context, and determine if, in their view, there is room on the World Heritage list for the Lake District. Those who feel this treasured place has had a world-wide impact on landscape perceptions and the development of the conservation movement will await the outcome of the study with interest.

EUROPARC Consulting can be called upon for anything from small one-off projects to ambitious on-going programmes. Contact [Wilf Fenton](#) or [Anne Webster](#) for more information.

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### Kick-off meeting for the project Parks & Benefits

From 9-12 March 2009 the Kick-off-meeting for the project Parks & Benefits was hosted by the Müritzn National Park, DE. The project, of which EUROPARC is a partner, was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE) as part of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013. It's main aim is to strengthen large protected areas, by reinforcing integrated regional development and sustainable tourism.

The project has 18 partners from Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Germany. It's core activity is to help these areas achieve the "European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas" with steps from the tool being the central theme of the project. The project also hopes to improve the quality of visitor infrastructure and visitor management in protected areas and their surrounding regions; facilitate closer cooperation between protected areas and relevant stakeholders; and promote environmentally friendly mobility and accessibility for people with reduced mobility. Another goal is to work out a common identity for the "Baltic Sea Region", which could be the basis for further cooperation and for and aid the promotion of tourism products in the international market. Thus the project not only strives for increased economic benefits from protected areas natural heritage but also for an growth in the acceptance of these areas with their high biodiversity values.

During the three-day seminar the participants familiarized themselves with the framework of the Baltic Sea Region Program, which provides guidelines, ideas and management structures for the project; got to know one another better; and planned next joint steps for the 3-year implementation phase of the project.

For more information please contact [Olaf Ostermann](#)



Participants of the kick-off meeting

### "European volunteers in parks": Website now online

The Learning Partnership "European volunteers in parks", funded by the EU-Programme GRUNDTVIG, proudly presents its joint activities and the results of the partnership on the website [www.volunteers-in-parks.eu](http://www.volunteers-in-parks.eu).

EUROPARC sections, park-related organisations and protected areas from eight European countries are involved in the two-year partnership. The next step within the project will be the second international workshop for volunteer coordinators held in the Abruzzo-Nationalpark (Italy) from 1-5 April.

For more information please contact EUROPARC Germany's [Kerstin Emonds](#)

Nationale  
Naturlandschaften



Volunteers, Dartmoor National Park, UK Photo: DNP

### Elections in Federparchi - EUROPARC Italy

**Federparchi**

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA PARCHI E RISERVE NATURALI

On the 10th of March Giampiero Sammuri was elected as the new President of Federparchi - EUROPARC Italy. Mr Sammuri has been the President of the Maremma Regional Park, Tuscany, for eight years and so was already a member of the Federparchi Council and coordinator of the biodiversity department.

After accepting his position Mr Sammuri stated "The creation of a strong and valuable European network of protected areas will continue to be one of our main priorities as well as the development and implementation of the EUROPARC Federation's initiatives and objectives"

The EUROPARC Federation warmly welcomes him and says a special thank you to the previous President, Matteo Fusilli, for his great work in coordinating the successful merger of Federparchi and the EUROPARC Italian Section.

### EAI Report: European Landscape Convention



The fifth Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention was held at the Palais de L'Europe, Strasbourg on the 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. EUROPARC attended the conference, which was hosted by the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape.

The conference heard about the considerable recent progress in rolling the Convention out across the continent. Thirty countries have now ratified the Convention, and a further six have signed it.

The European Landscape Convention is described as a tool to create a new territorial, landscape-level dimension of human rights. Access to quality landscapes, and involvement in their planned future, is posited as a basic right in Europe.

Various developments in the Charter were reported. On 1 May 2009 the first Landscape Award of the Council of Europe will be awarded to a region considered to have made a special contribution to landscape-level conservation. A new Observatory, providing database and monitoring services for the implementation of the Convention, will soon be instigated.

The next meeting is a Workshop, entitled Landscape and Driving Forces, which will be held in Malmweden on the 8-9 October 2009.

It is hoped that a more in depth update, and an exploration of how the Convention can help protected areas in their work, will be provided at EUROPARC 2009 in September.

### Naturally Better: how protected landscapes can help deliver health and wellbeing outcomes



**EUROPARC**  
Atlantic Isles

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March EUROPARC Atlantic Isles held a seminar in Wallingford, Oxfordshire to look in some depth at the relationship between health and protected

areas.

Speakers from both health and protected area backgrounds presented a wealth of compelling evidence that simply getting out into the landscape, and being in nature, reduces the incidence of a range of serious health problems including heart conditions, obesity and depression. Quite literally, protected areas can help save lives.

The seminar was a continuation of work carried out by the Nordic-Baltic section of the Federation, and focused on practical actions, for both individual protected areas as well as partnerships, that will continue to take this vital area of work forwards. A report will soon be available in electronic form that will look at next steps, and a follow-on session is planned for EUROPARC 2009 aimed at expanding the group of members interested in working in this area. Anyone interested contact [Dan Bloomfield](#), EAI Development Officer.

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](mailto:office@europarc.org).

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