



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

# Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarship

awarded by the **EUROPARC Federation**

Investing in young and promising European  
professionals  
in nature conservation



**2009 Alfred Toepfer Scholarship Winners**

## Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships

EUROPARC brings together dedicated professionals, decision makers and supporters to increase effectiveness in conserving and enhancing our natural and cultural heritage. EUROPARC promotes the management of Europe's natural heritage through international cooperation and exchange. The scholarships are an outstanding opportunity for young professionals to contribute with focused study tours to the enhancement of protected areas' management across Europe.

In cooperation with the **Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S.**, EUROPARC Federation (EF) awards the **Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships** to **three young promising conservationists** with practical experience in the field of conservation and in the work of protected areas. The scholarships are given every year to the value of EUR 3.000 each to fund a study visit to one or more protected areas in a European country beyond the student's home country. They enable the scholars to travel to protected areas and to gain international work experience and thus connect to the international EUROPARC network.

The scholarships enhance international cooperation and the advancement of quality and innovation, and promote the European dimension of protected area management.

Every year **topical themes** of study visits are announced by the EF and the application needs to ensure that the studies being proposed will address these themes.

### Themes for study tours include:

- Importance of values of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas on reducing impacts of climate change
- Implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the European protected areas
- Sustainable development in protected areas – contribution to a resource efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy
- Contribution of protected areas to safeguard the European citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing

**Please check the EUROPARC website for selected themes for 2015 and guidelines of application.**



**2013 Alfred Toepfer Scholarship Winners**



## Whom we support

The scholarships are given each year to three young European professionals working or studying in nature conservation. They should offer a project that is of interest to the EUROPARC Federation and its members across Europe. Scholars should gain experience during their projects which are useful for their future careers and for EUROPARC Federation.

## Who can apply

- Students and graduates of higher educational institutions, studying an environmentally relevant topic related to protected area management.
- Persons who are employed by a European protected area or a nature conservation institution.

Scholars are selected by the EUROPARC Federation.

Awards are given at the **Annual EUROPARC Conference, to which scholars are invited to attend.**

## Requirements

- Applicants must be under 35 years old
- European nationals
- Themes of study visits must be connected to the management of natural areas
- Good knowledge of English or the local language of the protected areas to be studied is valuable

For a list of all requirements, please check the **guidelines** on our website: <http://www.europarc.org/download/1994.pdf>

Check if your **nationality** is eligible: <http://europarc.org/uploaded/documents/658.pdf>

## Applications

... open 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and are accepted until May 8, 2015.

... must be submitted in English via the online form provided on the EUROPARC website.

Requirements: Full curriculum vitae, a letter of motivation, planned programme of research trip, contact details of the protected area(s) to visit, as well as relevant certificates.

For updates on terms and times, please check the website. **Please remember that the study visits shall take place in 2016!**

## Responsibilities

Scholars will make their own travel plans and arrangements to achieve their objectives. They are also responsible for disseminating the results amongst colleagues and in their area of work to ensure that wider benefits are achieved.

A full project report must be submitted to the EUROPARC Federation. The project must be completed within a year after receiving the award.



**EUROPARC Federation, founded in 1973, is the umbrella organizations of protected areas in Europe. It counts around 400 organizations strong membership from 36 countries.**



**Key aims of the EUROPARC Federation are:**

- **Promote good practice in the management of protected areas**
- **Facilitate the establishment of new protected areas**
- **Raise the profile of protected areas as a vital means of safeguarding many of the continent's most valuable natural heritage assets, and thereby to increase support for their future protection**
- **Influence the future development of public policies and programmes, especially with the European Union, to the benefit of protected areas' objectives.**

## Imprint

EUROPARC Federation  
Waffnergasse 6 93047 Regensburg Germany  
Phone: +49 (0) 941 5993598-0  
office@europarc.org www.europarc.org  
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@EUROPARC](#)

President: Ignace Shops

Text and Design: EUROPARC Federation

February 2015

Funded by the European Union



*The production of this leaflet has been supported financially in the framework of the European Commission's 2013 LIFE funding programme of operating grants for European Environmental NGOs.*