



EUROPARC Federation Annual Report

January - December 2009



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

EUROPARC is the umbrella organisation of Europe's protected areas. It unites national parks, regional parks, nature parks and biosphere reserves in 36 countries, with the common aim of protecting Europe's unique variety of wildlife, habitats and landscapes.

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Erika Stanciu
Picture: Karin Björk



President's Remarks

Dear Friends,

The wonderful celebration that we had to mark 100 years of national parks in Europe, hosted by Sweden, encouraged us to plan for the future, to build upon achievements and to start fostering a dream for a continent and a planet where protected areas and their work are accepted, recognised and implemented everywhere.

The activities of the Federation, its sections and members, were aided by the significant change in our internal communication in 2009. This has had an obvious impact on external communication and on building a new image for this valuable network, and will pave the way for building this understanding and acceptance at a European level.

In 2009 we took the first steps towards joining efforts with the Parks Forum (AU) and the Latin American network of protected areas REDPARQUES. We also started to work with Slow Food, an opportunity to take our work beyond the borders of protected areas. Such possibilities are also realized with each of the 150 businesses awarded with the European Tourism Charter so far.

Efforts were intensified in 2009 through the Brussels office and the Council to have the Federation recognized as an important player for conservation in Europe. As a result we were invited and contributed to the high-level Ministerial meeting, "Visions for Biodiversity beyond 2010 - People, Ecosystem Services and the Climate Crisis" (SE).

I was very happy to see the re-establishment of the French Section in 2009. The Federation is particularly grateful for the significant financial support from EUOPARC Consulting.

It is always a challenge to summarize the most important information about EUOPARC. Reading this report, I am even more convinced of the important role that EUOPARC must play to promote these activities and build on them for the benefit of nature and people. What gives me faith that we are on the right track is a comment from a friend of mine after they had read some of our new publications: "Although I am a real fan of protected areas, I never fully realised how well they represent Europe's diversity, how many different activities they initiate and implement, how important they are for reminding us of the importance of nature to society".

Erika Stanciu
Erika Stanciu

Carol Ritchie
Picture: Karin Björk



Director's Review

It's not every year we have the opportunity to celebrate a centenary of success and in 2009 the EUOPARC Federation members rightly honoured our European national parks. Over that time, national parks have been joined by regional nature parks, biosphere reserves, and a host of other protected areas, which together make up 18% of the land mass of Europe.

The EUOPARC Federation is proud to represent that network of protected areas. Their existence is evidence of a collective achievement of many visionary individuals who fought for the creation and conservation of these special places. It is no surprise then that a large part of the work described in this report sought to raise again the profile of Europe's protected areas. Importantly to highlight the fundamental contribution they make not just in providing the foundation of the continent's natural reserves but recognising too, their function as economic drivers in much of rural Europe.

Despite these great achievements over the past 100 years, much work remains to be done to ensure the values of Europe's protected areas are recognised and the benefits they provide for society fully realized. This will take continued efforts by all of the Federation, building on the work in areas described here.

In these financially challenging times, it has been encouraging that membership of the Federation has remained constant. As budgets become constrained, greater collaboration and shared funding will become more important. EUOPARC will build on supporting members through funding advice and help with finding funding partners in 2010.

The achievements of this past year have been greatly enhanced by the co-operation between the sections of the Federation and through input by members. The sterling work of our colleagues in Sweden cannot go unmentioned for the superb conference they delivered on our behalf. The conference was a culmination of a year that really brought a sense of renewal to the EUOPARC Federation: A celebration of achievements and a commitment to a new dynamic approach to our collective future.

Carol Ritchie
Carol Ritchie

The Directorate Report

The Directorate of the EUROPARC Federation is committed to fulfilling the aims of the organisation and to deliver its strategic goals.

The Directorate is overseen by the EUROPARC Council led by the President, the drivers of the Federation. The President and the Council members took an active role in the work of the Federation during 2009. They bring a wealth of experience and expertise to bear on the work of the Federation and also represent EUROPARC across Europe. The President alone has undertaken a massive volume of work on behalf of the Federation in 2009 representing members at the highest level at numerous events.

Where the Council are the drivers, the Directorate of the EUROPARC Federation is the engine of the organisation. The small team of 8, split between two offices in Grafenau (DE) and Brussels (B), manage a number of important European projects and represent the Federation and our members' interests across a range of agenda. Work carried out is summarised in this section.

In addition, the work of the Federation is supported by efforts from our working groups. These were marine and coastal, wetlands, higher education, transboundary and CharterNet. The role and remit of working groups are currently in transition.

The efforts of the Council, the Directorate, the working groups and all others individuals and members who support the Federation are to be commended for their contributions to the organisation. They are very much appreciated.

*NatuRegio trainees at an excursion near the River Rusenski Lom (BG).
Picture: NNA*

Communications

Key activities 2009

2009 was another busy year for communications. One of the most important outcomes was the production of a Federation Communications Strategy.

The EUROPARC Conference

From 09 – 13 September 2009 more than 300 protected area practitioners met in Strömstad (SE) for the annual EUROPARC conference and general assembly. With its theme '100 years of National Parks in Europe. A shared inheritance; A common future', the conference marked a centenary of national parks in Europe.



The conference was preceded by a number of special events, including a High-Level Ministerial meeting, "Visions for Biodiversity beyond 2010 - People, Ecosystem Services and the Climate Crisis", to which EUROPARC's Director and President were invited, and the inauguration of two transboundary national parks: Kosterhavet National Park (SE) and Ytre Hvaler National Park (NO).

At the Federation general assembly, which took place during the conference, Dominique Leveque was elected as council member and David Cameron was re-elected as auditor. The minutes of the Assembly are available in the members' area on the website.

The European Day of Parks (EDoP)

The theme for the EDoP 09 was "Youth – the future of our parks". This year around 120 events were organised in more than 80 protected areas in 20 countries across Europe. In 2010 the theme will be 'Biodiversity and People: Space for Nature?'

Celebrating 100 years of National Parks in Europe

In 2009 Europe celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of its first National Park in

Sweden. The project "Celebrating 100 years of National Parks in Europe" marked this occasion. Products included a book and travelling exhibition with the name "Living Parks". In addition nine beautiful banners were produced depicting national parks around Europe.

www.europarc.org

In the course of 2009 the EUROPARC website received more than 43,579 visitors from 163 countries. It was updated regularly and developed further throughout the year. In particular, work was done on the exclusive members' area where a database was added to ensure the efficient use of membership information. In addition, the Brussels Bulletin, available only in the members' area, was published for the first time. It contains information on EU policy that affects protected areas and is updated twice a month.

Regular publications

In 2009 one EUROPARC Newsletter was produced in May along with the annual conference programme. In addition, the first edition of the new EUROPARC magazine 'Protected Areas In-Sight' was produced, replacing the old Bulletin for Nature and National Parks. The Federation also continued to produce its monthly E-News.

Council and section meetings

A total of three council meetings and three section meetings (two of these took place consecutively) were held during 2009. The aim of these meetings is to discuss the work of the Federation and ensure better planning and cooperation.

Lobbying and networking

The first draft of the lobbying strategy was produced in 2009. In addition the Brussels team worked hard at networking in and outside of Brussels throughout the Grafenau office welcomed groups of visitors from the Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, who wanted to learn more about the Federation.



Delegates at the annual EUROPARC conference 2009. Picture: Karin Björk



Over the last half a year EUROPARC has enjoyed partnerships with many organisations. A full list can be found at www.europarc.org/our-partners-and-funders. The Federation looks forward to continued cooperation with existing partners and to building fruitful relations with new partners over the next 12 months.

Press and publicity

EUROPARC represented its members' interests at around 40 external international events and seminars over the last 12 months.

Press releases to international press were also undertaken in 2009. In addition a number of articles were written on EUROPARC topics and published externally.

Furthermore, three exhibition displays and a new leaflet introducing the Federation were produced in order to increase EUROPARC's profile at events.

The year ahead

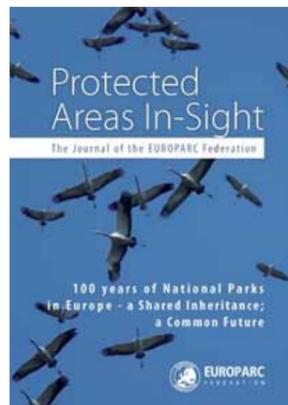
2010 will focus on promoting the Federation and its members externally. Regular press releases related to the International Year of Biodiversity and Europe's protected areas are foreseen as well as articles in external media, particularly related to sustainable tourism.

The completion of the lobbying strategy will be a further highlight in 2010, ensuring that the Brussels office brings issues concerning protected areas to Europe's decision makers. This will be accompanied by the final adoption of the Federation's communication strategy by the Council in March.

EUROPARC 2010 will take place from 29 September to 02 October in the Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park

(IT). As 2010 has been proclaimed the International Year of Biodiversity the theme will be "Living together. Biodiversity and Human Activities: A Challenge for the Future of Protected Area".

Contact: Morwenna Parkyn



New EUROPARC publication 'Protected Areas In-Sight'

The Alfred Toepfer Scholarships and Award



Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships 2009

Each year the EUROPARC Federation, in co-operation with the Alfred Toepfer Foundation, awards three Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships to promising young conservationists, who are committed to working for the benefit of protected areas. The aim of the scholarships is to enhance international cooperation and to advance the quality, innovation and European dimension of protected area management.

The scholarships, each worth €3,000, enable successful applicants to undertake a study visit to one or more protected areas in a European country.

In 2009, the three scholarships were awarded at the EUROPARC conference to Urszula Biereznoj (Biebrza National Park, PL), Naomi Scuffil (Dartmoor National Park Authority, UK) and Saira Sheldrake (New Forest National Park Authority, UK).

Urszula Biereznoj will visit protected areas and environmental institutions in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practice in biodiversity conservation and Natura 2000 management. Naomi Scuffil will visit national parks in Germany and report back to us about "non-interventional-management-zones" and conflict management between species protection and landowners. Saira will develop a tool to predict disturbance distances of the recreational sport of Kite-surfing on wintering and wading birds in protected areas with coastlines.

Meanwhile, the scholarship reports from the 2008 winners about their study trips to Greece, the Republic of Moldova and the Carpathians can now be viewed online.

Preparation for the 2010 scholarships is underway. Individuals may apply from February 15th to May 16th.

More information: www.europarc.org/what-we-do/alfred-toepfer-schol,

Contact: Diana Gallrapp, d.gallrapp@europarc.org

The Alfred Toepfer Award 2009

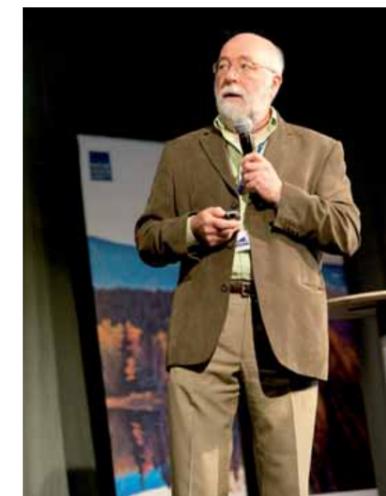


The Alfred Toepfer Medal, named after the founder of the EUROPARC Federation, Dr Alfred Toepfer, is awarded annually in recognition of a particular individual's service to Europe's protected areas. The medal is presented at the annual EUROPARC conference.

In 2009 the winner of the Medal was Mr Gordon Millar who was nominated by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for his significant contribution to nature protection in Europe by inspiring, encouraging and coordinating the work of ranger services.

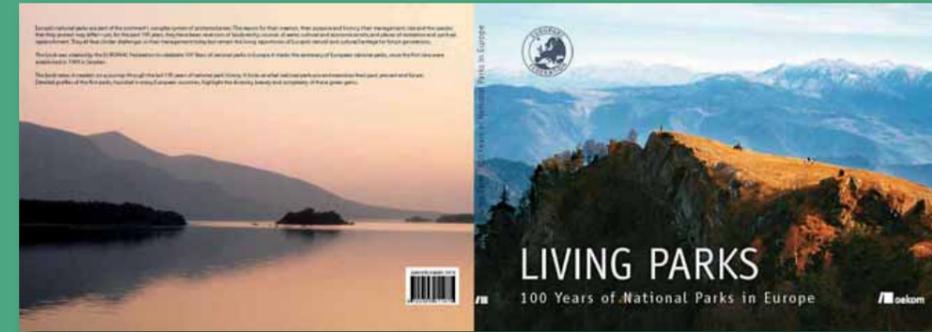
More information: www.europarc.org/what-we-do/alfred-toepfer-medal

Contact: Carol Ritchie



Gordon Millar, winner of the Alfred Toepfer Medal in 2009. Picture: Karin Björk

His Royal Highness, Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, opens Sweden's 29th National Park, Kosterhavet Marine National Park.
Picture: Karin Björk



The delightful and informative book 'Living Parks: 100 Years of National Parks in Europe'. Available to purchase online.

Celebrating 100 Years of National Parks in Europe

In 2009 Europe celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of its first National Parks. To mark this occasion EUROPARC developed the project "Celebrating 100 years of National Parks in Europe". The project aimed to proclaim anew the values and benefits of National Parks across Europe and examine their 100 years of history.

The production of a number of high quality products ensured the success of the project. This included the book "Living Parks: 100 Years of Protected Areas in Europe", which was launched at the EUROPARC Conference in Strömstad, Sweden. The book takes its readers on a journey through the last 100 years of national park history, exploring their past, present and future. Detailed profiles of the first parks, founded in many European countries, and highlights the diversity, beauty and complexity of these green gems.

A mobile exhibition of the same name, introducing the public to the first national parks in 34 European countries, their issues and assets, was also produced and launched at the conference in Sweden. It was presented at the November EUROPARC Atlantic Isles conference in Edinburgh and will continue to travels around various protected areas in Europe in 2010.

In addition, the project enabled the production of nine beautiful banners depicting national parks and various quotes of famous European individuals.

This project was made possible with the financial and technical support of a number of organisations. Our thanks therefore go to ECO Germany; NatureBureau; Oekom Verlag; EUROPARC Consulting; the contributors; Eurosite; all of the participating national parks; and last but not least to the following organisations for supporting the project financially: TUI AG (DE), the Swedish

Environmental Protection Agency, Klagenfurt University Masters Programme "Protected Area Management" (A), the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung (DE), the Irish Heritage Council (I), the Heinz Sielmann Stiftung (DE), the Direktoratet for Naturforvaltning (NO), Stichting Samenwerkingsverband Nationale Parken (NL), Österreichische Bundesforste (A) and Natural England (UK).

More information:
www.europarc.org/what-we-do/celebrating-100-year

Contact: Morwenna Parkyn



The travelling exhibition 'Living Parks: 100 Years of National Parks in Europe'.



New and reevaluated Charter protected areas receive their certificates at EUROPARC 2009. Picture: Karin Björk



In 2009 four Charter parks were re-evaluated successfully and 17 new parks were evaluated and awarded the Charter. The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECST) now comprises 75 protected areas in eight European countries and more than 150 businesses in nine Charter protected areas as part of Part II.

European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Key Activities 2009

European Charter Net

After 27 months of undertaking a programme of activities, the EUROPARC project "European CharterNet", supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, concluded successfully at the end of September 2009. The project, strongly supported by an expert working group, succeeded in linking the Charter to international guidelines, establishing new and fostering old partnerships as well as raising the Charter's profile.



A big step towards enlarging the Charter Network to new countries in Central and Eastern Europe was made with an information seminar in Pezinok (SK) with 30 participants from nine countries. The establishment of two partnerships between the Harz National Park (D) and the Muranska Planina National Park (SK) and the Alpi Marittime Nature Park (I) and the Apuseni Nature Park (RO) also contributed to the enlargement.

Parks and Benefits

EUROPARC is a project partner in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Interreg IVb project "Parks and Benefits", the aim of which is to implement the European Charter into protected areas in the BSR. In parallel, the project seeks to assess and present the environmental, economic and social benefits of sustainable tourism for the parks and their surrounding regions. Project workshops took place in the Müritz National Park (DE), the Maribo Lakes Nature Park (DK) and the Zemaitija National Park (LT).

European networking

This year's annual European Charter Networking Meeting took place in Capileira, in the Sierra Nevada National Park (ES). 140 participants from all the countries involved in the Charter Network attended and enjoyed interesting presentations and intensive discussions on different aspects of the Charter. For the first time a notable number of local tourism businesses as well as tour operators were represented.

Networking opportunities were also taken up at the EUROPARC annual conference, which saw a well-attended workshop on sustainable tourism and side meeting on the development of the Charter.

EUROPARC once again took part in the international alternative tourism fair "Reisepavillon", which took place in Munich in February as part of the European CharterNet project and in partnership with the tour operator, TUI, the Association Rhin Vivant, and the transfrontier Mercantour National Park and Alpi Marittime Nature Park.

The year ahead

The major challenge for 2010 is to maintain momentum within the Charter network. Continued efforts are being made to secure project funding to enable EUROPARC to take forward the Charter. Project proposals will be prepared at the beginning of 2010.

The implementation of the second part of the Charter, on working with tourism businesses, is progressing and more Charter parks are starting to introduce part II. In 2010 it will be necessary to evaluate progress and also to consider how the experience and expertise acquired might contribute to starting the third part of the Charter on working with tour operators.

As ever there will be the challenge of managing a growing network, and coordinating the evaluation process. Some thirteen re-evaluations and nine evaluations are currently scheduled.

More information: www.european-charter.org

Contact: Richard Blackman



The Charter networking meeting in Sierra Nevada (ES). Picture: EUROPARC

During 2009 the priorities of the Federation were to strengthen and further promote the Junior Ranger network, and to improve the communication through different initiatives and activities. Today the network boasts 31 protected areas from 15 different countries and involves around 40 rangers and 500 young people.



Participants of the 2009 Junior Ranger Camp. Picture: EUROPARC

EUROPARC Junior Ranger Network

Key activities 2009

New guidelines were published in February 2009 to help members better manage their Junior Ranger activities. Moreover a survey was carried out to ensure the Federation has up-to-date information for the different activities managed in the protected areas with Junior Ranger programmes.

As usual the main event of the year was the annual International Junior Ranger Camp. This time it was held in Parc Natural del Aiguamolls de l'Empordà (ES). 46 participants from 12 different protected areas and nine different European countries attended.

Amongst the attendees was Gudrun Batek from EUROPARC Germany, who initiated a German wide Junior Ranger programme in June 2009 together with the WWF Germany. The aim of the programme is to get young people more involved in protected area work, whether they live in or near a protected area, are visiting on holiday or via the web (www.junior-ranger.de).

The camp was the most successful activity of this year and was an extraordinary opportunity to meet new people, exchange experiences and to learn something new about the host park. It focused on climate change and food education through specific and exciting activities.



Junior Rangers getting involved in activities in Spain. Picture: EUROPARC



The Junior Rangers and their mentors worked together to calculate their CO₂ emissions produced each day in order to assess the environmental impacts of the camp and to weigh and separate rubbish. They also learned more about the importance of eating good, clean and fair food. Every day fresh fruit and vegetables were picked and bought at a local organic farm and traditional, local recipes were cooked together with a representative of Slow Food. Participants also helped the park with some practical work: cleaning the beach and building a new path for the senses.

The year ahead

The 9th International Junior Ranger Camp will take place from the 24th to the 31st of July in the Mendip Hills AONB (UK). The programme, which is still in progress, will include fieldwork and cultural activities including visits to Cheddar Gorge and the historic town of Wells. The camp will also offer plenty of outdoor activities including fishing, riding, caving and climbing.

This year EUROPARC will also be developing a new international project to improve the effectiveness of the Junior Ranger network, to involve more members and to offer a new follow up programme for the Junior Rangers.

More information: www.europarc.org/what-we-do/junior-ranger

Contact: Federico Minozzi



Junior Rangers explore marine life at Parc Natural del Aiguamolls de l'Empordà. Picture EUROPARC

NatuRegio – Trainees for Nature in Bulgaria and Romania

NatuRegio's main objective is to facilitate the career development of young protected area professionals in Romania and Bulgaria, in particular through the acquisition of greater expertise in the management of natural resources through training and capacity building activities. Annually 10 scholarships are awarded to young environmental professionals from the two countries. These young scholars take part in a conservation management training programme in Germany. This includes four months of practical training in protected areas and nature conservation institutions, capacity building courses and the development of an individual project. These projects are then implemented by trainees in their home region.



Key Activities 2009

NatuRegio is now at the end of its fourth year and continues to be coordinated by the NNA (Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Protection), Euronatur, Lüneburg University and EUROPARC. Funding is provided by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) and the Alfred Toepfer Foundation.

The 2009/10 project year started in February 2009 with the selection of the trainees. From March to September they benefited from the vocational training programme. In September the project proposals developed by the young conservationists were evaluated by the project jury. All projects were funded with €3,000 and a special grant was awarded to the two best proposals. All trainees will have implemented their projects by February 2010.

In November the final workshop of the programme was held in Bulgaria. It brought together trainees from all project years and looked at individual projects implemented over this time span.

In the framework of this year's training period a seminar on "Integrated Management of Natural Resources in South East Europe: Regional Experiences and International Cooperation" was organised by EUROPARC in Poiana Brasov (RO). Training sessions were held in co-operation with experts from several organisations and institutions, including WWF-Romania, Association of

Ecotourism in Romania, the Italian Institute for International Legal Studies and the German Technical Cooperation. It was the first time during the course of the programme that trainees from two project years (2008 and 2009) gathered together. The aim was to enhance the cross border network of Romanian, Bulgarian and German young professionals in the field of nature conservation.

The year ahead

After four successful years of implementation the NatuRegio is now in its last year and funding will end in April 2010. The project partner team is discussing its continuation including the possible expansion of the countries included in the project and funding opportunities.

More information: www.naturegio-bg-ro.de

Contact: *Diana Gallrapp*



Participants attending a training seminar in Brasov organised by EUROPARC. Picture: EUROPARC



PAME workshop at EUROPARC 2009. Picture: Christoph Nolte

Protected Area Management Effectiveness



Protected areas have become a major instrument to reduce the rate of worldwide biodiversity loss. The assessment of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) received a new emphasis on the agenda of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), underpinning the need to ensure that the management undertaken by protected areas is effective in achieving its aims.

As a reaction to this demand, the University of Greifswald, Germany and the University of Queensland, Australia in cooperation with UNEP-WCMC (United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre) and EUROPARC Federation, launched a follow-up study in early 2009, whose aim was to create more profound insights into how and where PAME assessments have been and are being carried out in Europe and to find out how effective they are how they can be improved.

Key activities 2009

The overall goal of the study is to produce an analysis of protected areas management effectiveness (PAME) evaluation studies within Europe. For this reason the project team collected

and analysed information and retrieved data on existing studies as well as methodologies in Europe.

In November 2009 the workshop 'Protected Area management Effectiveness Assessment in Europe – a review of data methods and results' was held at the International Academy of Nature Conservation (Isle of Vilm, DE). Participants discussed the preliminary results of the study and developed specific recommendations related to the scope of the study, the application and the implementation of the results and the reporting to the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA).

The year ahead

The final report of the study will be published in 2010 and the data will be linked up with the WDPA. Outcomes will be used to track European progress towards meeting the CBD 2010 target, and to draft recommendations for future PAME evaluations adapted to the European context.

More information: www.europarc.org/what-we-do/protected-area-manag

Contact: *Diana Gallrapp*



Participants of the first TransParcNet meeting in 2009. Picture: Martin Šolar

Transboundary Cooperation

Key Activities 2009

New EUROPARC transboundary parks network established

Protected areas certified under EUROPARC's 'Transboundary Parks: Following Nature's Design' initiative met for the first time at the beginning of May. TransParcNet was created at a networking meeting held close to the transboundary Nigula Nature Reserve and North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve on the Estonian – Latvian border.

During the event parks presented their transboundary work and despite their diversity it was clear that transboundary cooperation works and brings benefits. Participants examined the benefits associated with the transboundary certification scheme and identified priorities.

Growth in the network

Two new transboundary park partnerships were awarded the Transboundary Parks certificate during the Federation's annual conference in Strömstad:

- Bavarian Forest National Park (D) together with the Šumava National Park (CZ)
- Transboundary Ecoregion Julian Alps comprising Triglav National Park (SI), the Prealpi Giulie Nature Park (I) and the Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (SI)



With certification of these parks, eight transboundary park partnerships involving protected areas in eleven countries have now been certified.

Other events

Work in the field of transboundary cooperation was guided by the Steering and Evaluation Committee. Discussions also took place in a workshop on transboundary cooperation during the EUROPARC conference.

The Year Ahead

The TransParcNet will meet in April 2010 at the Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park in Austria.

Challenges for the year ahead include maintaining the momentum generated in 2009 and acquiring project funding to finance activities within the network.

More information:

www.europarc.org/what-we-do/transboundary-parks

Contact: Richard Blackman

Promoting Wilderness in Europe

Key Activities 2009

Wilderness and Natura 2000

More than 50 protected area experts from 12 European countries met in Srní (CZ) at the end of January 2009 to take part in an international colloquium on 'The appropriateness of non-intervention management for protected areas and Natura 2000 sites', co-hosted by EUROPARC members Šumava National Park and Bavarian Forest National Park.

Participants examined the implementation of the wilderness concept in Europe; looked at wilderness as a scene of dynamics; and heard case studies from protected areas about the non-intervention principle in the context of Natura 2000.

Conclusions included the view that there are numerous benefits to a wilderness approach and the feeling that there is no contradiction between Natura 2000, biodiversity conservation and non-intervention management.

Czech EU Presidency conference

EUROPARC played an active role, as part of the Wild Europe Initiative, in planning the Czech EU Presidency conference on wilderness and large natural habitat areas in Prague in May.

The conference considered the extent of wilderness in Europe, how a wilderness approach to nature management could be applied in Europe and how partnerships could be developed.

The conference resulted in the "Message from Prague": recommendations to the European Commission, EU Member States and other stakeholders on the topic of wilderness. At a workshop held during EUROPARC 2009, EUROPARC members examined ways for the Federation and protected areas to implement the Message.

World Wilderness congress Wild 9 in Mexico

At the World Wilderness Congress held in November 2009 in Merida, Mexico, delegates from across the globe, put together the Message from Merida, an international call to action with specific policy guidelines to integrate wilderness and biodiversity conservation into global climate change strategy. EUROPARC was represented by its President, Erika Stanciu.

The year ahead

In 2010 attention will be focused on implementing the recommendations of the Message from Prague. Priorities are currently being set together in the Wild Europe Initiative.

More information:

www.europarc.org/what-we-do/wild-europe-initiative

Contact: Richard Blackman

Winter impressions of the Lusen, Bavarian Forest National Park (DE)
Picture: Rainer Pöhlmann



Field visit of Training Champions participants in Hungary 2009.
Picture: Janka Smatanova



EUROPARC Federation Section Reports

The WWF Danube Carpathian Eco-region programme.



Key activities 2009

More simply known as “Protected Areas for a Living Planet” this ambitious programme is the result of partnership working between WWF and the EUROPARC Federation. It aims to establish a network of protected area practitioners that are well trained, and to develop local capacity through “training the trainers”. A significant part of the work is subcontracted to EUROPARC Consulting GmbH.

As part of the programme EUROPARC Consulting carried out a new project in the Ukrainian Carpathians in 2009. It dealt with improving communications, interpretation and outreach. It culminated in July with a study tour by 19 senior officers from the three key protected areas to the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks. An easy-to-use manual on how to use the lessons learned in the fields of communication and interpretation was prepared, together with a report analysing possible skills gaps and ways of overcoming them.

The ambitious Training Champions initiative entered its second year. This is a structured training plan running to 2010. Two events were designed to build participants confidence and ability in protected area management, and develop their skills in training others. Two sessions concentrated on management planning, sustainable tourism and communication skills.

A seminar took place in October, near Ponitrie (SK) dealing with management planning and stakeholder involvement; development and support for sustainable tourism and ecotourism; visitor management; communication techniques; increasing public awareness and more...

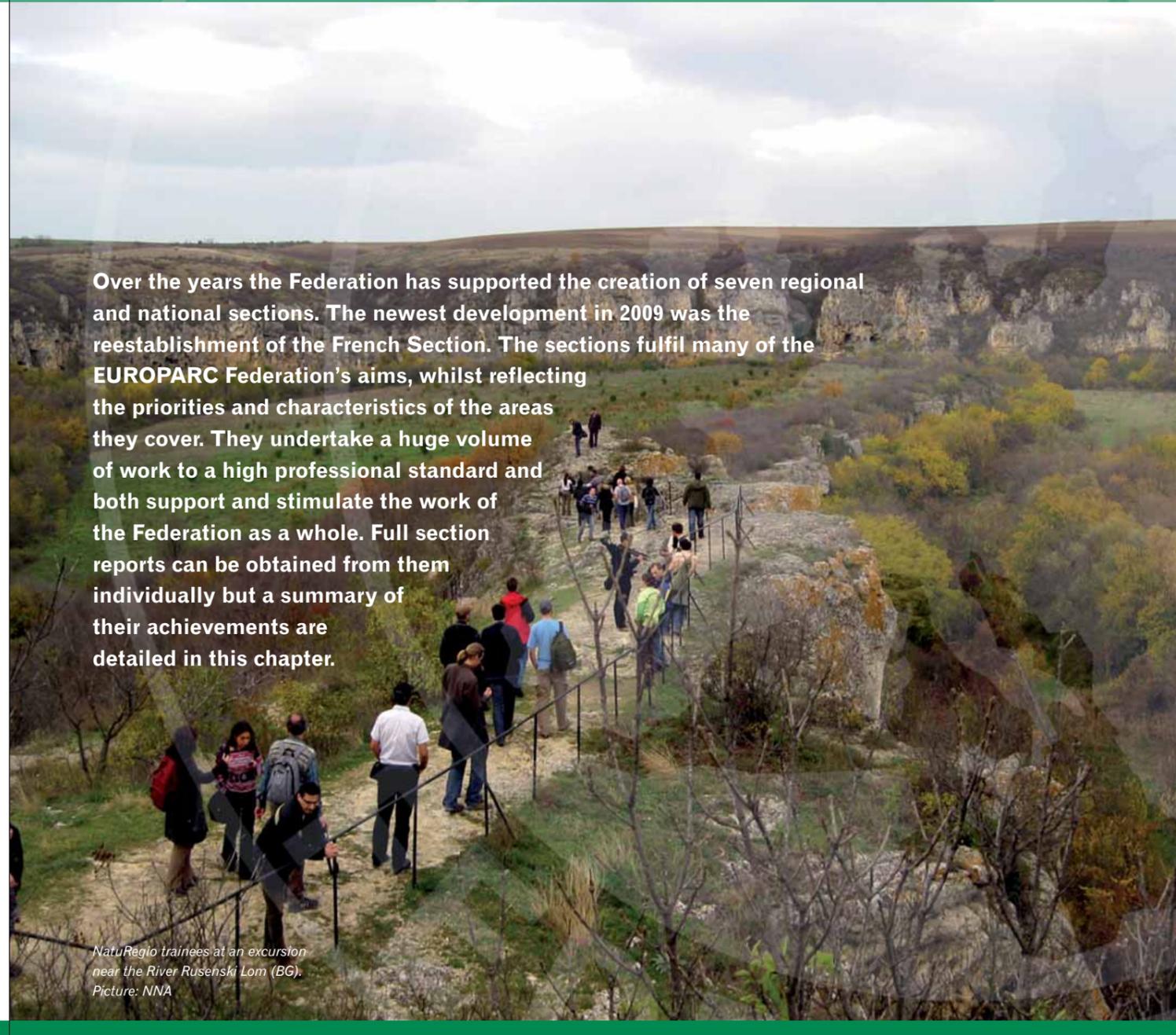
The year ahead

In 2010 the project will focus especially on making the training offer directly applicable to home protected areas.

More information:
www.europarc.org/what-we-do/wwf-danube-carpathia

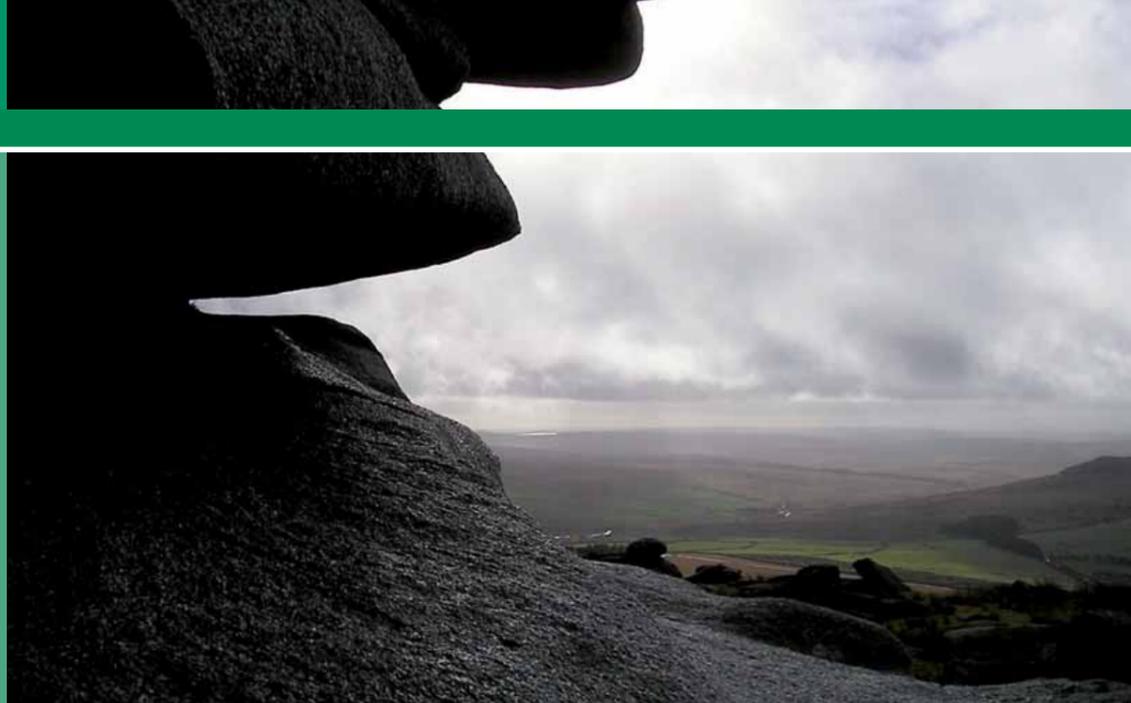
Contact: Wilf Fenten

Over the years the Federation has supported the creation of seven regional and national sections. The newest development in 2009 was the reestablishment of the French Section. The sections fulfil many of the EUROPARC Federation's aims, whilst reflecting the priorities and characteristics of the areas they cover. They undertake a huge volume of work to a high professional standard and both support and stimulate the work of the Federation as a whole. Full section reports can be obtained from them individually but a summary of their achievements are detailed in this chapter.



NatuRegio trainees at an excursion near the River Rusenski Lom (BG).
Picture: NNA

Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Picture: Dan Bloomfield



Participants packs for the EAI seminar in November.
Picture: EUROPARC

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles

Key activities 2009

In 2009 the EUROPARC Atlantic Isles Section (EAI) invested in the development of the organisation. The section recruited 11 new members (up 12% from 2008) and also recruited new talent to the Board. Communication with members was more regular with electronic updates and newsletters, and a new work programme for 2010 was produced.

National Designated Landscapes - Our Vision for the 21st Century

This is a major initiative for EAI, setting out bold principles that the section feels should guide management of important landscapes. A workshop was held in July, in Birmingham, drawing together academics, government agencies, NGOs and, most vitally, those who already manage landscapes. The Vision will be published in 2010.

Charter for Sustainable Tourism Network

The Network has grown to over 40 protected areas and met twice in 2009. An individual from one of the UK's new Charter parks attended the Charter network meeting in Spain.

Marine and Coastal Working Group

The Group was extremely busy throughout the year providing detailed input to the government on the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, the coastal issues around the emergent South Downs National Park, and planning policy for coastal areas.

European Landscape Convention

EAI held a seminar in London in January that looked at the implementation of the Convention in the UK, its implications for protected areas, and specifically issues around urban fringe areas. A summary of the findings was sent to the Council of Europe 5th Conference on the Implementation of the ELC, and EAI attended that conference in Strasbourg in April.

Protected Areas Collaboration Group

A central role for EAI in the UK is to liaise with other protected areas associations. The section collaborates on finding new ways to jointly train staff and publicize access opportunities.

Regional engagement

EAI is committed to a series of regional engagements with members and grant funding bodies. In May, a meeting was held in Wales that examined issues relating to Welsh policy and priorities.

Health and protected areas

A seminar in March looked at how protected areas could contribute to national health agendas. At the General Assembly in Strömstad, EAI discussed conclusions from this with colleagues from across Europe and how to take these forward, ideally via cooperation between EAI and the Nordic-Baltic Section, to explore the possibility of a European Charter for Healthy Parks.

Protected area management

A seminar in Edinburgh in November explored what it meant to protected areas to move from a management model that prioritises numerical outputs to one based on less tangible, but arguably more important, outcomes.

Policy development

EAI were closely engaged with Natural England's policy initiative on landscapes throughout the year.

Junior Rangers Network

Following EAI attendance at the National Association of AONB conference in October, a new network for members already delivering a Junior Ranger project, or who are interested in so doing has been established.

The year ahead

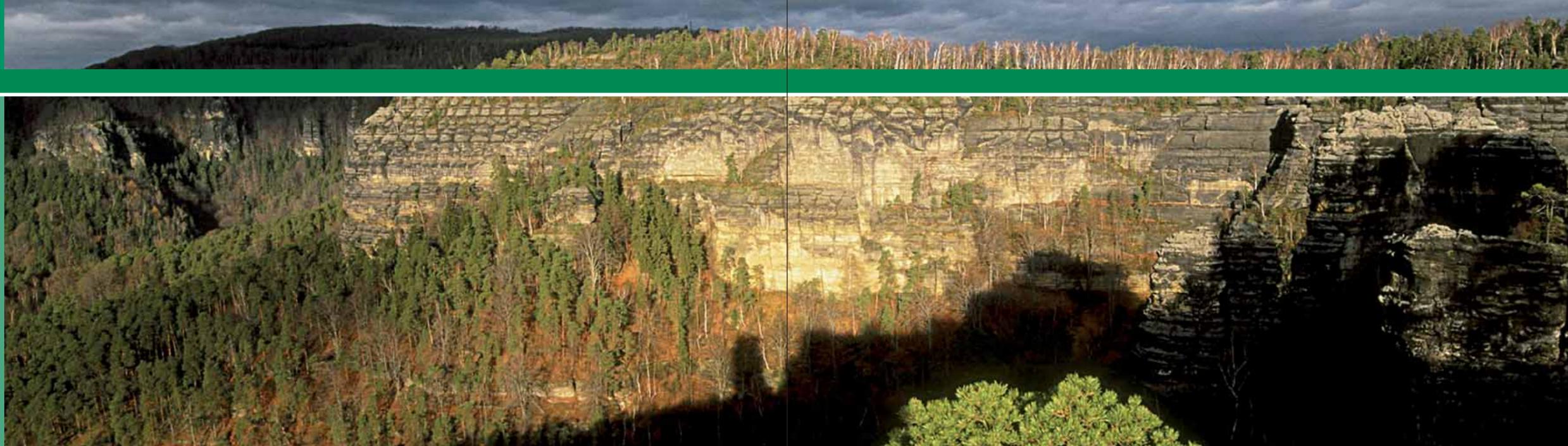
2010 will be a challenging year for EUROPARC Atlantic Isles. The section will be expanding its work on health, looking to develop plans to apply for new funds and scope out a potential European Charter for Healthy Parks. There will be two seminars, one on coastal and marine issues and one on maximising the contributions protected areas can make to wealth creation, and a training event for those who wish to start a Junior Ranger programme. In addition EAI will work closely with colleagues in France to develop a new exchange programme.

More information: www.europarc-ai.org

Contact: Dan Bloomfield



EUROPARC
Atlantic Isles



Bohemian
Switzerland
National Park (CZ).
Picture:
Zdeněk Patzelt

EUROPARC Czech Republic

Key Activities 2009

In January 2009 EUROPARC Czech Republic facilitated the organisation of the international colloquium "The appropriateness of non-intervention management for protected areas and Natura 2000 sites" in Srní, Šumava National Park (CZ). The section worked closely on the event with the Šumava and Bavarian National Park administrations and other institutions. The outcomes were published and used as one of the background documents for the Czech EU Presidency Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas in Europe, in May 2009.

In the framework of the Prague Wilderness Conference the section prepared a thematic photo exhibition focused on wilderness in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Prague. In addition, an up-to-date version of the DVD 'Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection in the Czech Republic' was produced and distributed and the traveling exhibition "Green bridges, crossing borders" was launched.

Internal activities within the EUROPARC Federation included the organisation of various activities in protected areas across the Czech Republic on and around the European Day of Parks. Furthermore, Šumava National Park successfully applied for the EUROPARC transboundary certificate together with the Bavarian Forest National Park. They are now the third national park in the Czech Republic with this achievement. Czech National Parks also participated in EUROPARC's international Junior Ranger Camp in 2009.

A plenary session of the Czech Section was held from 20th – 21st October in the Bohemian Switzerland National Park. Within this plenary session, the section organised a colloquium about the nature conservation monitoring programmes in the Czech Republic.

Vernissage of the 'Our National Parks - Europe's Green Bridges exhibition', Jihlava. Picture: Tomáš Rothröckl



Success and Challenges

The most important activity in 2009 was the successful involvement of the Czech Section in the wilderness agenda during the Czech EU Presidency.

The Year Ahead

In 2010 the Czech section will be busy organising a number of events. There will be the Nature Conservation Conference in Olomouc in September 2010; the summer school Silva Gabreta, which will be organized by Šumava and the Bavarian Forest National Parks as well as universities; events organized by protected areas

dedicated to the European Day of Parks and the International Year of Biodiversity; and involvement in the project Training Champions for Carpathian Ecoregion Protected Areas.

In addition the exhibition Green Bridges will continue its travels and a new exhibition entitled 'Nature Conservation in the Czech Republic' will be launched. Finally EUROPARC Czech Republic will be creating and launching their new website.

More information: www.europarc.cz

Contact: *Veronika Vilímková*

Sumava National Park.
Picture: Bohumir Prokůpek

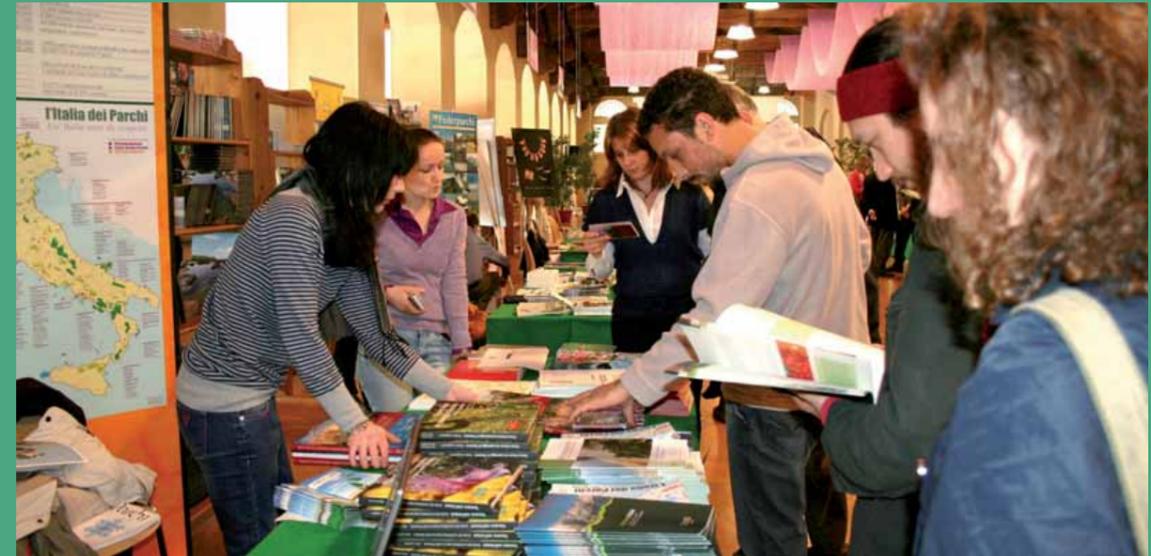


Visit from colleagues from the southern Caucasus republics.
Picture: Tomáš Rothröckl





Participants of the Grundtvig Project.
Picture: L. La Mura



Parco Libri.
Picture: Archive Federparchi

Federparchi - EUROPARC Italy

Key Activities 2009

For Federparchi - EUROPARC Italy, 2009 saw a rich abundance of initiatives and projects, as well as the appointment of the a new president and director. All activities were carried out in partnership with regions, local authorities, universities, enterprises, individual protected areas, and associations.

There were several important areas of work over the year.

- Climate change and the creation of 'Parks for Kyoto' the fundraising initiative for reforestation in parks, in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol.
- The effective management of protected areas, which was addressed in various national and international initiatives and projects.
- Sustainable tourism, a priority for a country like Italy and the reason behind the establishment of a consulting service by the section. The aim of the service is to support its members who wish to obtain the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. It has also initiated a dialogue with the Ministry of Tourism and some Italian Regions

Two projects were developed concerning environmental education in schools. The first, 'Citizens of the Park', looked at active citizenship and the second, Vividaria (supported by an international cosmetics company) explored the connection between biodiversity conservation and human health). In addition the project "GUFF" was created. This project looked at the accessibility of protected areas for blind and visually impaired individuals.

The tragic earthquake in the Abruzzi in April had severe impacts on the parks in the region. Federparchi - EUROPARC Italy offered its support, particularly by working to increase tourism in the area and promoting local products: two of the main sources of income for these areas.

Communication always has a very important role for Federparchi - EUROPARC Italy. This year's most important methods of communication were: the website "www.Parks.it": The portal of the Italian protected areas with about 20,000 pages (in Italian, German and English) and over 200 Italian protected area co-authors with Federparchi; the institution's website "www.Federparchi.it" (renovated and expanded just last year); several public events, including "Park Books" an environment publishing fair, and publications such as the dossier "The green gold of the parks", which concerns the economics related to protected areas and the White Paper "Parks and Culture 2009".

 **Federparchi**
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA PARCHI E RISERVE NATURALI



On an international level, fruitful exchanges took place with other EUROPARC sections, particularly on the topics of volunteering (Grundtvig project) and of the Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The section also participated in the International Competition of Countdown 2010 with two projects ('Vividaria' and 'Shipyards of Biodiversity'). In addition, cooperation beyond Europe has seen the active support of park rangers in the Congo and the facilitation of the management of two protected areas in Uruguay and Lebanon. A training workshop for park managers was successfully organised in Brazil with the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, devoted to the comparison between the management of protected areas in both nations.

Success and Challenges

The time that the section has devoted to so many diverse topics that are not always associated with protected areas is remarkable. This shows that it is possible to link the conservation of biodiversity, the main purpose of a protected area, with a large number of other areas leading to original, environmentally responsive, multidisciplinary solutions to problems. This in turn shows that protected areas can be the impetus for innovations, sustainable solutions, and new models across a variety of sectors.

The Year Ahead

One of the main goals of Federparchi - EUROPARC Italia for the future is to extend its expertise to other social and economic sectors. This would strengthen the capacity of parks to engage in dialogues and form alliances with other fields. Furthermore, the section will also continue its lobbying activities towards national and regional authorities to ensure that protected areas become a priority on the political agendas at various levels of competence. For precisely this reason a policy paper has been elaborated and will be addressed to all candidates for the next Italian Regional Elections that take place in March 2010.

The timetable for 2010 is already full of commitments, starting immediately in January with the new edition of *Mediterranean Parks Fair*, a trade fair dedicated to biodiversity, climate change, sustainable tourism and the green economy. An important priority in 2010 will be the organisation of the EUROPARC Federation's annual conference (September 29th to October 2nd) in collaboration with the Abruzzo National Park and the headquarters of EUROPARC Federation.

Throughout 2010 it will be very important for the Italian section to maintain and develop fruitful European and international partnerships and projects.

More information: www.parks.it

Contact: *Stefania Petrosillo*



EUROPARC President, Erika Stanciu, and Director, Carol Ritchie witnessed the reestablishment of the French section in 2009. Picture: A L'Epine, PNF



The reestablishment of the French section, 14th October 2009. Picture: A Boulard, FPNRF

EUROPARC French Section

Key activities 2009: the reestablishment of the section

In 2009 the French section was re-established and defined a new action plan for the next three years (2009 – 2011), with the objective of involving French members more actively in the Federation's initiatives. The Section had two meetings in 2009 and a large delegation from French protected areas attended the EUROPARC Conference in Sweden.

Jean Pierre Giran, president of the National Parks of France, was elected president of the Section for the period 2009-2011, while Dominique Leveque, president of the Montagne de Reims Regional Park, and recently elected member of the EUROPARC Council, will be the vice-president.

Successes and Challenges: a shared and ambitious action plan.

The main successes of 2009 were the new enthusiasm of the Section and the approval of the new action plan, enabling the coordination of new common initiatives. The main challenge is now to carry out the action plan.

The determination to involve all French protected areas

Members of the Section have expressed their interest in contributing to EUROPARC, particularly in finding a way to gain from the EU official recognition of protected areas as a strategic tool for the sustainable management of the regions. Thus, on 22nd January 2010, the French Section will organise an international seminar at the Montagne de Reims Regional Park in partnership with EUROPARC,

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (ECST)

In 2009 the Section evaluated the application of the Charter in French protected areas. The results highlighted the main areas of improvement within the process and underlined the core expectations of parks where EUROPARC and the ECST are concerned.

The Section created a working group dedicated to the ECST. This group brings together French Charter protected areas, key individuals in the network and representatives of local communities. A technical board was selected in December 2009 to collaborate with the working group and to facilitate and better manage the application of the Charter part II.

The year ahead

Carrying out the action plan will be the main task of the Section and two meetings are currently planned. In addition the Charter working group and the involvement of the Section in the

meetings and activities promoted by EUROPARC will be important. A specific focus will be on the organisation of the lobbying seminar (January 2010) at the Montagne de Reims Regional Park, and on the definition of a toolkit to support protected areas implementing the Charter part II. In spring 2010, the Section website should be in place.

Contact: Anne L'Epine



Jean-Pierre Giran, president of the French section, addresses the Assembly in Sweden. Picture: C Neumuller, Vanoise National Park (FR)



The exhibition of the German Biosphere Reserves at the Federal Garden Show in Schwerin was a great success.
Picture: AfBR Schaalsee



EUROPARC Germany declared 2009 nationally the "Year of Biosphere Reserves" and called for more attention to and appreciation of these protected areas. Highlights were an exhibition of the German UNESCO Biosphere Reserves at the Federal Horticultural Show in Schwerin in October as well as the Bliesgau Biosphere Reserve and Schwäbische Alp Biosphere Area gaining UNESCO status.

EUROPARC Germany

Key activities 2009

Junior Ranger

The national Junior Ranger programme initiated by the German Section and WWF Germany began in June in the Harz National Park. This programme will be developed in the coming years together with the national natural landscapes. Participation for children and teenagers in the educational programme is not just restricted to those living near participating parks but will also be possible in the holidays and via the internet.

National Natural Landscapes as pillars for the preservation of biodiversity

This project began in 2009. It involved the translation of the IUCN management categories of protected areas into German and the production of the first suggestions for the Tenth Session of the Conference of Parties on Biodiversity (COP 10) in Japan.



Nationale Naturlandschaften



Volunteers in Parks

The number of volunteers' participants in the volunteers programme has increased continuously over the last few years. The last figures counted more than 2,600 volunteers and over 103,000 hours of service. Five new parks joined the scheme in 2009. People with learning disabilities were recruited as volunteers through cooperation with the organisation Lebenshilfe.

In addition, international activities in this area were extended, EUROPARC Germany was the lead partner in the EU Grundtvig project 'European Volunteers in Parks'.

Internship for the Environment

The 'Praktikum für die Umwelt' (Internship for the Environment), a partnership between the section and the Commerzbank, celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2009. Currently there are 30 National Natural Landscapes involved in the programme, which give 50 students annually the opportunity to swap university for a practical semester in natural surroundings.

Partner project

The number of partner businesses in the National Natural Landscapes has increased to currently around 400. In 2009 these partners strengthened their national external marketing.

Variety not monotony

At a well attended conference with the theme 'National Natural Landscapes' organised by the section in April speeches were given by a number of important individuals. 'Ambassadors' have been travelling around Germany since September with a lecture promoting biodiversity in Germany's protected areas.

Quality criteria for German protected areas

The voluntary evaluation of the 14 German national parks began in October. Using an evaluation carried out by the parks as a basis and an independent committee of experts checks the quality of the parks management. This initiative is the first of its kind for national parks in the world.

The Year Ahead

In 2010 the section will continue to increase work on the current projects. Events will be organised marking the 40th anniversary of the Bavarian Forest National Park and '20 Years of the National Park Programme'. In addition the German Junior Ranger Meeting will take place in Müritzer National Park in June. Furthermore the section plans to combine the "European Day of the Parks" with a nationwide "Hikers' day" and to celebrate these on the "International Day of Biodiversity" on 22nd of May.

More information: www.europarc-deutschland.de

Contact: Vivian Kreft, Head of Communications

Junior Ranger explore nature.
Picture: A. Morascher/junior-ranger.de/EUROPARC+WWF



Individuals cared for by the Lebenshilfe Branch Waldeck-Frankenberg work as volunteers in the Kellerwald-Edersee National Park in Mai 2009.
Picture: W. Lassek



Sunrise over Nigula Nature Reserve in Estonia. The Nigula mire is managed by Keskkonnaamet/ Estonian Environmental Board.
Picture: Murel Merivee

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic

In January, Latvia handed over the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section presidency to Sweden. From 2009-2011 the section's secretariat will be hosted by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Thomas Hansson is president. Evelina Selander coordinated the Section up until June, when she was succeeded by Lena Malmström.

Seven new organisations joined the Section this year creating a total of 47 members as 2009 came to a close.

Key Activities 2009

The Section's Work and Communication Plans for 2009-2011 were established at the 2009 Members Assembly in Stockholm in February and two member meetings were held.

Seminars

The 2009 spring seminar focused on the restoration of sensitive biotopes in protected areas and was hosted by Dzūkija National Park (LI).



"Monitoring and Management of Visitors and Visitor Flows" was the topic of the autumn seminar, which took place in Rovaniemi (FI). It was co-arranged by Metsähallitus and the section secretariat and made possible by funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Communication

A new publicity package was produced, including a brochure presenting the Nordic-Baltic Section. The section also initiated the construction of a new website that will show the Section's connection to the EUROPARC family more clearly. The site's launch is scheduled for late spring. In addition, six issues of the newsletter were published.

Participation in other meetings

In order to inform a wider public about the section and its work, the secretariat made several presentations on EUROPARC and the Nordic-Baltic Section, including one to the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management in September

and one during the annual conference for protected area managers of the Swedish County Administrative Boards.

In response to the interest in sustainable tourism from Section members, the coordinator participated in the Parks & Benefits workshop "Marketing of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas in the Baltic Sea Region" in Berlin in December. As a result the Parks & Benefits project manager has been invited to present the project at the 2010 Members Assembly.

Successes and Challenges

Several of the Nordic-Baltic Section members faced significant financial challenges and re-organisations during 2009, as a result of the world financial crisis. Despite this members have shown a strong commitment to participate in the Section's activities.

*Participants at the Nordic-Baltic Section seminar "Monitoring and Management of Visitors and Visitor Flows", Rovaniemi (FI).
Picture: Paul F J Eagles*



The Year Ahead

Biodiversity will obviously be in focus in 2010. The Section will mark the International Year of Biodiversity amongst other things with a seminar in May, which includes participation in the conference Nature Conservation beyond 2010 in Tallinn. The autumn seminar will take place in Sweden and the working title is "Biodiversity Management in Nordic-Baltic Woodlands". The Section also aims to initiate new partnerships with colleagues elsewhere in Europe.

More information: www.europarc-nb.org

Contact: *Lena Malmström*

*Färnebofjärden National Park is one of the Nordic-Baltic Section's seven new members in 2009.
Picture: Jennie Dalethsson*





ESPARC participants.
Picture:
Javier Puertes

EUROPARC Spain

The Spanish Section was founded in 1993, and it is championed by FUNGOBE (Fundacion F.G. Bernaldez for Natural Areas). There are currently 26 members, all of them public administrations. Since 2008 the Programme of Work for Protected Areas 2009-2013, a contribution from the Spanish protected areas to the CBD Programme, has formed the backbone of the Section activities.

Key Activities 2009

In 2009 many activities from the Programme of Work 2009-2013 were started. These included the following:

- A seminar in April in Madrid on ecological connectivity (Action 1.3).
- The theme quality in management for conservation (Action 2.2), which saw the adoption of the Standard of Conservation in June. This instrument is now being used by some protected areas thanks to the support of Fundacion Biodiversidad.
- Work on quality in management of public use and tourism (Action 2.3), with seven new Spanish protected areas being awarded the CST and nearly 100 tourist companies joining the second

phase. The number of parks accredited with the label Q Standard for public use increased to 25.

- A technical workshop was held in Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve, thanks to support from the Euskadi government on the topic innovative financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation (Action 3.3) in October 2009.
- Action 5.1 looks at international cooperation. Here a document, 'state of the art', examining areas of international cooperation in Spanish protected areas supported by the National Parks Body, was produced for analysis.

In addition, EUROPARC Spain held the Section's Annual Conference in June in Comillas, together with the Government of Cantabria. 175 people attended and looked at how to integrate rural development and conservation. Furthermore, collaborative agreements with Colombia and Mexico were also established. The Section participated in the project "European Volunteers in Parks" led by the German Section.



EUROPARC Spain also cooperated with FUNCAS (Fundacion de las Cajas de Ahorro) to promote activities and projects under the European Day of Parks framework through an award recognising particularly good projects. In 2009 the project "Sierra Nevada National Park: Memory of many stories. History of our memory" won the first prize of €10,500.

Finally, two documents were published by the section in 2009: "Work Programme for Protected Areas 2009-2013" and "A Century of National Parks: history and future of Parks in Spain", both available in Spanish and English. Two issues of the Bulletin were also produced.

Success and Challenges

A success this year was the addition of two new members to the Section: the local governments of Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, in the Basque country. We look forward to working with them in the future. In addition several public and private foundations have supported the Section's activities: Fundación BBVA, Fundación Biodiversidad, Fundación de las Cajas de Ahorros, Obra Social de Caja Madrid, Red Electrica.

Ordesa y Viñamala.
Picture:
Javier Puertes



The distribution of the Programme of Work 2009-2013 to numerous actors, including NGOs, scientists and other bodies was challenging.

The Year Ahead

The main task for the Section in 2010 is the implementation of several lines of work connected to the Programme for Protected Areas 2009-2013. These include the development of Natura 2000 guidelines, marine protected areas, values and benefits of protected areas. The International Year of Biological Diversity will be the framework for disseminating information about many of the current activities to a wider audience.

More info: www.redeuroparc.org

Contact: *Marta Mugica*



Ukraine study tour to Bavaria, with EUOPARC Federation and EUOPARC Consulting team. Picture: Vasyi Kyslyak

EUOPARC Consulting

Key activities 2009

Work for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas has gone from strength to strength, as more and more areas hear about the Charter and, we hope, will seek to join. A further 17 successful new protected areas were welcomed for the award in 2009. EUOPARC Consulting worked to streamline the process and make Charter work more efficiently.

The company was privileged to work on new programmes in Ukraine, a priority eco-region for the WWF Danube Carpathian programme. This sought to improve communications, interpretation and outreach. The team succeeded in creating excellent connections and strong deep networks. Additionally we analysed existing skills gaps and how to fill them. In July the programme culminated in a study tour by nineteen senior officers from the three key protected areas to the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks. It was a programme of excellence and depth. An easy-to-use manual in the fields of communication and interpretation was produced, along with an evaluation report assessing and filling the current skills gap.

The Training Champions programme for WWF-DCP Protected Areas for a Living Planet project continues to gather pace, confidence and strength from within the group of dedicated practitioners. Working together with two committed trainers, they gather experiences of management planning and sustainable tourism to transfer to their own protected areas. The main Spring Seminar took place on the edge of the Bükk National Park in Hungary. The autumn event was held in Vanatori Nature Park, Romania.. A new intake of protected-area practitioners also joined a lively, interactive session in Slovakia, providing an enriching professional experience to take away and share with colleagues in their home protected areas.

Organising seminars for EUOPARC Atlantic Isles section on our own doorstep underpinned the year. Three seminars took place: in London, Oxfordshire and Edinburgh, all featuring prominent European speakers, reflecting discussion of Europe-wide current thinking amongst landscape professionals.



Programme cover for one of the many seminars EUOPARC Consulting organised.

Successes and Challenges

EUOPARC Consulting was delighted with the new network of colleagues established as a result of the meetings in Ukraine. This study programme was a resounding success and received enthusiastic feedback. The co-operative networking and increasing contribution to the Training Champions sessions from the participants themselves was wonderful to see too.

Tailoring inspirational training courses that are directly relevant to protected areas with increasingly challenged resource levels requires creative solutions. Post course analysis indicates this was achieved; "I gained a lot of experience that helps my work" said one participant. The main challenge, as always, is fitting all the work to be done into the time available to do it!

The Year Ahead

EUOPARC Consulting is continuously seeking to raise its profile at EU Commission level, in cooperation with the Federation office in Brussels. At the same time we are looking actively for the right mechanism to assemble project proposals and project concepts on a European level.

Two further Training Champions workshops will develop further the skills and learning already established, and Consulting hope to continue to build on the excellent partnerships with Ukrainian colleagues. The company is also busy tendering and expressing interest in new areas of work. Design and development work on the new dedicated website will continue. Watch that space!

More information: www.euoparc-consulting.org

Contact: Wilf Fenten



Giant silver fir (*abies alba*) in Gorgany nature reserve (UA). Picture: Nicky Rowbottom



National park
Podyjí-Thayatal
(CZ)
Picture:
Tomáš Rothrockl



EUROPARC Membership

The EUROPARC Federation currently has a membership of 433 members from 36 countries who manage the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage.

We are a genuine European network, with an active membership working across the continent in a wide range of policy areas. All protected areas and government agencies are impacted by European policy, directives and trends. EUROPARC provides the mechanism by which all these protected areas' functions can be captured and disseminated across the entire network

It should not be forgotten that the EUROPARC Federation is a members' association that delivers benefits through sharing good practice, access to training, development of programmes

and initiatives across all aspects of protected area management. We are the only European network to offer such a comprehensive suite of support across the holistic range of modern protected area management.

The majority of members are protected areas but some governmental environmental agencies, NGOs and committed individuals are also part of the network. In 2009 we welcomed 30 new members to the Federation. We are delighted they chose to be part of the association and look forward to benefiting from their experience.

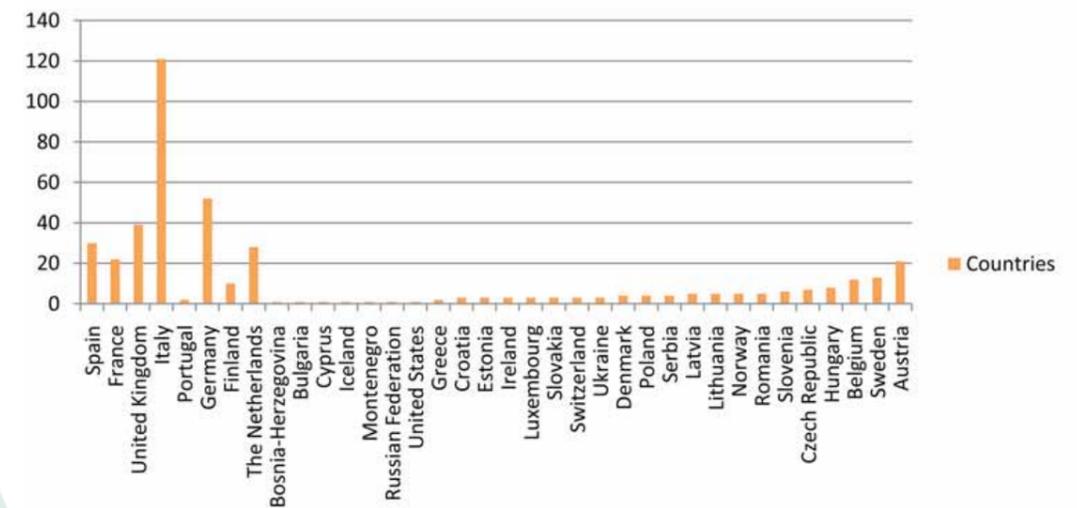
More information: <http://www.europarc.org/who-we-are/our-members>

Contact: Cornelia Ehlers

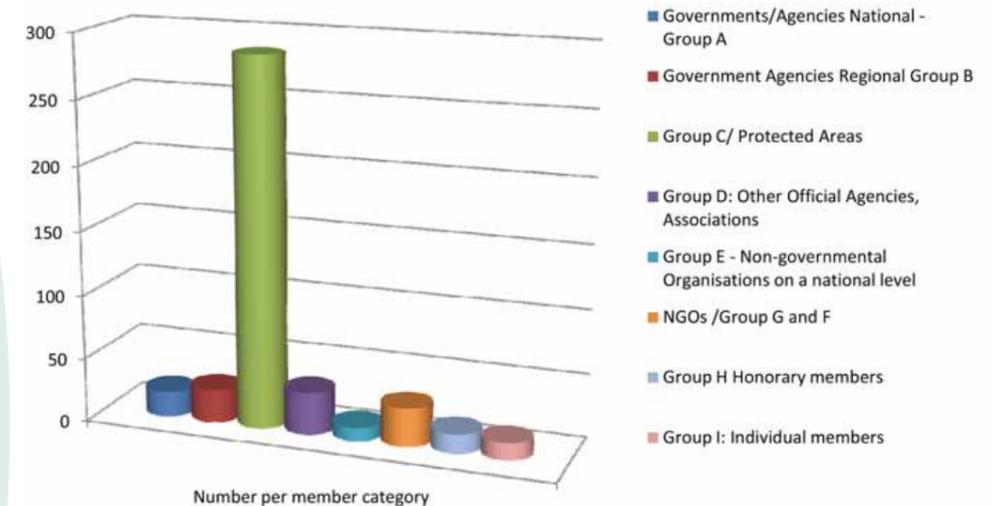


EUROPARC
FEDERATION

Number of EUROPARC members per country



EUROPARC members categories



Financial Report 2009

BALANCE SHEET

	2009	2008
AKTIVA		
Assets		
Total fixed assets	8 677,00	3 781,00
Total current assets	304 782,94	428 259,59
Total Assets	313 459,94	432 040,59
PASSIVA		
Profit Reserve		
	259 672,60	271 748,25
Liabilities		
Provisions	27 751,40	28 772,94
Accounts payable	26 035,94	131 519,40
Total Equity and Liability	313 459,94	432 040,59

NOTES

* The EUROPARC Federation represents the membership as a member of the World Conservation Union(IUCN), Federation of European and International Associations established in Belgium(FAIB), European Habitat Forum EHF.

*¹ Personnel and travel costs related to these projects have been recorded in the overall personnel and travel costs of the EUROPARC Federation. Direct project costs relate to all other costs associated with these projects.

*² Youth and Education work includes Junior Ranger Network, Junior Ranger International Camp.

INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT

	2009	2008
Income		
Membership fees	350 672,74	368 078,00
Grants		
Non fee paying members	0,00	-20 560,29
EC core grant	101 600,00	99 175,60
Project grants	265 495,45	262 177,36
Other income	9 153,10	986,56
Total Income	726 921,29	709 857,23
Expenditure		
Personnel costs	385 939,31	317 695,00
Office costs		
Grafenau	41 246,17	38 582,10
Brussels	11 677,17	4 506,93
Travel and Subsistence		
Council travel	34 719,06	26 448,02
Staff	22 749,36	24 308,90
Others	16 135,03	20 136,73
Memberships		
IUCN, FAIB, EHF*	1 475,58	977,31
Projects - Direct Costs*¹		
Transboundary	3 313,76	5 407,14
Alfred Toepfer	3 676,07	2 238,14
Youth and Education* ²	0,00	16 805,42
Working for Nature	0,00	0,00
WWF Danube Carpathian	114 406,71	117 261,77
Charter for Sustainable Tourism	34 150,10	31 199,42
Internship Exchange	0,00	30 161,12
NatuRegio	13 000,95	0,00
Living Parks	25 823,48	0,00
Others	13 623,02	38 115,98
Other costs		
Professional fees	11 826,30	10 497,27
Depreciation	3 190,89	1 723,44
Insurance	2 043,98	1 780,84
Total expenditure	738 996,94	687 845,53
Result	-12 075,65	22 011,70

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Renewal
Erneuerung
Renouveler

Impressum:

Copyright: EUROPARC Federation 2010

Edited: EUROPARC Federation Directorate

Translations: German: Luis Luedicke - luisluedicke@gmx.de, French: Florence Bibic

Graphic Design: Václav Hřaba, atelier-hřaba@volny.cz

Printing: Graphic atelier H, Ltd.



The production of this publication has been supported financially in the framework of the European Commission's 2009 funding programme for European Environmental NGOs. The information in this publication reflects the views of the authors only. The European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

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