

100 years of National Parks in Europe: a shared inheritance, a common future

Report from the EUROPARC Federation conference
8-13 September 2009, Strömstad, Sweden



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Eureka!

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and EUROPARC conference formula gets results

Take more than 300 protected area professionals from 27 countries. Multiply their thinking by the power of five expert speakers on key topics from environmental economics to global warming. Multiply again, by 15 workshops, then 11 excursions. Add 100 years of national parks, and two new marine national parks.

What do you get?

Inspired is the answer – or as one delegate put it: 'I enjoyed it so much! I have been filled to the brim with clear, nourishing inspiration.' Post-conference feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 94% of delegates reporting as 'overall very satisfied'.

Typical responses remarked on a 'sense of purpose and new-found confidence' and that it would be 'very hard to improve on what felt like a landmark moment in EUROPARC Federation development.'

Hundreds of constructive suggestions for the future were also recorded as part of the survey, and will be taken forward to inform next year's conference (for dates and information, see page 4).

During the conference, we asked some delegates for their 'Eureka moments' (see quotes left). If you were there, you'll have had moments of your own; don't keep them to yourself! Carry on networking, share the thinking with colleagues by passing on this report – and follow the page numbers to find out more.

Front cover photos *Main picture:* The Eastindiaman Göteborg, part of inauguration day celebrations
Insets (clockwise from top left): Small community, archipelago, west coast of Sweden; sunstar, conference petting aquarium; fishing boat off west coast of Sweden; conference venue, Strömstad; conference in full swing; conference kayaking excursion, Kosterhavet National Park; skerries off the coast of Strömstad; delegates on inauguration day; on the way into Strömstad Harbour.
Karin Bjork, Mattias Sköld, Anders Tysklind

This conference report is edited highlights. It gives a flavour of the connections possible through the EUROPARC Federation. Please pass it on to a colleague when you've read it.

Find more detail of individual presentations and workshops at www.europarc.org

All conference photographs by Karin Bjork www.karinbjork.se/europarc

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EUOPARC President
Erika Stanciu

Birthday wishes

“Protected areas are centres of excellence. They can be the starting point.”

The annual EUOPARC conference celebrating 100 years of national parks in Europe was always going to be special. After all the first parks were established in Sweden.

But as the Federation President, Erika Stanciu, welcomed an audience including King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden it was already obvious that things could hardly have been better.

Already she and EUOPARC director Carol Ritchie had been invited to address the high level EU meeting of environment ministers hosted by Sweden which preceded the conference.

The next day, close co-operation between Sweden and Norway resulted in a truly celebratory christening for two new marine national parks (see pages 6-9) – a transboundary achievement pointing firmly at the future.

The special guests, including royalty but not least happy crowds of local people, showed just how highly regarded and important protected areas can be. As the King himself said, on the Koster Islands, people live not outside, but *surrounded* by the national park – perhaps a symbol of the future.

High on sea air and shrimp, delegates welcomed their President's endorsement of the festivities, and her call to action: “I hope that after this beautiful day you are ready to work, to listen, learn and to share as much as you can.”

She warmly thanked the teams from Sweden and EUOPARC head office, as well as the many Federation members, who contributed to the conference organisation.

Regarding the 100th anniversary, she suggested 9 September as a “birthday for all of our protected areas”.

Her three birthday wishes for protected areas? “To have heads of state and governments who are willing to dedicate gladly a day of their life every year; communities that respect and love them; and enthusiastic and motivated people who work for them.”

Later, responding to the hard hitting keynote speeches which followed the opening (see pages 10-17), Mrs Stanciu outlined a key role and ongoing direction for protected areas as “places to start the discussion about what nature is worth”.

“We have to learn the language of monetary value if we want to get our message across; but we have to communicate with our hearts and our brains, or we won't do it well.”

She appealed to delegates to use the Federation, summing up its role as “to get high level political support, and take our work to another level – supporting us, broadening our work, and helping us work strategically together”.

“Protected areas are centres of excellence; they can be the starting point and generate benefits beyond their boundaries, and help all people.”



Delegates mingled with EU ministers.

Agreements finalised



Carol Ritchie, Rod Newnham, Gabriele Locatelli and Erika Stanciu with agreements signed at the conference

During the conference, two important agreements were finalised. Memoranda of understanding were signed by EUROPARC President Erika Stanciu with Gabriele Locatelli of Slow Food International and Rod Newnham of Parks Forum, Australia.

Slow Food is committed to good, clean and fair food. With this memorandum the two organisations agreed to develop joint projects and initiatives on three main topics: youth education, biodiversity conservation, promotional events and new agri-environment schemes in protected areas.

Parks Forum brings together park management agencies in Australia and New Zealand, with a growing staff exchange program brokering staff exchanges amongst members and with other parks agencies around the world.

Director Carol Ritchie said: "We very much look forward to working with these new partners to develop projects and initiatives to benefit all our members. EUROPARC also has agreements with IUCN - WCPA, International Ranger Federation, United States National Parks Service, and an agreement with Redparques of South America is in preparation."

Delegates were moved by Wild Fires – Australia's Black Saturday, a presentation by Rod Newnham on the fires which raged across Victoria in early 2009, and the tremendous response of local people.

CONFERENCE SHORTS

Sweden sets pace

Conference host country Sweden celebrated 100 years of nature conservation and national parks in 2009. In 1909, the Swedish Parliament passed an act relating to national parks in order to protect the natural environment for the benefit of science and tourism. To celebrate this centennial milestone more than 20 organisations and state agencies worked together on *Nature's Year*, a joint project to highlight nature conservation and the multitude of organisations engaged in protecting the environment. The Swedish EPA coordinated *Nature's Year*, which aimed to encourage everyone to participate in the more than one thousand outdoor activities taking place around the country during 2009. In fact *Nature's Year* was nominated



by the Green Spider environmental communication network for a Best Practice Award in 2009.



Read more about what Sweden has achieved over the past century in *Swedish Nature Conservation – 100 Years*, available for download from the Bookshop at

www.swedishepa.com.

Hosts' warm welcome

Conference hosts were the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (*Naturvårdsverket*) - in co-operation with the local authority the Västra Götaland Country Administrative Board (*Länsstyrelsen Västra Götalands Län*) and the Strömstad Municipality (*Strömstads kommun*).

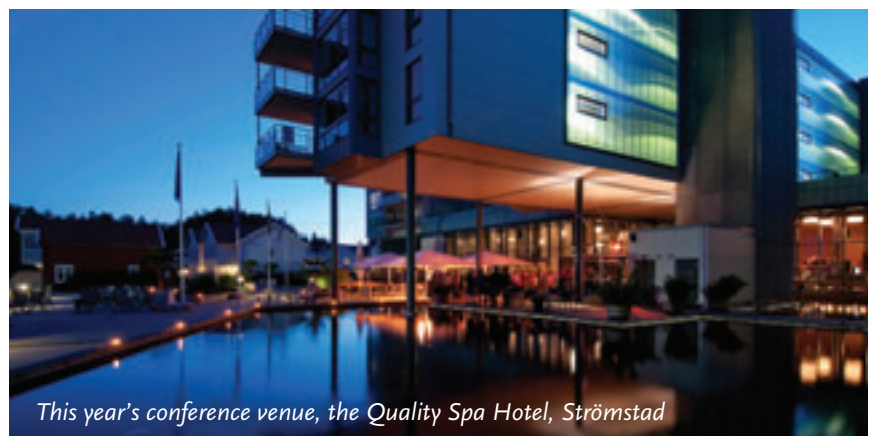
Welcoming delegates, Strömstad chairman Ronnie Brorsson said: "A healthy economy based on commerce, marine businesses and tourism has led to Strömstad having the lowest unemployment figures in the country."

"The Kosterhavet Marine National Park is a symbol of how successful conservation work can be combined with a living countryside and a sustainable business climate."

Make a note for next year

Next year's EUROPARC conference will be held in Italy, hosted by Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park, from 29 September to 2 October. 2010 is the year of biodiversity, and the conference is entitled *Living Together - Biodiversity and Human Activities: A Challenge for the Future of Protected Areas*.

Keynote speakers from Europe and internationally will consider the response we all need to make locally, in the face of global biodiversity loss. Full day workshops will examine practical solutions more thoroughly and offer an opportunity for all concerned with the management of Europe's protected areas to share experiences and learn from each other.



This year's conference venue, the Quality Spa Hotel, Strömstad

More information on next year's conference at www.europarc.org/conference-2010

TIME TO TOUCH



Delegates were encouraged to get up close and personal with a variety of sea creatures, including a sea cucumber in a special 'petting aquarium' situated in the Quality Spa and Resort Hotel's foyer for the duration of the conference.

FIRST STEPS, LAST LAUGHS



Dancing started and ended the conference. The opening ceremony featured a stunning performance by the contemporary folk groups Glimmer (dance) and Hemållt (music).

Their spellbinding joint show, The Devil's Harrowlines (pictured), named after the black strands of dolorite in granite locally, featured what one delegate described as 'the sexiest folk dancing ever'. From wild, driving polskas - explained in the programme as 'the party music of former times' - to a Norwegian halling 'to impress the ladies', the performance held the audience in thrall.

On the final evening, the delegates got to dance themselves – and it didn't take much persuading to get them on their feet. Before the starters had been cleared away, an Abba tribute band took to the stage, the dancing started, and continued all the way through dinner, between courses!

BIRTHDAY BOOK



Left: County Governor Lars Bäckström
Right: King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden reading Living Parks.

The diversity, beauty and complexity of national parks across Europe were highlighted in a lavishly illustrated new book, launched at the conference.

Living Parks: 100 Years of National Parks in Europe takes readers on a journey through time and place, with detailed profiles of the first parks founded in each country.

The publication also features the insights of three expert contributors. Prof Adrian Phillips, UK, vice president of the Campaign for National Parks, outlines the global role of Europe's protected areas. Patrizia Rossi, Italy, president of the Evaluation Committee for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, explains how the Federation has successfully developed. The future – its challenges and opportunities – is tackled by EUROPARC president, Erika Stanciu.

Living Parks, 100 Years of National Parks in Europe; 86pp; pub Oekom, ISBN 978-3-86581-187-5; 14,90€
Special offer: EUROPARC members 11€ per book (including postage) for initial orders while stocks last.
Contact Cornelia Ehlers at EUROPARC:
c.ehlers@europarc.org.

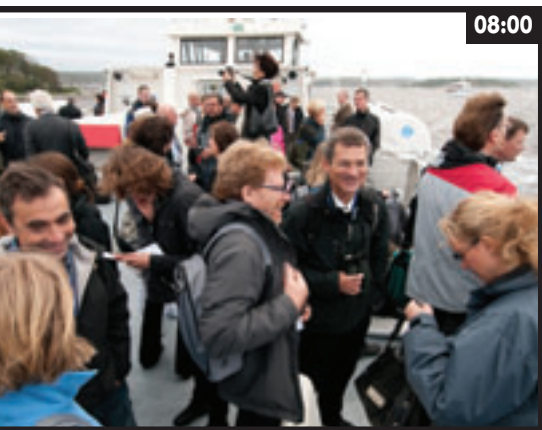
Delegates also had a chance to view an exhibition featuring the first national parks of Europe.

*For more information on this travelling exhibition, please contact Morwenna Parkyn at EUROPARC:
m.parkyn@europarc.org*



water birthday

It was a double celebration to remember as King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, two tall ships and hundreds of guests – from locals to European environment ministers and protected area representatives – gathered to party on sea and land. Enjoy our moment-by-moment guide to the day two new national parks were born...



08:00

08:00 Strömstad, Sweden

The journey begins

Delegates, invited guests and ministers from across Europe gather for a boatride on choppy waters, under a grey sky, across the sea...

09:00 Västra Bryggan (Western Pier), Nordkoster Island, Sweden

An island welcome

Disembarking, they are surrounded by Kosterhavet (Koster Sea) - shortly to become Sweden's first marine national park. After a short walk (there are no vehicles on these islands) they reach a little bay.



09:00

09:10 Basteviken, Nordkoster Island

Founding words

The unspoilt cove is crowded with locals, delegates, TV crews and children. A fresh sea breeze carries the sound of white-capped waves over smooth rocks and grassy slopes.

The king is scheduled to arrive soon. But first, those who care so deeply about the park share their thoughts with the crowd. Master of ceremonies, Stefan Edman, introduces one of its key architects, Kerstin Johannesson (*pictured above right*), professor of marine ecology. She explains: "This is the most species



09:10

rich area in Sweden. Our challenge has been to solve the potential conflicts between environmental considerations and interests, fisheries and tourism. A dialogue began ten years ago; we adopted the use of 'no fishing' zones, smaller gear and marine ecology courses. We learned from one another and now fishermen appreciate the strong environmental profile – it increases the price of the shrimp." Ecological shrimp fisherman Rune Nilsson agrees, and asserts "the shrimp here taste especially good".

It's the future that concerns Anders Tysklind, head of the new national park: "Now the long term work begins, with a nature management programme to monitor changes; and a new naturum (visitor centre) which will be built."

A local – and businesslike – perspective comes from the Koster Islands Committee's Chair, Göran Larsson: "The national park is the last chance for Koster to survive; it creates work, opportunities and jobs. It's good for business, and schools. There's a little baby boom going on – at present there are 30 children in daycare on the islands. We're expecting 50 soon. It's a chance to take care and protect, but also to develop for the future. We want to attract business based on quality, not quantity."



KOSTERHAVET NATIONAL PARK

29th national park in Sweden

First marine national park

Area: 400 sq km

Nature: More than 6000 species identified here, but many more to discover. A group of scientists once found 70 new species, 20 of which were completely new to science, in one week. In shallow water 200 Swedish species of algae thrive in the clean water, 30 which only exist here; 250 metre deep Koster trench brings species from the Atlantic.

Culture: shrimp fishing has gone on for 100 years; farming on the islands

Tourism: walking, fishing, camping, sailing, diving

www.kosterhavet.se

FACT FILE



10:30 **Basteviken The king arrives**

Now something magical happens. The sweet voices of the Koster choir are raised into the grey skies, and as the words of the Koster Waltz drift across the bay (“take me to the sea... where the swell lights up as fire”) the sun comes through and the clouds part to reveal a clear blue sky.

Right on cue His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf (*pictured above speaking to environment minister Andreas Carlgren on left*) appears on foot, having been brought in by helicopter. He listens to the King’s Song, and speakers including Maria Ågren, director general of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. She salutes 100 years of national parks and protecting nature, but especially praises the new park’s approach to local participation: “This is the model for how we should work in the future - all taking responsibility.”

Sweden’s environment minister Andreas Carlgren shares her sentiments, praising the Koster residents: “You have been involved from the beginning – you should be proud, we admire your engagement and your will, which has been the deciding factor. No one can come in from the outside and take over – here is where the opportunities are created. It’s not bureaucrats that protect, it’s the local people who help us to do this.”

King Carl Gustaf speaks of his great pleasure at inaugurating the first marine park, 100 years since Sweden led Europe by setting up its first national parks: “National parks are a symbol for Swedish nature at its best. Here, natural conditions rule, and we people have to adapt. This park was established by local co-operation including fishermen, businesses, civil organisations, and is unique because people live completely surrounded by the national park.”

He stresses that the park stands for community and development but also access - that visitors have to be able to see it. Back in Strömstad, crowds watch on open-air screens, and the moment is televised on national networks, as he rings a bell to declare it open.



11:30 **Strömstad, Sweden Majestic ships and fresh shrimp**

Having sailed back, the guests join more locals for festivities on the quay. The sun is warm by now, and there’s a holiday atmosphere; local delicacies including mounds of fresh shrimp with garlic mayonnaise and new baked bread are on

offer, and a choir sings. Two magnificent tall ships come into sight – the Norwegian Christian Radich (*pictured above*) and the Swedish East Indiaman Götheborg. Clouds of gunpowder fill the air as the cannons sound a nine-gun salute.



12:30

12:30 Strömstad
The Crown Prince arrives

Crown Prince Haakon of Norway (pictured above) arrives aboard the Christian Radich, and together he and King Carl Gustaf unveil a monument on the quayside. It's a moment to marvel at the friendliness and co-operation between these neighbouring countries.



15:30

15:30 Skjaerhalden, Norway
Happy crowds, musical fun

"Yes, we love this country" begins the Norwegian national anthem, and the voices lift the words high into the clear blue sky as celebrating crowds enjoy the warm sunshine and peacefully throng to see Crown Prince Haakon and local dignitaries officially open Ytre Hvaler National Park.

Singer and pianist Ingrid Bjørnov brings to life the friendly relationship between Norway and Sweden with a hilarious performance, wrapping Grieg up with Abba. Later, the young band The Battery play a great set including a song for the occasion – 'National Park Blues'. *

Crown Prince Haakon pays tribute to the good relationship between Sweden and Norway, "especially useful when protecting nature, which knows no boundaries. In Norway there are a lot of areas with untouched nature, and tourists who can really experience silence, solitude and unspoilt nature."

He declares the park open, and speaks of its enduring importance: "Outdoor

recreation is very important for the enjoyment of life – sea, mountains and forests. This is important work for future generations – to conserve these values."

It's time for delegates to return to Sweden, for the opening of the EUROPARC conference that evening. But before they do, a fitting summary comes from Erik Solheim, Norway's minister of the environment: "It's a fabulous day, the sun is shining, we're in one of the most beautiful places in Norway and the happiest country in the world, with the best neighbours in the world."

"The national park has been a great political battle but has been achieved by participatory management with a focus on what the shared value of the area is, and how we can protect it together. We will talk about this for centuries, and everyone will be proud to have been part of this process."

***See the Battery's National Park Blues at www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6NeYInUfwQ**



14:00

14:00 Strömstad
All aboard for Norway

Afloat again, guests enjoy a shrimp lunch (what else?) and depart for the second new marine national park of the day.



Watching with interest

Local students Sebastian Lundberg and Rasmus Karlsson, both 16-year-olds, attended the inauguration ceremony: "Some of us from our school in Strömstad have come today. We think the new national parks are good – it's good for the environment to protect sea creatures."





YTRE HVALER NASJONAL PARK

32nd national park in Norway

First transboundary park

First marine national park; plans for 17 more protected areas along coastline

Area: 354 sq km, 14 sq km of which is land
– a handful of small islands

Nature: more than 260 species on one island alone; 48 red-listed butterflies and moths; kelp forests; coral reefs; 32 red-listed plants

Culture: settled since late Bronze age; lighthouses, fort, long history of fishing

Tourism: walking on coastal trails, fishing, camping, sailing, diving

www.ytrehvaler.no

FACT FILE



GARDEN FLOWERS FOR THE KING

Four-year-old Alice Ohlin-Skogsberg picked poppies from her grandmother, Margareta Norberg's, garden on the island, where nightingales sing, and presented them to His Majesty. Margareta said: "There is so much to learn about this place, from the flowers to the fish. The air is so fresh and genuine. It is the most beautiful, the most pure place on earth."



Photos left - (clockwise from top left)

A day to remember

King Carl XVI Gustaf addresses the audience in Strömstad; local children on the island; the event was broadcast live across Sweden and Norway; the choir in Strömstad; crowds at Strömstad harbour; watching events on the big screen; and two members of the audience enjoying the inauguration on Nordkoster Island.

Year of truth for nature

Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, affirmed that progress has been made for protected areas. But he also issued a stark warning – and a challenge.

Photo: Mattias Sköld

UPBEAT to start, Mr Djoghlaf began by praising what had been achieved ‘in a very short time’ by protected areas. Pointing out that 17% of Europe is now protected, and that the Natura 2000 network is the system’s cornerstone, he was confident that “we know the value of conservation”.

And worldwide, this picture replicates. As of last year, more than 120 000 nationally designated protected areas cover 21 million sq km of land and sea; more than 12.2% of the planet’s surface area. There have been 6000 new protected areas designated since 2004 and 68 countries have more than 10% of their area under protection.

However the battle is far from won. In fact, it is only just beginning.

Europe may have 17% of territory covered, but “we have a serious problem when it comes to the management of these areas – the degree of protection varies so much.” A large percentage of habitats and species are still under tremendous pressure.

Another big gap is what covers most of the planet: “There’s a lack of marine protected areas. This is serious, as the future of humanity will depend on what happens in the seas – if we fail to take action we will face severe consequences.”

We continue to lose species at an unprecedented rate: two thirds of all ecosystems without any exception are in a state of degradation; 30% of all known species may disappear before the end of the century; and the loss is 100 to 1000% more than the natural rate. The situation is compounded by climate change, which is one of the most important causes.

He stressed that the picture is grim. Despite all the laws and mechanisms, the global objective of reducing loss of biodiversity will not be fulfilled: “Not a single country has pretended that the target has been met.”

This is not a problem that can be ignored: “No one can afford to have observer status and say ‘I’m not concerned’. Biodiversity is life – biodiversity is our life.”

“But we are living in an urban world, and I fear that the citizens of tomorrow are completely removed from nature. In 2015 two

thirds of humanity will live in cities, unaware of the damage we do. A recent survey showed 30% of children aged 6-10 could not tell the difference between a bee and a wasp – some even confused a bee with a fly.”

He called on protected areas and their staff as key agents of change. “Be engaged in ‘concrete’ action. See 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, as a unique moment to take stock of what happened and what needs to be done.”

“Next year is a wake-up call for humanity – ‘le moment de verité’ – to assist in closing the gap in knowledge and action. I give you my hand. I ask you to join us in 2010, and beyond.”

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

History: At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a strategy for sustainable development. From this came the CBD - a pact among the vast majority of the world’s governments to maintain the world’s ecological underpinnings.

Three main goals: Conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

Size: So far 193 parties have joined – most recently Iraq and Somalia – what has been called “the most universal environmental treaty in the world.”

Plan: 2010 is officially the international year of biodiversity, to highlight the opportunity – and necessity – of action. A new 10 year strategy will be launched at the next major meeting in Nagoya, Japan, 2010.

International Day of Biodiversity: 22 May 2010



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The moment he showed he meant it...



At the end of his speech conference facilitator Eva Krutmeijer challenged Mr Djoghlafl to give ‘concrete’ facts about what would change. He took the microphone and issued an impassioned outline of the extent of the CBD’s goals for 2010:

“The change is that this is for everyone – all citizens. The protection of nature is not the job of a club, the minister of environment, NGOs... it’s everyone’s job. So therefore in 2010 we are looking for a global alliance for the protection of life on earth.

What we want to achieve by the convention will not be achieved without... *(Eva tries to take the microphone back to ask another question)* let me finish; you have asked a question, let me answer it... without the full engagement of the **leaders of the world**. The leaders of the world are on board regarding climate change and we welcome this. But how many heads of state will speak about biodiversity if the total of humanity don’t know about biodiversity? 97% of people don’t know about biodiversity – 80% of policymakers are not aware about biodiversity, and what is worse 60% of the educators are not aware of biodiversity.

Therefore at the heads of state meeting, on 20 September 2010, 195 heads of state will be attending the general assembly for one thing - to discuss biodiversity. They will have to do their homework. But is it enough? No!

Eva, No! *Laughter as Eva tries to get microphone back.* You can have the best policy, rules and regulations but they will not hit the ground. To hit the ground, what do you need? **The economy**. Integrating biodiversity into the development sector. In Nagoya for the first time there will be a forum of heads of agencies to discuss biodiversity.

Is it enough? No! We need **commerce**, so we have a big programme of business and biodiversity, to engage the CEOs in biodiversity – in a dialogue. There will be a dialogue between the ministers of environment and the CEOs of companies.

Is it enough? No! We need the **local authorities** – actions take place in local authorities – so for the first time 300 mayors will attend the Nagoya summit on cities and biodiversity – to talk? No! To adopt an action plan ... an action plan which will be submitted to the ministers, to engage the cities. The world is becoming urban, so the biodiversity war will be won or lost in the cities ... is it enough, action plan? No! We’ll have more... much more, we’ll have a **women’s summit**, we’ll have an **NGOs summit** and a **media campaign** aimed at citizens. Will it be enough? NO!” *Hands microphone back, to huge applause.*

Biodiversity and protected areas: delegates respond

Protected area staff rallied to Mr Djoghlafl’s call. They are more than willing to continue their frontline involvement in the battle to halt declining biodiversity across Europe.

Delegates speak

“Biodiversity should be a core activity. Protected areas should set the standards for biodiversity management by supporting biodiversity initiatives, giving messages, helping to explain it and why it’s important. Economically as well as for its own sake – innovating, trying new ideas.”

Ian Jardine, chief executive, Scottish Natural Heritage, UK

“One of the most important tasks of national parks is to preserve biodiversity – not only within themselves but beyond their boundaries too.”

Eeva Pulkkinen, senior adviser, Metsähallitus, Finland

“Biodiversity should be a critical part of the work of protected areas – and will be increasingly important, and high on the agenda – but it’s about more than the number of species. It would be useful to have a better definition. I would like to work with the TEEB (see over page) team, and use the report.”

Rolands Auziņš, Nature Protection Agency, Latvia

“It’s important to be precise about terms, and also not to lose sight that we are working for people and nature – instead of talking about biodiversity we should talk about life on earth, and the human footprint!”

Olle Höjer, Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden

“It’s the role of the parks to communicate biodiversity – they’re in a good position to interpret the science and make it real.”

Saira Sheldrake, recreation officer, New Forest National Park, UK

“Biodiversity is absolutely the responsibility of protected areas. According to UK legislation it is part of the special qualities of an area, along with landscape character, cultural heritage, tranquillity and other factors.”

Lynn Crowe, board member, Natural England, UK

“Biodiversity is a wide subject. It is necessary to distinguish what we put in the basket... in my national park we had a very interesting debate about what biodiversity is. It is not only species but habitats and ecosystems – and a good mosaic of all types of ecosystems in a varied landscape. So then management becomes an issue – and is a key role for protected areas.”

Jan Štursa, EUROPARC Czech Republic

Not for free

Pavan Sukhdev, leader of the UN's Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) project, argued that the economy needs ecosystems – and ecosystems need economics.

After a whirlwind week of interviews and briefings following the launch of his team's landmark 'Climate Issues Update', Mr Sukhdev stood before delegates, and began by asking a basic question: what does economics have to do with nature?

The answer, he said, lies in understanding that there are three assumptions at the heart of today's dominant economic model (see **The triple whammy**, below right) - and they are all destructive for nature.

Nature, ecosystems and biodiversity are being exploited, and suffering, thanks to these biases: "because the services of natural capital - the living fabric of this planet - are public and 'free': clean air, fresh water, walking in the forest, flood protection, drought control."

TEEB was inspired by Lord Stern's review of the economics of climate change. World leaders, struck by the power of the economic argument to create traction, wanted a similar study on economics and biodiversity to challenge the fast pace of the destruction of nature.

Asked in 2008 to consider leading on this, ex banker Mr Sukhdev agreed, "with a degree of fear and reluctance because I realised how big this challenge is".

But progress on this 'open architecture' project has been fast: "It was clearly an idea whose time had come. It has taken very little steer from myself."

With collaboration from more than 500 people from over 50 different institutions, and funders from across the European Union - including Norway and Sweden, "we decide what areas we need to cover and within that we open the gates, people volunteer their services, we seek the advice of our advisory board, select teams and give them the work to do".

TEEB's first report, based on the results of five original research papers, was produced last year. Two hundred authors contributed to its 55 pages. Its three most important messages are that:

1 The loss of ecosystems and biodiversity has a huge human welfare impact: "the lost loss of forest alone on the basis of business as usual we estimated has cost humanity in terms of natural capital between EUR1.3 and EUR3.1 trillion - that's bigger than the total financial capital that was lost last year."

2 Biodiversity is not a luxury for the rich, but a necessity for the poor: "the poor live close to nature because that's where they get free goods and services from."

3 The economic practice of 'discounting' is an ethical choice: "controversially, and importantly, discounting generations' use of the flow of nature... is ethically different because natural production isn't increasing... in fact it is decreasing."



The triple whammy

Our economic biases work against nature. We:

1. Reward more rather than better consumption.
2. Incentivise private rather than public wealth creation.
3. Give a higher standing to man-made than natural capital.

Building on these foundations, TEEB is now in phase two, in which it aims to make sure that people are able to use these economic arguments to change behaviour. To that end, five separate reports for separate key audiences – including administrators, businesses and citizens - are under way.

The recently-published 'Climate Issues Update' (*see Report points to natural ally in climate change battle, below*) was brought forward in order to be ready in time for the Copenhagen climate change conference in December. Its focus is on potentially powerful linkages between climate change, the economy, and nature.

Mr Sukhdev called on protected areas to make cases for better funding, explain nature's role in the carbon cycle, and take up the cause of tropical forests (*see How protected areas can help, over page*).

In closing, he acknowledged the dangers of a purely financial approach: "There is a risk when talking about protected areas and money in the same sentence all the time, especially in

countries where governance is not strong. Using numbers also means you have the potential to misuse them. It's like a knife – you can cut bread with it, or you can kill someone – it's not the fault of the knife."

On the looming threat of climate change he thinks there may still be time to act, if we work with nature. "I am an optimist – if we apply ourselves then we can get there, though I don't want to be glib about the scale of the challenge."

The essential link between nature and economics has to be made to government and business, and made unequivocally: "They have to listen or they are not good investors. It's your money they are investing in bad solutions – it's your money, your world, and people are using it badly."

Asked what to do if finance ministers take no heed, Mr Sukhdev's parting shot was both warning and promise. "Next time I'm here, tell them 'there's a banker who wants to see you'."

Report points to natural ally in climate change battle

TEEB's Climate Issues Update of September 2009 presents a subset of early conclusions. Pavan Sukhdev detailed the four major issues:

Coral reef emergency Tropical coral reefs are hugely valuable, providing food and amenity, regulating climate and weather events: "Based on 83 studies (at 2007 values) per hectare per year coral reefs are worth on average US \$115,704; and some up to US \$1,139,190. So they are not just pretty places to go when you've got tired of a skiing vacation – coral reefs provide the livelihood and the food supply for half a billion people in the developing world."



"There is a huge gap between what people imagine coral reefs to be (*below*) and what they really are (*left*). They are at a point – thanks to our emissions - where they will not survive."



Using all the colours of carbon

We tend to focus on our own emissions, ignoring the natural world's enormous role in the carbon picture. Yet 55% of all carbon in living organisms is stored in the ocean, and tropical forests are the largest terrestrial carbon sinks, storing a quarter of all terrestrial carbon and capturing up to 4.8 Gt of CO₂ annually.

Halting the loss of green and blue carbon could mitigate as much as 25% of total green house gas emissions – whilst also benefitting biodiversity, food and water scarcity and livelihoods.

Brown carbon
emissions from energy use and industry

Blue carbon
stored in the ocean

Green carbon
stored in terrestrial ecosystems

“Economics is mere weaponry; its targets are ethical choices. I don't think we should take this ethical choice lightly and frankly the economics breaks down when you are looking at an ecosystem which is close to its threshold of irreversibility. You cannot use marginal cost benefit analysis when it is the last quantum of services or the last set of goods you are getting from a particular system. At that point you need to look at values in a holistic way as in our report we have highlighted.

“The reality is that if we as a society agree to make an ethical choice to set a stabilisation target of 450 parts of carbon dioxide then we have made an ethical choice to actually not have tropical coral reefs and this is actually the ethical choice that faces our leadership and the people who are negotiating on their behalf now and in Copenhagen.”

Carbon for climate mitigation is a major potential solution: “Can we do something? Is a major potential solution: “Can we do something? The answer is thankfully yes because we have with us in our hands a massive solution which is tropical forests. They are not part of our carbon control system as yet but they can be. We need to use the spectrum of carbon.” (see *Using all the colours of carbon*, above.)

“A carbon regime which is only brown carbon is not sufficient because emissions are not only from industry – as we know 65% are energy emissions the remaining 35% are terrestrial.

“We need to make the system inclusive because if not, all that will happen is that pressures from one side will flow to the other and that will not achieve anything. If you have a system which only looks at fossil fuels you are creating an incentive for fuels such as biofuel which could take over a huge amount of landmass, reduce the amount of forest cover and as a result of that not only would we have higher crop prices but also huge deforestation and emissions from deforestation.

“So there is another ethical choice coming up – if we only control fossil fuel and industrial emissions to achieve 450ppm CO₂ we will lose most of our natural landscapes to bioenergy crop production.” (M. Wise et al, SCIENCE, vol 324 29 May 09)

National accounting for forest carbon – we need to measure so that we can manage: “Tropical forests are 25% of land based carbon, and not carbon neutral but capturing carbon massively - 5 gigatonnes are removed per year by tropical forests compared to the 32 that we emit every year.

“We need global initiatives to reward ecosystem services, including climate mitigation. There is an urgent need for a global accounting standard to reflect forest carbon values – and other ecosystem services – in national accounts.

“We need global initiatives to reward ecosystem services, including climate mitigation. There is an urgent need for a global accounting standard to reflect forest carbon values – and other ecosystem services – in national accounts.”

Ecosystem investment for climate adaptation - natural systems need investment and are effective: “Adaptation in three very important areas is provided by natural ecosystems: agricultural productivity; freshwater scarcity; and natural hazard reduction (extreme weather).

“There are high rates of return which I as a banker have not seen very often; for example woodland/shrubland costs US\$990 per ha to restore, giving an estimated annual value of \$1,571 per ha – an internal rate of return of 42% . The rates of return across biomes and ecosystems range from 7% for coral reefs to 79% for grasslands.

“A marine example of the solid commercial reason for having protected areas comes from Newfoundland, where trawlers hover around and fish very successfully just at the edge of protected area – because that's where their supply comes from; and we have a similar example from the Caribbean.”

How protected areas can help

1. Make the economic case for effective funding: “It is not well known but a 2002 survey found the total value of ecosystems services from protected areas to be US\$4.5 to 5.2 trillion, and concluded that globally, protected areas were short of funding by about \$45m. So my advice is to use these arguments to get better funding. Contact us – we can help you.” www.teebweb.org
2. Tell stories about the colours of carbon: “The whole system is geared towards brown carbon – but if you don't manage the whole spectrum of carbon then you might as well forget it. People are worried about climate change – but do they want to solve the problem, or just stay worried about it? Help them to understand green and blue carbon and adaptation using nature.”
3. Take up the cause of tropical forests: “Say – yes, this is not my area, but it is – because finally for carbon to be reduced it has to be through all the colours of carbon and although in Europe there are problems, it is in the tropical forests that there is most deforestation.”



On-the-ground guardians



Rangers are the 'eyes and ears' of protected areas, says Gordon Miller of the International Ranger Federation, winner of this year's Alfred Toepfer Medal for his outstanding contribution to conservation.

The job of a ranger may seem straightforward and unchanging. But long and illustrious as its history has been, the role is far from static, explained Mr Miller in a keynote speech covering past, present and future.

The first official national park ranger was appointed in the US in 1872, but rangers have worked in the European countryside since the 12th century, when they protected deer in royal hunting forests.

With the designation of Europe's first national parks came the need for field staff. Guards were appointed to protect, but their role expanded: "Soon their feedback on threats to the resources of the parks made them an essential part of area management, although they often worked in isolation."

In many southern European countries, fire fighting and prevention were part of the ranger's life. In alpine and other mountain areas, rangers became involved in mountain rescue.

As the century progressed, so did rangers' jobs: "More rangers were appointed to deal with the rising visitor usage and had to start adapting their role. The guardians started to become educators."

In recent years rangers have increasingly been involved in working with local communities. "The ranger or person behind the visitor centre desk is seen by users as the representative of the park, so it is important that community relations are recognised as one of their skills."

"Working with local communities is now practised in parks worldwide; indeed there is an indigenous tribe in the Amazon who have established their own ranger service to protect the forest."

On a practical level too, field based staff are critically important: "I have seen too many examples where a lack of field based staff has led to, for example, serious erosion problems that have then become a financial burden."

The future is a time of great opportunity to work more closely with others, in a whole new phase: "Rangers will, I believe, need to work more closely with scientists to monitor the impacts of climate change in protected areas – a ranger working in the field is ideally placed to record change and to incorporate that into educational and interpretation programmes. Protected areas can become centres of excellence for highlighting and managing the impacts of global warming."

He welcomed closer collaboration between the International Rangers and EUROPARC Federation on projects such as the Junior Ranger schemes, and ended with the thought that perhaps we're all rangers, underneath.

"Think back to what motivated you to become involved in the protected area movement - a guided walk, the feeling of freedom of a wild place, or just an escape from the city to fresh air - if in your heart you want to share that feeling, then you have the makings of a ranger."

Gordon Miller was awarded the 2009 Alfred Toepfer Medal. Named after the founder of the EUROPARC Federation, the award is made annually to recognise significant contribution to nature protection in Europe. See page 20.



Young messenger



Seventeen-year-old Kristen Biebl came to deliver this message to delegates on behalf of EUROPARC's Junior Rangers.

"Have you ever thought about who will continue your work in the future, when you're all gone? Who will inherit all that you have built up?"

No? The answer is the youth of today! One day they will be adults and then they will take over your jobs. And they will continue your work. But first, they have to learn what it means, to love national parks and nature and to take responsibility for it. I know that you all do that, but I think you had the chance to get to know nature in your childhood.

And exactly this chance should also be given to youth now! If not, everything that you built up will be lost. Because why should they love something, they don't know or understand? Young people have to get to know nature. And that means not walking blindly through the forest past the wonders of nature.

You maybe ask yourself now, how that should be achieved. I have participated in the Junior Ranger Project and think it is a good solution. You have the chance to accompany a real ranger and to assist and explore. You learn about the national park and nature, and many prejudices against the national park are reduced. And not only this, you have the opportunity to make excursions with young people from other national parks and from other countries and thereby explore other landscapes and

protected areas. I have talked with my friends, and all who participated at the project agree that this project contributes to preserving nature. And I also think, that the solidarity between protected areas is becoming stronger. And maybe, if the future employees of national parks know each other already they will work better together.

Maybe one day this will become true. I think this should be an aim... not merely a national park but rather an international park, which everyone could walk through and everyone protect."

Kristen presented a moving short film by Federico Minozzi about the Junior Ranger Camp 2009, which was held in Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Emporda, Catalonia, Spain.

A shared legacy

Peter Westman of WWF Sweden on the trends influencing 100 years of national parks in Europe

Delegates speak



With 13% of the world's terrestrial area conserved for nature, about 25,000 sites in Natura 2000, and biodiversity on the global political agenda, protected areas truly have 'inherited the earth', Peter Westman told delegates.

National parks started in the New World, with Yosemite and Yellowstone (USA 1864, 1872); Royal National Park, Sydney (Australia 1879); Sabie Game Reserve (Krüger) (South Africa 1898) and Kilimanjaro Game Reserve (Kenya 1890).

But the protected area movement can be argued to have deeper roots: in the venerable tradition of sacred sites across the world, where people have worshipped iconic forests, springs, rivers, mountains and caves since time immemorial.

In Europe the first government to express this national pride and urge to preserve through legislation was in Sweden, where nine national parks were created in 1909: Abisko, Sarek, Stora Sjöfallet, Pieljekaise, Sänfjället, Gotska Sandön, Hamra, Garphyttan and Ängsö.

The movement spread across the continent – and world - and through the 20th century protected areas' destinies developed in line with the increasing profile of the environment on the socio-

political agenda. Key trends in nature protection and conservation were:

1930s With increased urbanisation, holidays and outdoor recreation grew. There was a change in ideology, from scientific to social nature conservation: nature was protected for – not from – people, with increased public access to land.

1940s Sustainable use and internationalisation grew.

1950s Management, and the concept of cultural landscapes, were developed.

1960s The ecology of the environment as a whole and its protection had a high profile, with many waking up to the dangers facing the world (cf 1962 publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*).

1970s Internationalisation continued, with the first international environmental conference (Stockholm 1972); and the development of organised attempts to manage with 'list conventions' like Ramsar, Bern, Bonn, CITES, World Heritage. The environmental movement took off, and was radicalised.

1980s The concept of sustainable development grew and spread, and the environment moved onto the political agenda.

1990s The Rio Conference facilitated organised thinking about the environment and sustainable development. Biodiversity was the new buzzword, with increasing tools such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (entered into force in 1993) aimed at conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing and the 1992 Habitat Directive.

2000s Environmental issues are in mainstream politics, and targets have become more ambitious, and urgent, like 2010's aim to halt the loss of biodiversity. Natura 2000, Europe's joined-up response to nature conservation, has 'completed' about 25,000 sites.

Views from the floor - we asked delegates:

What is a national park?



"Peace and tranquillity, and a living, working landscape... something special that belongs to the people."

Catriona Mulligan, director of area operations, Northumberland National Park, UK



"A symbol of a nation's pride in its natural heritage."

Neil Mackintosh, director, EUROSITE, Netherlands



"It's for giving knowledge to people – that there is beautiful nature in their own backyard, and that we have to do something to keep it there, and accessible for everyone."

Thea Peters-Houweling, coordinator, Weerribben-Wieden National Park, Netherlands



"It's collective management of an area that has specific needs and is potentially threatened by man's usage."

Arthur Mitchell, MBE, Chair, Mournie Heritage Trust, United Kingdom

...a common future

Tamás Marghescu, formerly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), on new directions

Delegates speak



The growth of nationally protected areas in Europe has been exponential for over 100 years, Tamás Marghescu told delegates.

In the European Union, Natura 2000 covers 17 percent of terrestrial territory. 16 per cent of Europe's 39 countries, and 11.5 per cent (on average) of terrestrial territory worldwide are covered.

Across the world, colonialism has been followed by development co-operation. Mistakes have been made, which protected areas should face. When officials drew a line around an area on a map and called it national park, people of that area were evicted by force based on a law.

As the King of Thailand is reported to have said: "I wonder whether the people living in these newly designated park areas are violating the law, or whether the law is violating the people."

The future holds intriguing opportunities, including:

- Natural infrastructure linkages – making green infrastructure part of the strategic framework for conservation and development;
- Alternative financing – seeking a wider and more sustainable financial framework for conservation;

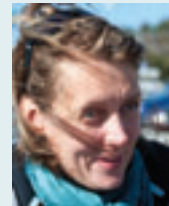
Views from the floor - we asked delegates:

What does the next 100 years look like for protected areas?



"They will come under more pressure as population is increasing at such a rate. There are incentives for environmental enhancement now, but the pressure will come back to producing food... parks are more relevant than ever – they are key testbeds, as well as providing tranquillity – and need adequate funding. The current UK budget of £44m is a drop in the ocean."

John Riddle, chair of the Association of National Park Authorities and Northumberland National Park, UK



"We should widen our vision and look after all protected areas, not just national parks so that people will use, visit and be proud of them, and take care of them – and the world beyond."

Gisela Norberg, desk officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden



"We should harness the campaigning spirit of the young and reinvent ourselves, challenging increased levels of personal consumption, apathy and conservatism. Parks should be bold and lead by demonstrating low-impact lifestyles and appointing teenagers onto their management boards. Climate change is an opportunity for national parks to demand action, demonstrate good practice, and lead the way."

Dan Bloomfield, Coordinator, EUROPARC Atlantic Isles



"We have an opportunity to get back to a sustainable way – we need national parks for inspiration or we will not survive for that long. Nobody can tell how climate change will influence things, but we need to find some way back to sustainability – more working with people in nature. More maritime protected areas are also a good idea as overfishing is a big problem."

Leo Reyriink, director of cross-border park Maas-Swalm-Nette, Netherlands @ Germany

There are clearly huge prospects for protected areas to work together across borders on these topics. In the future, a new protected area strategy could be developed – and implemented - globally and inclusively.

Days out with *a difference!*



A range of fascinating **day-long excursions** took place on 11 September. The sites and themes of trips were selected to highlight significant natural and cultural features of Swedish nature and management practices.

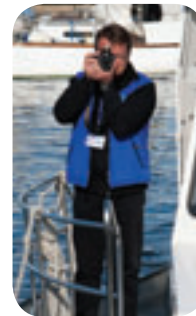
Delegates enjoyed a valuable chance to find more about their surroundings, meet each other, discuss and ask questions of knowledgeable guides as they participated in one of the 11 trips, on which they:

- Discovered life below the surface in Kosterhavet National Park
- Sailed the archipelago on the Swedish west coast
- Experienced Kosterhavet National Park by boat
- Learned about sustainable fishing in Kosterhavet National Park
- Viewed rock carvings at the Tanum World Heritage Site
- Took part in a walking tour of Trossö, Kalvö and Lindö islands
- Visited Nordens Ark Zoo and Ramsvikslandet Nature Reserve
- Toured the Halleberg and Hunneberg Table Mountains and the Tunhems Ekshagar Nature Reserve
- Experienced the wilderness of Tresticklan National Park on foot
- Found out about sustainable tourism in Kosterhavet National Park
- Enjoyed the Koster Islands – and a slow food restaurant - by bike





On a calm and sunny day delegates relished the opportunity to get out and about. These images give a flavour of the many trips (clockwise from opposite left): experiencing Kosterhavet by kayak; learning about sustainable fishing; life underwater (photos: Mattias Sköld); some delegates and group guides; crossing Strömstad harbour; enjoying a picnic lunch ... and the ever-useful chance to network.



Award winning partnerships, places and people

A highlight of the final day was recognition of the work done by members to improve transboundary co-operation and sustainable tourism, the honouring of the achievement of one individual - and the extension of a helping hand to a future generation of protected area professionals.

EUROPARC's Transboundary and Sustainable Tourism Charter awards, and Alfred Toepfer medal and scholarships were all awarded at the close of the conference.

Alfred Toepfer Medal

Retired Peak District National Park ranger Gordon Miller received the highest accolade awarded by EUROPARC, the Alfred Toepfer Medal, for his role in strengthening ranger services worldwide.

Founder-chairman of the International Ranger Federation in 1992, he has devoted his working life to developing the ranger service, and has worked to support rangers worldwide.

He pioneered many ranger training courses to develop professionalism in nature protection. He is a former chairman of the Association of Countryside Rangers and instigated exchange visits and seminars to help rangers in Europe to learn from each other.

Gordon said: "The award came as a complete surprise, but it was a great honour to receive it, especially in the 100th anniversary year of European national parks. It has been a privilege to be able to work in the environment that I love, and to bring together rangers to support each other in national parks across the world."

Brought up in urban Stockport, Gordon decided in 1953 on a camping trip at the age of 12 that he wanted to work in the newly-formed Peak District National Park, and tagged along with wardens (as they were then called) until he could officially become a volunteer at 18. He became a full-time warden in 1969, and retired as a full-time Peak District ranger in 2002, after 33 years mostly responsible for the Kinder area around Edale in the heart of the national park, where he made his home in the 1960s.

He is still active in the International Ranger Federation, which now represents rangers in 50 countries. And he still lives in Edale, which remains his favourite place in the world, helping many village activities including Sustainable Edale.



Transboundary awards

Two new park partnerships were awarded Transboundary Park status:

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

The awards came after a rigorous verification process earlier in the summer, which included site visits by independent experts. Certification is given for exemplary cross-border co-operation at all levels of administration, identifies fields of work where practical action is required, and is designed to encourage best practice and facilitate co-operation between protected areas.

So far a total of eight transboundary park partnerships involving protected areas in eleven countries have been certified, and the network known as TransParcNet is growing. The group will meet in spring 2010 in the Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park in Austria.

For more information about the programme contact Richard Blackman (r.blackman@europarc.org) www.europarc.org/what-we-do/transboundary-parks

Alfred Toepfer Scholarships



Each year the EUROPARC Federation in co-operation with the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. 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.

The scholarships enable them to undertake a study visit to one or more protected areas in European countries to enhance international co-operation and to advance the quality, innovation and European dimension of protected area management.

The awards of EUR 3,000 each are generously donated by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation in Hamburg (D). This year the scholarships were awarded to:

Saira Sheldrake (UK), who 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;

Naomi Scuffil (UK) will visit the national parks in Germany and report back to us about the management of areas without human impact, so called "non-interventional-management-zones" and conflict management between species protection and landowners; and

Urszula Biereznoj (PL) will visit protected areas and environmental institutions in United Kingdom, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices of biodiversity conservation and Natura 2000 management.

Sustainable tourism charter awards

During the official award ceremony for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas 17 new signatories as well as the three reevaluated areas received their certificates from EUROPARC president Erika Stanciu.

These protected areas have made a thorough assessment of tourism in their area, bringing together diverse people to develop a unique strategy for each place.

Three protected areas from the UK, Portugal and Spain took their Charter process a step further, and were recognized for successfully renewing their commitment to sustainable tourism development for another five years.

Earlier, on Thursday evening a Charter side-meeting was held with around 40 participants. After a short presentation about the Charter and the challenges for the future, Lasse Loven from Metsähallitus presented the INTERREG IVC project PESTO for which a proposal was submitted end of January 2009. Martin Carey from the Mourne AONB then gave an interesting overview of his experience with the implementation of the Charter, the reevaluation process and the benefits it has brought to the protected area and the local population.

www.european-charter.org

Federation business

At the general assembly meeting on 10 September council member Dominique Leveque (FR) was elected, and David Cameron was reappointed as auditor.

The meeting also included amendments to current procedures for EUROPARC general assemblies, a financial report for 2008 with treasurer's and internal auditor's statements, approval of the financial report, adjustment of Membership Fees for 2010/2011, an annual report for 2008 including directorate and sections' highlights and an update on the 2009 work programme.

More information on EUROPARC at:
www.europarc.org

Consultancy grows

Europarc's own consultancy continues to grow, said director Wilf Fenten when he addressed delegates: "EUROPARC Consulting's work load has been increasing steadily and diversifying, and stretches from Northern Ireland in the west to Ukraine in the east, from southern Spain to Norway."

"In the last 12 months we have sent 77 experts from the EUROPARC network to work in 16 different countries on 32 projects generating over €250,000 - of which at least €30,000 will go back into the Federation."

He appealed to members: "We have enough experts and capacity to double our turnover, and the benefits of working closely together within the EUROPARC Federation family are many. Give EUROPARC Consulting an opportunity to tender for projects - and don't forget to offer your expertise."

Contact Wilf Fenten at wilf.fenten@europarc-consulting.org

LEARNING TOGETHER



Delegates were spoilt for choice with a wide range of **interactive workshops** which took place on 12 September, the final day of the conference.

Each workshop had a leader as well as facilitators to record and relate the key messages from debate to the final plenary session of feedback.

Workshops focussed on 15 topics, including:

Adaptation to climate change in protected areas discussed how areas can serve as buffer zones, what the conflicts are, and how research and environmental data can be used to plan habitat restoration.

Sustainable fisheries and local management of natural resources examined if it is possible to manage marine populations locally, and if fisheries should be allowed in a national park.

Implementing the European Landscape Convention: sharing experiences and promoting action explored examples of successful implementation in several European countries and discussed the drawing up of practical action plans.

Protected areas and biodiversity: the 2010 target and beyond focussed on the role of protected areas in the work of reaching biodiversity targets, with discussion on the Article 17 report, 2010 target and what comes next, and policy making from practical knowledge.

Sustainable grassland management looked at the value of semi-natural grassland and its preservation with modern management practices; traditional versus modern management methods and their benefits and values.

Protected areas, tourism and recreation: an engine for sustainable development highlighted the role of tourism, and the possibilities and problems of using it as a tool to create sustainable local growth in and around protected areas.

Working across borders: tools to improve transboundary co-operation used EUROPARC basic standards for transboundary co-operation and discussed the specific criteria required for coastal and marine and other protected areas.

Evaluation of management effectiveness: future-proofing examined how to formulate goals for the management of protected areas that are measurable, how we can use the results of evaluations of management methods and how to develop cost-efficient management systems.

A shared inheritance, a common future: how to preserve natural and cultural values used examples from Sweden to look into how every member of society can play their part in protecting and preserving the historic environment and achieve the vision of a heritage that is accessible, useful and vital to all.

With a gathering of such rich experience and range, the outputs were many and varied; each workshop presented a set of points as priorities for EUROPARC and practical activities. As well as being presented in the plenary, key conclusions are being taken forward and used to develop the Federation work plan.

In general, across subject areas workshop points clustered around six key **recommendations** for the Federation and its members, to:

1. **Connect**, co-ordinate and work together, pooling experience and using a knowledge-based approach – and look beyond boundaries!
2. **Share** information inside and outside the network – develop participatory processes and adaptive management, especially with local communities – participation not negotiation!
3. **Measure** and record effects – include economic evaluation.
4. **Appreciate** and use EUROPARC systems already in place – look for possibilities and remind each other to use the Sustainable Tourism, Transboundary, Junior Ranger programmes.
5. **Influence** the influential, such as the European Union – show them that network organisations can achieve policy targets.
6. **Develop** a vision for the future – show that protected areas are models for sustainable society.

Last words

Delegates speak

Why did you come here?

Delegates on what they got from the conference...

“To support the network of protected areas – to meet old friends and make new ones. We’re proud of our national park in England and it’s good to see others.” (UK national park)

“We have an agreement with EUROPARC to attend each others conferences. We learn about each others work and memberships; we are planning closer working in the future.” (EUROSITE)

“To be awarded a charter, and to exchange knowledge, network and learn about other parks and all their ideas.” (Dutch national park)

“To work! It has taken over a year to arrange the inauguration of the national park; I will help with workshop on wilderness and excursions; meet people from other countries; and gain experience from others, and of international issues.” (Swedish EPA)

“To make the EUROPARC Federation a success – use members to take a lead in building more working groups with achievable, two-year projects in hand.” (EUROPARC Atlantic Isles section)

“It’s important to mix business with pleasure! Here we get inspiration and new ideas, and meet new people; people with a heart for nature, engaged far beyond money.” (cross-border Dutch/German national park)

“Five years ago we were the first UK protected area to be awarded the sustainable tourism charter; it is exciting to be here to collect it again as it is reawarded to us.” (UK national park)



Take a bow!

For the behind-the-scenes teamwork and dedication that made the conference so rewarding, a round of applause to:

Mia Olausson (project leader); Anna Lindhagen (adviser); Christina Anderson (strategic communications); Ankie Malmfors (conference administration)

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Stellan Mjårdner (co-project leader); Eva Malbert (logistics, registration) *Gainmore Consulting*

Anders Tysklind (Manager of Kosterhavet National Park); Lena Tingström (co-ordinator excursions); Linda Carlsson (co-ordinator inauguration of Kosterhavet National Park)

The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland

Carol Ritchie; Morwenna Parkyn; and workshop leaders and rapporteurs *EUROPARC Federation*

Marie Jensen, University of Gothenburg; Charlotte Sköld, University of Gothenburg; Malin Rantanen, University of Gothenburg; Emma Svensson, University of Gothenburg; and students from Strömstad High School *Volunteers*

And thanks to Volvo for the official car.





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