



EUROPARC Federation
Headquarters

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EUROPARC Federation Conference 2014 Workshops

Workshop 1

The Value of involving young adults in Protected Areas

Young Adults can be excellent advocates for protected areas and the wider European N2000 system, if parks work together to channel their enthusiasm and ideas. The needs of young adults and those of the protected areas must be assessed and managed to achieve value for all. We want to retain support for the protected area and develop leadership skills for young people in the park communities

With input from the Cairngorms National Park (Scotland, UK), the workshop will look at work being undertaken across Europe, to move the successful Junior Ranger programme forward and develop the advocacy ideas expressed at the 1st EUROPARC youth conference in 2013.

This workshop will generate practical actions for parks to support young people to participate in the management of the protected areas, and to look to what a European project could deliver.

Workshop 2

The Economic Value of Protected Areas

Protected areas and N2000 sites have been shown to be net stimulators of the local or regional economy. What measurable benefits do protected areas bring to communities and can we identify the "halo effect" of parks? What political gain can be achieved through investing in such economic studies?

Our Keynote speaker Liisa Kajala from Finland will also be on hand to elaborate the figures produced in Finland and examples from Wales presented by Tegryn Jones of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Wales, UK), will show a study of the economic benefits of Welsh National Parks to the Welsh economy.

This workshop will examine the effects shown by the Welsh and Finnish studies how such studies could be replicated in other parts of Europe.

The EUROPARC Conference 2014 is co-organised by the Irish Ministry for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with the support of the Irish Heritage Council and the Irish Forestry body – Coillte.



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Workshop 3

Valuable Funding for Protected Areas

With public agency funding at critical levels all over Europe, the need to look at public private initiatives have never been more pressing. Protected areas need to show that they are catalysts of economic growth and learn to work with the private sector as partners in sustainable development.

WECAN (NI, FR, UK) is a tri-country project developing the role parks play with the private sector, through environmental sponsorship as a mechanism to deliver good business and biodiversity.

The workshop will explore what lessons can be learned from the WECAN project and try to identify priorities and potential partnerships for project proposals that would enable parks across Europe to establish positive and lasting relationships with the corporate sector to benefit sustainable development and conservation.

Workshop 4

The Value of Research

Climate change, invasive species, biodiversity loss, and socio-economic issues are all burning management questions being posed by Europe's protected areas and N2000 sites. Building closer partnerships with researchers and understanding the needs of both parks and research, is necessary to identify actions orientated answers and truly build learning landscapes.

Building on EUROPARC project in association with the Hutton institute, Dr. Zsolt Vegvari, Hortobagy National Park (HU) will present outcomes of the recent workshops looking at research gaps needed for protected areas and how to address them as well as consider how to disseminate the results of research effectively.

The workshop will discuss how parks can and research work better for mutual benefit. Can we identify research priorities and the role of parks to both be living laboratories as well as gain new knowledge and techniques to manage effectively the parks and N2000 sites?

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Workshop 5

The Value of good Connectivity in Nature

Protected areas are crucial points in Europe's green infrastructure. How can we continue to connect protected areas and N2000 sites, to improve overall ecological resilience? Can this be done physically and through improved co-ordinated management across multiple planning responsibilities? What is the role of protected areas in wider landscape planning?

Gerry Flabby Fingal Country Council (IE), will share how a local authority in Ireland is tackling this issue.

Magnus J.K. Wessel, Bund (DE) present the Green Belt initiative, and the way it contributes to implement the Green Infrastructure strategy.

The workshop especially looking at some transboundary examples, will examine what roles protected areas play in planning systems and how can their functions be improved. Lessons will be shared from examples across Europe. We will explore connectivity, restoration, ecosystem services and funding opportunities, sharing good practices and policy developments with protected areas managers.

Workshop 6

The Value of Healthy Nature for Healthy People

The evidence that nature is good for human health is without dispute. How can protected areas and N2000 sites play a more effective role in providing clear health orientated services and access, and seek to work with other partners in health and sports to deliver on policy initiatives?

Rob Jules, National Trust (UK) will profile an innovative project working with Sports England in the first of its kind showing how two previous, disparate partners came together using protected areas as the locus of health benefiting activities. They will show how to use special places and partnering with different organisation to get people active in the outdoors.

The workshop will look to build an evidence base of case studies from across Europe to show how partnerships can be built and new sources of monies brought into the parks management as a result.

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Workshop 7

The value of integrated management of Protected Areas for biodiversity

One of the fundamental roles of protected areas and N2000 sites is integrated management for biodiversity conservation. Nature knows no boundaries and therefore understanding the "bigger picture" of the trends for biodiversity across Europe is needed, if we are to effectively manage whole ecological systems. The actions of the EU Biodiversity strategy and the importance of the current Biogeographic seminars will be discussed to reiterate the important role protected areas play in their successful implementation.

Emma Salizzoni, Polytechnic of Turin, European Documentation Centre on Nature Park Planning (CED PPN) (IT) will present the relationship between EUROPARC members and N2000 sites

Neil McIntosh, ECNC (NL) will look at the main management issues in N2000 sites that have emerged from the analysis of Europe's biodiversity, and will look at initiatives to encourage cooperation for better management.

The workshop will indicate what the current trends in habitats and species are and what actions are needed from protected areas and N2000 sites to provide information, data and implement actions to contribute to achieve the EU targets for biodiversity.

Workshop 8

The Value of Protected Areas for Climate Change and Renewable Energy

With floods, droughts, raised sea levels and changing biodiversity, the effects of climate change are likely to become more pronounced in Europe. Protected areas are a key natural solution to climate change, and need to be seen as part of the actions governments can take to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. How do protected areas respond to the challenge of renewables across Europe? Protected areas are working together to coordinate management and show in action the need to work internationally to combat climate change.

Micheal O Briain, EU Commission, DG Environment will highlight the EC guidelines on N2000 and Climate change.

Diego Mattioli, BioEUParks project (IT) aims to develop an efficient and sustainable biomass supply chain in 5 European Nature Parks. The project seeks to develop an approach that overcomes the lack of transparency on decision making processes to deal with community concerns that biomass is intrusive or potentially dangerous for environment, health and landscape.

The workshop will consider how protected areas identify the effects of climate change in their park systems and how they can identify the important role parks play in mitigation. What changes have been measured and how adaptive management is needed to address these ongoing changes and further consider what is the role of N2000 sites and protected areas in supporting renewable energy production.

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Workshop 9

Community Values in Protected Areas

People are part of the management process, not apart from it. The challenge of positive community engagement is to support nature conservation and stimulate sustainable development. We examine good community contributions to the work of protected areas and the management and governance approach of protected areas. The Biosphere Reserve model will be especially highlighted.

Bliesgau Biosphere Reserve (DE).

The Biosphere Reserve model as a key to establishing good community partnerships.

The workshop will determine, what are the characteristics of positive, collaborative community and protected areas partnership.

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Workshop 10

Landscape Values

There is an indissoluble link between human cultures and diversity of landscapes across Europe. Since the European Landscape Convention was ratified, differing countries have given consideration how it can be implemented. Protected areas in particular are challenged with finding ways to negotiate the transition from yesterday's world to tomorrow's landscape with the inherent complexities of conserving biodiversity within a cultural framework.

William Cummings (IE) will look at the genesis of the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland and ask what the Landscape Convention means for the management of Protected Areas.

Arnside and Silverdale AONB (UK)

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Workshop 11

Marine Protected Areas

Marine protected areas are complicated through being contiguous with the water that surrounds them, yet they need to combine the needs of the local businesses and at the same time preserve the natural resources area?

The workshop will discuss planning of "no take zones" together with the fishery sector. The Croatian MPA, Lastovo archipelago will be presented. Since the park has been established, fishery and no-fishery zones were discussed and planned – experience proved what is functional and what is not. In addition, the process of participative planning will also be shown where WWF MedPO (CRO), whose role through the Dinaric Arcs Project is showing the benefits that networking across contiguous resources can bring great results.

OTHER

DG Env. are currently trying to work out a consistent approach towards MPA network development under MSFD.

Commented [C3]: paul just waiting for the contact here to follow up..and let me know if I need to add/alter the description





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Workshop 12

Agricultural Values in Protected Areas

Can protected areas and N2000 sites promote initiatives that support food production that retain high nature conservation values? How should protected areas work with the new CAP and agri-environmental measures to develop new partnership in integrated management? Should we explore a European Charter for Sustainable Agriculture?

Slow Food (IT/IE) will explain their philosophy to food production, as a positive example for protected areas, using a local, Irish producer.

Michel Delmas, Directeur, PNR Massif des Bauges (FR) will highlight examples from his regional park in Eastern France and some good practice examples from across the French Regional park network.

The workshop will detail some examples of how working with local producers helps gain a better understanding of what mutual benefits we can achieve through aligning conservation and agriculture in a protected area.

Workshop 13

The Value of Protected Areas as Sustainable Tourism Destinations

What makes a destination a truly sustainable destination, and how does the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism help that process, in particular looking at how can protected areas working with tourism business reduce waste management and improve resource efficiency of the area? What are the economic investments needed and economic social and environmental rewards gained in a destination?

Josep Maria Prats, Parc Natural de la Zona Volcànica de la Garrotxa (ES) will present an economic study of the tourism economy of the region. Estimating the economic impact of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism on tourism Garrotxa during the period between 2001 - 2010.

Amanda Guzman, Ecotono (ES) will present a good example of cooperation between local businesses and protected areas, specifically the TUREBE Ecotourism in Spain Club and its role into the promotion and commercialization of tourism in protected areas.

The workshop will show what practical activities protected areas can undertake working with tourism businesses and indicate how economic and social studies can be undertaken to gain new evidence for the value of sustainable tourism to a region.

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Workshop 14

The Wilderness Value in Protected Areas

With a new definition of wilderness accepted in Europe, what is the response of Europe's protected areas to concepts of wilderness, and wildness? What practical measures are happening in the field to manage wilderness? Do we have evidence of how these concepts are valued in the public eye and how do we deal with some of the fears in public consciousness about wilderness and wild animals?

Bill Murphy Coillte (IE) will look at some of the models they have employed to assess wild landscapes and also aim to discuss the difference between wild and natural landscapes.

Laponia World Heritage Site, Swedish EPA (SE) will examine a living wilderness combining traditional land use and expanding visitation.

The workshop will discuss the value of wilderness thinking about how to balance the commercial "selling" of wilderness as an experience or if it should remain as a strict non intervention protection area.

Workshop 15

Communicating the Value of Nature

Communicating the value of nature in protected areas and N2000 sites has never been more important. Who are we speaking to and what do we need to say? And importantly who really is listening? Can we identify some exciting and innovative practices from across the network and look to create a system to recognise good communications?

ProPark (RO) will present the current findings from the project **Efficient Managers for Efficient Natura 2000 Network** showcasing new communications training material and case studies from across Europe.

The workshop will look at some case studies gathered, look at what makes them work and gather ideas for a new way of recognising good communications.

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