

**EUROPARC Federation**  
**Report to Council**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June 2011**



Title:

Nominations for the Alfred Toepfer Medal 2011

Summary :

A list and letters of nomination of the four candidates for the Alfred Toepfer Medal. This medal is awarded each year at the annual conference in recognition of a particular individual who has made a significant contribution to nature protection in Europe.

Recommendations :

- ❖ To select one award winner

By the closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, four nominations for the Alfred Topefer medal had been received.

These were:

**ROLF LÖFGREN** (SE) nominated by Anders Nylén, head of the Nature Conservation Section of the County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Sweden and on behalf of Ängsö Nationalpark.

**HANS BIBELRIETHER** (D) nominated by Dr Franz from the Nationalpark Bayrischer Wald. This nomination was also supported by David Grossman from the National Park Podyji Administration (CZ), Jan Stursa from Europarc Czech Republic, and Handrij Härtel from the Bohemian Switzerland (Ceske Svycarsko) National Park Administration.

**SRDJAN STEFANOVIC** (SP) nominated by Marija Milenkovic-Srbulovic from Djerdap National Park in Serbia.

**JENS ENEMARK** (D) nominated by Dr. Detlef Hansen, Head of the Administration of the National Park "Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer.

Council are advised to select one candidate to be awarded the medal.

Applications are attached below.

**ROLF LÖFGREN (SE)** nominated by Mia Olausson and Anders Nylén, head of the Nature Conservation Section of the County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Sweden and on behalf of Ängsö Nationalpark.



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
BOARD OF STOCKHOLM

Date  
2011-06-07

Our Ref

1 (2)

EUROPARC Federation  
Waffnergasse 6  
93047 Regensburg  
Germany

### **Nomination for the Alfred Toepfer Medal**

Ängsö Nationalpark and the County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Sweden, would like to nominate Mr. Rolf Löfgren for the Alfred Toepfer Medal.

Rolf Löfgren has been a great inspiration for the field of nature protection and has contributed to the development of important milestones on national level. His strategic skills and high competency in nature conservation and nature management has strongly contributed to the development of the Swedish system for nature conservation as it is today. His pragmatic ways and great knowledge has been an inspiration for us who work with nature conservation and nature management on regional and local levels across the country.

#### **The work of Mr. Rolf Löfgren**

Rolf Löfgren (born in 1944) has had a long and distinguished career within the field of nature conservation in Sweden. After a short service at the County Administrative Board of Gotland, Sweden, Rolf Löfgren began to work for the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in the mid-1970s. Rolf has worked with both nature conservation and management of natural areas in a broad sense at the agency, but has focused primarily on the protection of forests and national parks.

Rolf Löfgren participated in the first systematic mapping of virgin forests in Sweden in the early 1980s. His work led to the protection of a large number of very valuable areas, especially in the mountainous areas. Rolf was also project manager for the very extensive inventory of state-owned natural forests and virgin forests in 2003-2005. The inventory resulted in some 10 reports, which formed the basis for the Swedish forest protection in the 2000s.

Rolf Löfgren has been responsible for the development of the national park system in Sweden. He was the project leader for the first National Park Plan published in 1989, as well as for the new National Park Plan presented in 2008. Furthermore, Rolf has been in charge of the implementation of several of the Swedish national parks over the years.

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Rolf Löfgren has also been responsible for the interpretation and implementation of IUCN's classification system for protected areas in Sweden.

Rolf Löfgren has been responsible for the introduction of natural World Heritage sites in Sweden according to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Rolf is since 2008 one of Sweden's two representatives in UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

Kind regards,

Mr. Anders Nylén,  
Head of the Nature Conservation Section  
Stockholm County Administrative Board  
Sweden

**HANS BIBELRIETHER** (D) nominated by Dr Franz from the Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald. This nomination was also supported by David Grossman from the National Park Podyji Administration (CZ), Jan Stursa from Europarc Czech Republic, and Handrij Härtel from the Bohemian Switzerland (Ceske Svycarsko) National Park Administration.

## Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald

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Grafenau, 30.05.2011

### **Suggestion for this year's award of the Alfred Toepfer Medal**

Dear Sir or Madam,

For this year's award of the Alfred Toepfer Medal the National Park Administration Bavarian Forest suggests Dr. Hans Bibelriether, who has been the deserving director of the National Park for many years.

The National Park Bavarian Forest is Dr Hans Bibelriether's PhD life's work. Since its foundation in 1969 he initially headed the national park authority in charge of building up the national park; from 1979 up to his retirement in 1998 he led the newly formed National Park Administration. In those three decades this forester PhD has worked hard and successfully for his vision to restore this largest protected forest area in Germany to primal forest. It was under his leadership that this first German national park developed to be an outstanding and well known international nature reserve.

Since 1972 it is categorized as national park cat. II by the IUCN and was awarded the sought after European diploma for protected areas in 1986.

Moreover Dr Hans Bibelriether has had a considerable impact on many functions of the development of large protected areas in Europe:

- 1984 – 1988 Vice-President of the Federation of Nature and National Parks in Europe (FNNPE, today Federation EUROPARC) and active part of the Council
- 1988 – 1995 Secretary-General of FNNPE, today Federation EUROPARC, setting up the headquarters in Grafenau and publishing an information bulletin for members in three languages
- 1986 – 1994 European Vice-Chairman of the National Parks Commission of IUCN (today World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)).
- 1991 Foundation of the Federation of Nature and National Parks in Europe – German Section (FÖNAD, today EUROPARC Deutschland) and from 1991 – 1996 its first chairman
- 1996 – 1999 President of FNNPE, today Federation EUROPARC

Dr. Hans Bibelriether's outstanding merits and his work in

- realising the idea of national parks under the motto he devised „Leave nature to be nature “ in Germany,
- advancing the idea of national parks and the quality of protected area management on European level,
- developing the concept and setting up national parks in the former East of Germany,

- the high profile communication of natural history knowledge,
- the exemplary development of structurally weak areas through large protected areas
- the development of transboundary cooperation in the spirit of international understanding
- initiating the programmes for exchange of experience and personnel between Europe, Asia and South America as well as the development of partnerships between the protected areas and his dedication as
- consultant to the IUCN and the European Council in the field of nature protection,
- for many years scientific advisor of WWF Deutschland,
- for many years member of the expert advisory board of Bund Naturschutz in Bavaria, Germany and
- evaluator of projects for the German Federal Environment Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt)
- author of numerous text books and the magazine NATIONALPARK first published in 1974.

He has received numerous national and international awards including the German Federal Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz), the Bavarian medal of Nature Protection (1977) awarded by BUND, the silver state medal of the Free State of Bavaria (1998), the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Medal in gold awarded by the Alfred Toepfer-Foundation F.V.S. (1989), the Binding Prize for Nature and Environment Protection (1993), the Lina Hähnle Medal (1996), the Golden Ark Award (1996), as well as the Euronature Environment Prize (2005).

Personally I would also be very pleased if the EUROPARC Federation as European umbrella organization for large protected areas would honour Dr Hans Bibelriether's life's work with the Alfred Toepfer Medal, as his work was closely linked to your organization.

Best regards,

Dr. Franz

**SRDJAN STEFANOVIC** (SP) nominated by Marija Milenkovic-Srbulovic from Djerdap National Park in Serbia.

Nomination:

Renewal of the former and the establishment of new cooperation with the protected areas in the region and Europe, the leading position among the National Park Djerdap, of protected areas in Serbia in the field of domestic and international projects and research activities, that is what since 2009 is characterized by a Public Enterprise National Park Djerdap, Donji Milanovac.

"NP Djerdap" has intensified scientific research projects such as, for example, "exploring of the state and protection of priority bird species in the National Park Djerdap" and "exploring of the state and the protection of bats in caves in the National Park Djerdap " and the publishing activities, which emphasizes care and improvement of environment, natural and cultural heritage and sustainable development.

Parallel to the scientific research activities, "National Park Djerdap", has extensive international cooperation. The merit initiation of restoration of sections of Europarc Serbia and the Association of National Parks and protected areas in Serbia and in cooperation with the EUROPARC Federation, the signing of the agreement on collaboration with the National Park Donau Auen, "National Parks of Montenegro", Skadar Lake National Park, joining the Danube network of protected areas, belongs mainly to the agile manager of the "NP Djerdap", Mr. Srdjan Stefanovic.

The results standing behind Mr. Srdjan Stefanovic, director of "NP Djerdap", recommends him for Alfred Toepfer Medal.

**JENS ENEMARK** (D) nominated by Dr. Detlef Hansen, Head of the Administration of the National Park “Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer.

Dear Miss Ritchie, dear Carol!

As the head of the administration of the National Park “Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer” I would like to draw again your attention to Mr. Jens Enemark as an excellent candidate for the Alfred Toepfer Medal 2011.

The nomination of Jens Enemark for the Alfred Toepfer Medal in 2010 has been unsuccessful. Because I still believe, that Jens Enemark will be an honorable laureate supported by the three Wadden Sea Nations, I would wish his nomination to be reconsidered this year, for the EUROPARC conference in Germany. Please let me know, if there is again a need to renew the support of our partners in Denmark and The Netherlands.

Mr. Jens Enemark is the head of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) in Wilhelmshaven (Germany).

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, between the Governments of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands began in 1978. It covers Europe’s largest marine wetland, an area of outstanding international European and global importance shared by the three countries. The Cooperation resulted from the call for special measures to protect the Wadden Sea and to treat it as a single ecological system which was made by various non-governmental nature conservation organisations and the scientific community during the 1970s. A Joint Declaration was reached in 1982 and modernized in 2010 in which the three Governments affirmed their intention to protect the Wadden Sea and its flora and fauna as an entity for future generations.

The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat was established in 1987 to facilitate this process, and Trilateral Governmental Conferences were and still are held every 2-3 years to review and advance the Cooperation. In November 1987, the political scientist Jens Enemark (born in 1949) with Danish citizenship moved to Wilhelmshaven to take on the position of head of the secretariat and as its first staff member. Over the years he built up an excellent international team of workers with the highest professional backgrounds at the secretariat, whose job it was to coordinate conservation activities in the Wadden Sea on the basis of the joint declaration.

By the end of the 1980s, the Trilateral Cooperation began a more integrated approach to nature conservation, taking into account the whole range of human activities in the Wadden Sea. This culminated in 1997 with the adoption of the landmark trilateral Wadden Sea Plan and a Joint Monitoring and Assessment



Programme. From 2000 to the present, the main achievements have been the designation of the Wadden Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), the establishment of the Wadden Sea Forum, which brings together a broad range of stakeholders as well as a number of new initiatives, such as the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) as transboundary environmental education platform, and a working group on Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise.

Today, almost the entire Wadden Sea is protected as part of the EU Natura 2000 network (Birds and Habitats Directives). In addition it has been designated totally or in part as a Ramsar Site, a PSSA, various National Parks, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and nature reserves.

In June 2009 the Wadden Sea of the Netherlands and Germany was inscribed on the World Heritage List recognizing its outstanding universal value, which was a milestone for the trilateral cooperation.

Jens Enemark and his staff can be very proud of their accomplishments over the years. Recently in preparation of the 11. Governmental Conference on the protection of the Wadden Sea in 2010, two independent consultants evaluated the work of the trilateral cooperation. In this evaluation, the secretariat was praised for the high standards of its work. The secretariat constitutes a very important and dependable link between the partners in the Wadden Sea countries. Additionally the secretariat is regarded as a major factor in the implementation of the common protection and management aims and the coordination of research and monitoring, being the sentinel for the vision of one of Europe's largest and unbroken natural heritages.

Without the decisive, unremitting, and emotional commitment of Jens Enemark for this unique ecosystem, the protection of the Wadden Sea would not stand where it does today – among the top nature protection areas of the world and one of the best examples of international cooperation on nature protection in Europe.

Born in Denmark, living with his Dutch wife in the Netherlands, employed and working in Germany with English as the common language, Jens Enemark is the personification of trilateral and international cooperation.

In order to preserve the unique Wadden Sea ecosystem, the work of Jens Enemark is today just as important as it was 25 years ago. New challenges such as globalization, e.g. harbors, shipping, energy or the introduction of alien species into the ecosystem, the influence of climate change and the possible Danish extension of World Heritage Site require more than ever a close coordinated cooperation between the three Wadden Sea states. Last but not least the Trilateral Cooperation remains a European and global model for trans-boarder- nature conservation.

I would, therefore, like to suggest the nomination of Mr. Jens Enemark for EUROPARC's Alfred Toepfer Medal for 2011.

If there is need for additional information on Jens, please contact Vera Knoke (04861-61620/ [vera.knoke@lkn.landsh.de](mailto:vera.knoke@lkn.landsh.de)).

Yours sincerely  
Dr. Detlef Hansen

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**Nationalpark  
Wattenmeer**



SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

