

**EUROPARC Federation**

**Report to Council**

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2012**



Title:

Alfred Toepfer Scholarships Award

Summary :

Final 6 applications for the AT scholarship and selection criteria from which to select 3 applicants.

Recommendations :

To select winning candidates

Alfred Toepfer Scholarships.

Each year the EUROPARC Federation in cooperation 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 were formally known as the European Travel Scholarship and were awarded for the first time in

By supporting the participants financially the scholarships enable them to undertake a study visit to one or more protected areas in European countries other than their own. The aim being to enhance international cooperation and to advance the quality, innovation and European dimension of protected area management. The awards will each be worth EUR 3.000 and are generously donated by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation in Hamburg (D). They are presented to the scholarship winners each year at the annual EUROPARC conference.

Each year the council selects 3 scholars to win the award. This year we had the most applications ever with 40 applying. The directorate team then prepared a short list of 9 from which the president has selected 6 to present to council. You need to choose 3. Applications are contained in appended folder.

The criteria we look at in making the selection are

**Project planning** – some questions you may wish to ask....

Is the study trip viable?... are there not too many countries or too few? Has the applicant been seen to make contact with the parks and established support for the study?

Are the parks chosen in line with the topic the candidates have indicated they wish to study? Does the study have a sense of coherence?

**Motives and objective** – what will the candidate benefit from the study? Is there a wider benefit to their home situation?

**Relevance for EUROPARC**

Will the study be of interest to our membership? Will we learn something new in a particular area or location? Is there a reasonable distribution of topics being presented from the candidates (ie not 3 all the same topic)

The topics selected for particular study this year are

In 2012 studies should look to explore the role of Protected Areas in the following themes:

- a. Nature and Biodiversity
- b. Climate Change
- c. Integrated Management of Natural Resources
- d. Rural Development (in particular Sustainable Tourism)
- e. Environmental Education and Communication
- f. International / Transboundary Cooperation

Other factors. Is there a reasonable distribution in home countries of the candidates? And study tours being suggested.

**Some specific questions-**

If there is a particular candidate you favour but have some queries or suggestions about their study visit ..ie have alternative places you would suggest please make them known.

Carol Ritchie

Director

May 2012