

Junior Rangers: In Action to Preserve Europe's Natural and Cultural Heritage



EUOPARC
FEDERATION

Junior Rangers: In Action to Preserve Europe's Natural and Cultural Heritage



Bavarian State Ministry for Regional
Development and Environmental Affairs





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- Cover page: Top: In appreciation of the Junior Rangers' commitment: Dr Werner Schnappauf, Bavarian
Environment Minister (D)
Middle left: Colourful panorama in the Triglav National Park (SI)
Middle right: Park planning - hard work and great fun
Bottom: Junior Rangers from four European countries at the closing event in Berchtesgaden (D)
- Back page: An outstanding example of a peat bog in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)
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Foreword

So what happens when you take a group of youngsters and place them in the hands of experienced professional rangers in some of Europe's wildest and most beautiful areas? Not sure? Well, read on, as this is what happened to 60 youngsters from Germany, Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic during the summer of 2002!

These youngsters were the lucky participants in four different Junior Ranger programmes that were developed by protected areas close to their homes under the auspices of the EUROPARC Junior Ranger project.

For the majority, this was their first real exploration of their local protected area and environment and their world was turned upside down as they gave up their holidays and the comforts of home for two weeks in the great outdoors. For a few of the 'more experienced' this was a chance to practice existing and to learn new skills as well as to revisit and experience their local park in a completely new way.

The four programmes provided the Junior Rangers with a unique chance to experience life as a park ranger, to learn and experience new exciting things and to make many new friends. Most importantly, this was also the opportunity for the youngsters and the parks to establish a relationship that hopefully will last a lifetime.

Paul Hotham
EUROPARC Project Coordinator



Enjoying a break in the Triglav National Park (SI)

***) EXPLORE • INVESTIGATE • TRACK • QUESTION • SURVEY •**

**) This line running through the background consists of words expressed by the Junior Rangers to describe their feelings and thoughts associated with the Junior Ranger activities and programmes. They are printed in English and in the mother tongues of the participants: Czech, Slovenian, Polish and German.*

Acknowledgements

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(D), Mike Marshall, IRF (UK) and Hans Kiener, Bavarian Forest National Park (D); the main contacts: Martin Solar (SI), Jacek Zadura (PL), Oldrich Pažout, Michal Skalka and Vladimír Jiříčka (CZ) and Elke Ohland (D), and the park interns: Marjeta Albinini (SI), Maria Borowska (PL), Petra Hrdličková (CZ) and Karin Hodl (D) - for contributing their time, energy, knowledge and enthusiasm to the project. The project's success is truly theirs.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Michael Vogel and staff members Andrea Heiss, Susanne Schwab and the numerous other staff, rangers and interns of the Berchtesgaden National Park (D) who made a fine contribution to the project - the Junior Rangers have a lifetime of memories from your Park.

Thanks also go to the Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management, Laufen (D) for their excellent hosting of the project seminar.

Eva Pongratz
EUROPARC Director



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Executive Summary

Made possible through the financial support of the Bavarian Ministry for Regional Development and Environmental Affairs, the EUROPARC led project 'Junior Rangers: In Action to Preserve Europe's Natural and Cultural Heritage' has made a significant contribution to best practice in the field of environmental education for young people as well as to sustainable development.

Sharing expertise from Bavaria with Central Europe

During summer 2002 some 60 school students ranging in age from 12 to 18 from local communities in and around partner protected areas in Bavaria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia¹⁾ participated in innovative Junior Ranger programmes drawn up by the parks and experts in environmental and youth education under the umbrella of the EUROPARC Federation. The programmes were put together under a framework containing common thematic elements, but were tailor made for the individual protected area and as such included activities specific to the partner parks to reflect their particular needs.

Securing the future

With European integration moving ahead and the forces of globalisation making their presence increasingly felt, the sustainable use of natural resources, and in particular the long-term conservation of Europe's natural and cultural heritage, is of ever greater importance. Protected areas play a vital role here, but they still need to build support for their work now and in the future. Hence the idea of providing children with an insight into the reasons why protecting nature is important, but at the same time giving them an enjoyable learning experience and opportunities for getting to know their peers in other countries.

Young people as ambassadors for their protected areas

Drawing on EUROPARC's extensive and committed network of protected areas, their staff and nature conservation experts, the Junior Ranger project aimed at educating youngsters about the role, values

and work of their local protected area and its importance for recreation, local employment, economy and tourism, and thereby contributing to the acceptance of the protected area in the region. The Junior Ranger programmes were carried out in the parks and focused on the work and role of the ranger and aimed at enthusing young people about protected areas. Sixty young people undertook real work experience in nature conservation.

The Junior Ranger programmes delivered a wide range of activities that explored the flora, fauna and landscape values of the partner protected areas. Feedback from the parks has been wholly positive and virtually all the junior rangers have expressed their desire to take part again. Awareness of important issues has been shown to have increased amongst the youngsters suggesting increased support for the ideals of protected areas and the benefits they can bring to local communities and their wider regions. The young people involved have also spoken to parents, school friends and others in their local community about their experiences, suggesting further positive knock-on effects.



¹⁾ Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D) with the Bavarian Forest National Park and the Upper Bavarian Forest Nature Park, the Kampinoski National Park (PL), the Krkonoše National Park (CZ) and the Triglav National Park (SI).

Sustainable European Network

The project has also promoted cooperation between partner protected areas across national borders and thereby enabled pan-European exchange at professional and personal level. The guidance emanating from this report will be made available throughout EUROPARC's network in 37 European countries and the expertise contained within it, produced and coordinated with much input from Bavaria, will be used for many years to come by protected areas across the continent in educating young people about the valuable role they together with parks can play in sustainable development. Indeed, it is hoped that parks will in the future incorporate Junior Ranger activities into their work programmes of their own accord. Firm foundations have been laid for the establishment of a sustainable network of young people working in partnership with protected areas across Europe!

Working together for common aims

The model described in this report, which builds on the experience and results of the pilot phase, can be copied and implemented by protected areas across Europe. It is also intended to further develop the project and continue to work together with the young people involved with the support of EUROPARC and the Bavarian State Ministry for Regional Development and Environmental Affairs. EUROPARC's aim is to form an umbrella, bringing together and encouraging existing Junior Ranger programmes and those still to be developed, to create a sustainable and active European network for the future. The more partner protected areas the better! European exchange in this field between youngsters and protected areas can only be to the benefit of Europe's natural and cultural heritage. EUROPARC offers a platform to make this exchange of information, experience and staff a reality.

Talking about their personal experiences: Junior Rangers during the closing event on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Berchtesgaden National Park (D)



Kurzfassung

Das von der Föderation EUROPARC koordinierte einjährige Pilotprojekt "Junior Ranger: Im Einsatz zur Bewahrung von Europas Natur- und Kulturerbe" hat wesentlich dazu beigetragen, ein in der Praxis umsetzbares, nachhaltiges Modellprojekt im Bereich "Umweltbildung für Jugendliche" ins Leben zu rufen, das in wesentlichen Arbeitsfeldern zur nachhaltigen Entwicklung von Schutzgebieten in Europa beiträgt. Möglich wurde das Projekt durch die großzügige finanzielle Unterstützung des Bayerischen Staatsministeriums für Landesentwicklung und Umweltfragen aus Geldern des allgemeinen Umweltfonds des Freistaates Bayern (D).

Bayern als Vorreiter für Mitteleuropa

Im Sommer 2002 nahmen 60 Schüler im Alter von 12 - 18 Jahren aus Nationalpark- oder Naturparkgemeinden in Bayern, der Tschechischen Republik, Polen und Slowenien¹ an innovativen Junior Ranger Programmen teil. Diese wurden von Pädagogen und hauptamtlichen Mitarbeitern in europäischen Schutzgebieten entwickelt und von Experten aus dem Umwelt- und Jugendbildungsbereich unter der Schirmherrschaft der Föderation EUROPARC betreut. Die Programme wurden im Rahmen der Aufgaben und Tätigkeiten von hauptamtlichen Rangern zu gemeinsamen Themenbereichen zusammengestellt. Sie waren auf die individuellen Begebenheiten der Schutzgebiete abgestimmt: die jeweils unterschiedliche Ausgangslage und die daraus resultierenden Anforderungen der einzelnen Parke sind in hohem Maß berücksichtigt worden.

Ein Stück Zukunftssicherung

Im Zuge der Globalisierung und eines weiter zusammenwachsenden Europas wird die nachhaltige Nutzung von natürlichen Ressourcen und die Bewahrung von Europas Natur- und Kulturerbe immer wichtiger. Schutzgebiete spielen dabei eine besondere Rolle. Sie bedürfen einer starken Unterstützung durch die Öffentlichkeit.

Aus dieser Situation heraus wurde die Idee geboren, Kindern und Jugendlichen durch ihren Einsatz in der Praxis die Einsicht zu vermitteln, daß Naturschutz und damit die Erhaltung unserer natürlichen Lebensgrundlagen ein Stück Zukunftssicherung bedeuten. In dem vorliegenden Modellprojekt erhielten Jugendliche die einmalige Chance, in ihrer Freizeit eigene Erfahrungen im angewandten Naturschutz zu sammeln und darüber hinaus die Möglichkeit, europaweit Kontakte zu knüpfen und Gleichgesinnte in anderen Ländern und Kulturkreisen kennenzulernen.

Jugendliche als Botschafter ihrer Schutzgebiete

Ziel der Junior Ranger Programme ist es, Jugendliche mit der Rolle, den Werten und der Arbeit ihres Heimatschutzgebietes vertraut zu machen, über dessen Bedeutung für Erholung, lokale Arbeitsplätze, Wirtschaft und Tourismus aufzuklären und dadurch zur Akzeptanz des Schutzgebietes in der Region beizutragen. Dabei konnte auf den Erfahrungsschatz des bestehenden EUROPARC Netzwerks mit rund 500 angeschlossenen Schutzgebieten in 37 europäischen Ländern zurückgegriffen werden. Die Junior Ranger Programme waren eingebettet in die Arbeitsabläufe der Parkranger, mit dem Ziel, junge Leute durch eigene praktische Erfahrungen für Schutzgebiete zu begeistern: ein Vorhaben, das sich bereits in der Pilotphase als außerordentlich erfolgreich erwies.

Eine breite Palette von Aktivitäten wurde absolviert. Die Junior Ranger konnten ihren Horizont bezüglich Flora, Fauna und Landschaft der Partnerschutzgebiete erheblich erweitern. Nach ihrem Einsatz äußerten fast alle den Wunsch, noch einmal oder längerfristig an solchen Programmen teilzunehmen. Bei den beteiligten Jugendlichen ist das Bewußtsein für die Bedeutung der Natur und die Notwendigkeit ihres Schutzes stark gewachsen. Die Identifikation mit den Heimatschutzgebieten ist fast bei allen geglückt. Die Junior Ranger haben darüber hinaus mit Eltern, Schulfreunden und anderen Bekannten aus ihren Gemeinden über ihre überwiegend positiven Erfahrungen gesprochen und sind so zu wichtigen Multiplikatoren und Botschaftern für ihre Parke geworden.

¹⁾ im Naturpark Bayerischer Wald in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald sowie dem Naturpark Oberer Bayerischer Wald (D), und in den Nationalparks Kampinoski (PL), Krkonoše (CZ) und Triglav (SI).

Ein nachhaltiges europäisches Netzwerk

Auch von den beteiligten Parkverwaltungen wurden die Programme durchwegs gelobt: sie förderten die praktische grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit zwischen Schutzgebieten und ermöglichten den Austausch von Wissen und Erfahrung auf europäischer Ebene, sowohl im beruflichen als auch im persönlichen Bereich der Mitarbeiter. Die in diesem Bericht veröffentlichten Arbeitsergebnisse sind als Handreichung zu verstehen und werden den Mitgliedern des EUROPARC Netzwerkes in 37 europäischen Ländern zur Verfügung gestellt. Die enthaltenen Erfahrungswerte werden in den kommenden Jahren von Schutzgebieten in ganz Europa dafür genutzt, jungen Menschen die Bedeutung des eigenen Beitrags bewußt zu machen, den sie bei entsprechendem Engagement zusammen mit ihren Heimatschutzgebieten für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung leisten können. Zudem wurde der Grundstein dafür gelegt, daß Junior Ranger Programme von Parks künftig aus eigenem Antrieb in ihre Arbeitsprogramme aufgenommen werden. Auf diese Weise ist es möglich geworden, ein nachhaltiges Netzwerk von Jugendlichen ins Leben zu rufen, die mit Schutzgebieten gewinnbringend zusammenarbeiten!

Das gemeinsame "Grüne Dach"

Das vorliegende Modell baut auf konkreten, in der Praxis getesteten Erfahrungen und Ergebnissen auf und kann von den europäischen Schutzgebieten übernommen und eigenständig umgesetzt werden. Es ist geplant, das Projekt mit Unterstützung der Föderation EUROPARC und dem Bayerischen Staatsministerium für Landesentwicklung und Umweltfragen weiterzuentwickeln und die Zusammenarbeit mit engagierten Jugendlichen fortzusetzen.

Langfristiges Ziel von EUROPARC ist es, ein Dach zu bilden, unter dem sowohl bestehende als auch geplante Junior Ranger Programme zusammenkommen. Die Partner sollen ermutigt werden, in gemeinsamer Anstrengung ein nachhaltiges und lebendiges Netzwerk zu bilden, das ein Stück weit als Zukunftssicherung für Europas Schutzgebiete betrachtet werden kann. Europäischer Austausch zwischen Jugendlichen und Schutzgebieten dient nicht nur der Erhaltung von Europas Natur- und Kulturerbe sondern auch der Völkerverständigung. EUROPARC bietet die Plattform, um den so dringend benötigten Austausch von Informationen, Erfahrung und Mitarbeitern Realität werden zu lassen.

Many of the Junior Ranger activities in the Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D) were centred on the area around the "Große Arber" (1450 m)



1. Introduction

On 15 April 2002 the EUROPARC Federation initiated a one year pilot project known as the EUROPARC "Junior Rangers: In Action to Preserve Europe's Natural and Cultural Heritage" project. The project was generously financed by the Free State of Bavaria / Bavarian State Ministry for Regional Development and Environmental Affairs, General Environmental Fund (D). With a duration of one year and an overall budget of 96,000 EUR the project aimed to meet the challenge of engaging young people in the work of their local protected areas. This report presents the full results of the project's implementation.



2. Context

As Europe moves towards greater economic and political integration, its people are becoming increasingly aware of the threats, both old and new, facing its natural and cultural heritage. Europe's protected areas, in particular, are under threat from a wide range of pressures including inappropriate 'local' economic activities and unsustainable development projects.

As a result, there is an urgent need to raise awareness amongst local people about the natural and cultural values and problems of protected areas and, moreover, the significant 'sustainable economic benefits' that they can provide. To be successful, it is essential that 'Parks and People' be brought together to further common understanding. Such an understanding will lead to increased support for the conservation of Europe's natural and cultural heritage and, in turn, provide local people with a greater appreciation of and potential for realising the benefits of their protected area.

Demonstrating that the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources is of fundamental importance to the daily lives of local people is a major challenge. Getting local communities to identify with the aims of protected areas is also vital to this process.

In many regions promise lies with the younger generations living around protected areas. Young people are at the heart of local communities. They are also the future advocates, guardians and possible employees of protected areas. By winning over this group it may be possible to win over the local communities themselves, thus securing their support for conservation and protected areas.

In return the protected areas can provide the youngsters with wonderful personal experiences and facilitate them in developing a fascination and enthusiasm for their local nature, landscape and culture and a greater awareness of the potential wider benefits of their local park. At the same time, the youngsters can learn how to think responsibly and to work for and defend their natural and cultural heritage. In doing so, they will act as "opinion shapers" within their families, schools and clubs. Moreover, many will stay and work in the region as adults.

Working with young people - the future generations - should therefore be a key aim of protected areas and conservation organisations, if the long-term conservation of Europe's natural and cultural heritage is to be secured.



Developing a group feeling: Bavarian Forest Junior Rangers (D)

LATE • TIRED • CONQUER • RELAX • SUPPORT

3. Project Purpose and Aims

A number of European national parks have developed environmental education programmes for young people and visitors. Amongst these, the relatively new idea of activities for Junior Rangers provides an exciting vehicle for building relations with young people.

Several existing Junior Ranger initiatives, e.g. in the Harz and Bavarian Forest National Parks (D) and the International Ranger Federation (UK), have been developed to meet the individual needs of the organisations involved. Other protected areas and associated organisations, in particular within Central and Eastern Europe, have also begun to take an interest in Junior Ranger activities. However, as no common model or guidance has so far existed, each has found it necessary to "reinvent the wheel" or in this case the Junior Ranger concept to meet their own needs.

EUROPARC recognised this weakness and set out to fulfil the demand for guidance. This was to be achieved through the EUROPARC Junior Ranger project, which sought to bring together various Junior Ranger experiences, with a view to developing and testing a model concept for Junior Ranger activities that could be adapted and used by all protected areas.

Within this context, the project aimed to:

- **Promote pan-European cooperation between Bavaria, the experts and the partner protected areas through an exchange of information and experience.**
- **Develop a model Junior Ranger concept that serves as a basis for the delivery of Junior Ranger activities in protected areas across the whole of Europe.**

In doing so the project also aimed to:

- Develop concrete nature / environmental education programmes for children and youngsters in Eastern European protected areas.
- Create a network of children and youngsters participating in nature protection in their region, who will thereby act as advocates for the realisation of protected area aims.
- Raise awareness about the natural, cultural, social and economic values of their protected area.
- Promote friendship and a group ethic between youngsters by engaging them in the achievement of common goals for nature conservation.
- Contribute to the promotion of the involvement of future generations in conservation, thus providing potential future staff, volunteers and supporters.
- Sensitise children and youngsters (the future adults) to the economic potential provided by protected areas.



Kampinoski Junior Rangers (PL) carrying out research work

OMPETE • WALK • CLIMB

4. Project Structure

Project Team

The project was administered at the EUROPARC Federation's Headquarters in Grafenau (D). The project team was led by Paul Hotham (UK) with secretarial support provided by Hildegard Fürst (D). The EUROPARC Director Eva Pongratz (D) and Secretary Sabine Schlögel (D) also gave their time and support to the team. Andreas Neft (D) strengthened the team through completion of a project internship between 24 June and 20 September 2002.

The team was responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the project. This included the fulfilment of all administrative requirements between the various partners, organisation of all pan-European / joint activities and the reporting, publicity and promotion of the project at the pan-European level.

Park Main Contacts

Main contacts based in each of the four partner protected areas were responsible for the development (in cooperation with the project team) and implementation of the Junior Ranger programmes within the parks, as well as publicity and promotion within the country concerned. The main contacts were Martin Solar in the Triglav National Park (SI), Jacek Zadura in the Kampinoski National Park (PL), Oldrich Pazout and Michal Skalka and later Vladimir Jiricka in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ) and Elke Ohland in the Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D).

Park Interns

Each of the four partner parks employed an intern for a period of approximately three months. The interns supported the main contact by assisting with administrative tasks and the development and implementation of the programmes of activities. They also played a key role in contacting and communicating with the participants and their parents. In addition, they also visited schools and disseminated information prior to the programmes and acted as the immediate contact and supervisor for the youngsters throughout the programme's implementation. The interns were Marjeta Albinini (SI), Maria Borowska (PL), Petra Hrdličková (CZ) and Karin Hodl (D).

Park Rangers

Full time professional rangers from each of the partner parks shared responsibility with the main contact and intern for the preparation of the Junior Ranger programme and were the persons responsible for working with the youngsters and delivering the programme of activities. A full list of the rangers and staff involved is provided in Annex 2.

Junior Ranger Experts

The project received ongoing professional expertise and guidance from three Junior Ranger experts. The experts contributed to the project introductory seminar and to the development of the programmes of activities and made proposals for the future development of the project. The experts were Friedhart Knolle of the Harz National Park (D), Mike Marshall of the International Ranger Federation (UK) and Hans Kiener of the Bavarian Forest National Park (D).

Event Hosts

The Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management, Laufen (D), hosted the project's introductory seminar. Berchtesgaden National Park hosted the project's closing event during the Park's 25th anniversary celebrations. The Park also provided staff to lead activities as a part of the Junior Ranger camp, which took place at the same time.



Triglav Junior Rangers (SI) interviewing park visitors

5. Target Groups

The overarching purpose of the project was to promote community support for protected areas by providing opportunities for local youngsters to be engaged in the parks' work, to learn more about their aims and to appreciate the natural and cultural resources they protect. The primary target group was therefore youngsters living in local communities close to the partner parks. To allow flexibility within the parks and to spread the potential benefits as widely as possible, it was decided to offer participation in the project to youngsters from a broad range of ages and school types.

Working with young people also provides unparalleled opportunities for engaging with parents. Parents are the current 'decision makers' within local communities and their involvement within the Junior Ranger project at the park level was strongly encouraged. It was recommended that parents be invited to attend programme closing ceremonies and be provided with opportunities for participating in the programmes.

Tracking and radio-monitoring of animals in the Kampinoski National Park (PL) (left) and the Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D)



Proud to have received a certificate: the Krkonoše Junior Rangers (CZ)

6. Project Implementation

6.1 Project Leaflet

To help the project team and partner parks communicate the message to youngsters and parents, a project leaflet was produced in both English and German. Time constraints did not allow for the leaflet to be printed in the languages of all partner parks so each park provided a translated text as a simple insert to the leaflet.

6.2 Identifying the Participants

The project leaflet was distributed to schools, local teachers and youth group leaders. Visits were also made by park staff to speak with the youngsters directly.

Applications to participate in the Junior Ranger programmes were received directly by the park concerned. Each park used its own criteria to select the participants, however, in all cases attention was paid to ensuring that the participants came from a broad range of schools and as practicable a range of ages as possible.

6.3 Introductory Seminar

The project began with an introductory seminar, which was held at the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management, Laufen, Germany. The seminar brought together the main contacts, the interns and three rangers from each of the partner parks with three Junior Ranger experts and staff from the EUROPARC Headquarters in Grafenau.

The aim of the seminar was to promote cooperation and the sharing of knowledge and experience in Junior Ranger activities. Participants were briefed on all aspects of the project and its operational plan and listened to case studies on Junior Ranger initiatives from the three experts. Afterwards the experts and participants were facilitated through a group working process that combined their knowledge and experiences to produce a common set of good practice guidance and a menu of activities for Junior Rangers.

The guidance and menu of activities aimed to provide a 'common' basis for the development and implementation of each of the partner parks' Junior Ranger programmes. In this way, the partner parks were encouraged to develop and test comparable Junior Ranger programmes that could be adapted to their own particular situation. In effect, this was the first stage in the development of a model Junior Ranger concept.

"Strategic planning" in the Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D)



6.4 Developing the Programmes of Activities

Following the seminar each park developed a draft Junior Ranger programme. These were then sent to EUROPARC which, in cooperation with the project experts, recommended changes and suggested 'improvements' to the programmes.

The aim was to ensure that each of the final programmes were as similar, realistic and focused as possible, whilst accepting the diverse cultural and working arrangements of each of the parks.

To achieve this, recommendations and suggestions were made based firstly on the guidance drafted at the introductory seminar and secondly by cross-comparing and drawing out good practice from each of the draft programmes. In comparing the programmes it was accepted that, whilst the activities may differ, the thematic focus should be comparable.

Several of the draft programmes contained examples of good practice and these were highlighted and recommended to all parks, for example:

- **The Kampinoski National Park allocated time for a review of the activities in the middle of their programme.**
- **The Triglav National Park planned to give their Junior Rangers the responsibility of creating a newsletter for the Junior Ranger programme. Each Junior Ranger would share the responsibility of taking pictures, writing articles, conducting interviews and putting the newsletter together.**

Both of these were excellent ideas for promoting the greater involvement of and sharing of responsibility with the Junior Rangers. Moreover, these activities could be carried out in the evenings and result in the Junior Rangers producing something 'real' from their experience in a way that causes them to work together as a group to achieve a common goal.

Each park integrated the recommendations and suggestions made and produced a final Junior Ranger programme that was approved by EUROPARC.



Discussing work experience in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)

6.5 Implementing the Programmes of Activities

The four programmes of Junior Ranger activities were implemented during the 2002 school summer holidays:

- **Kampinoski National Park (PL):**
15 - 26 July 2002
- **Krkonoše National Park (CZ):**
15 July - 2 August 2002
- **Triglav National Park (SI):**
5 - 14 August 2002
- **Bavarian Forest Nature Park & Partners (D):**
26 August - 6 September 2002

Each programme contained a range of core themes that focused on the work of the ranger and aimed to educate the youngsters about the role, values and work of the protected area and its importance for recreation, local employment, economy and tourism. The programmes also aimed to enthuse and inspire the youngsters about the protected area and its place in their home landscape as well as providing real work experience in nature conservation.

In total 60 youngsters participated in the programmes (see Annex 1). These youngsters had the opportunity to:

- **learn about the role and work of the ranger and their local protected area**
- **learn about the conservation of nature, landscape and culture**

- **learn practical skills such as plant identification and navigation**
- **learn how to communicate and deal with visitors**
- **take part in a wide range of stimulating, creative and fun activities outdoors**
- **meet and make lots of new friends**
- **understand a little more about their own place in Europe, and the diversity of its peoples and protected areas**

During the programmes the Junior Rangers were also given time to be creative and as a result they produced a wide range of things including poster presentations, t-shirt designs, a Junior Ranger song and web pages which can be found at:

- **Kampinoski Junior Rangers (PL) -**
<http://europarc.republika.pl>
- **Krkonoše Junior Rangers (CZ) -**
www.krnap.cz/krnap/aktuality/projekt.html

Each Junior Ranger also kept a daily diary and produced individual pieces of work related to the topics within the programmes.

Learning from the information board in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)





The Triglav (SI) and Krkonoše (CZ) Junior Rangers in action

6.6 Rewarding Success with a Junior Ranger Certificate

At the end of the programmes each youngster was awarded a EUROPARC Junior Ranger certificate at a specially arranged closing ceremony, in recognition of his or her achievements.

In addition, three of the best Junior Rangers from each of the partner parks were also invited to attend the project closing ceremony, which was held from 8 - 11 May 2003 in the Berchtesgaden National Park (D).

6.7 Involving Others in the Programmes

Over 35 members of park staff and 100 parents shared in the Junior Ranger experience through their involvement in the programmes.

Park rangers and a variety of staff led the Junior Ranger activities and it was clear that they were able to develop a trusting relationship with the Junior Rangers.

The Junior Rangers' parents and friends were invited to attend a programme closing ceremony in each of the parks and in one case to participate in the programme of activities. This provided an opportunity for the parents to meet each other and importantly to meet the National Park Directors and Park Rangers. In addition, parents learnt more about the Junior Ranger project and the Junior Rangers and their activities.

6.8 Promoting a Common European Identity

To promote the development of a European network of Junior Rangers all youngsters who participated in a Junior Ranger programme were provided with a EUROPARC Junior Ranger uniform and equipment, including a polo-shirt, baseball cap, name badge, rucksack and nature guide book. The uniform was identical for all Junior Rangers, irrespective of their country, and came complete with a unique EUROPARC Junior Ranger logo, thus reinforcing a European identity and perspective to the activities of the EUROPARC Junior Rangers.

6.9 Celebrating Success at the Project Closing Event

The project closing ceremony took place from 8 - 11 May 2003 during the 25th birthday celebrations of the Berchtesgaden National Park (D).

The Junior Ranger project was represented in the official programme of celebrations on Friday 9 May and it was during this programme that the 12 specially invited Junior Rangers met with the Bavarian Prime Minister, Dr Edmund Stoiber, and the Bavarian Environment Minister, Dr Werner Schnappauf. The Junior Rangers were able to thank the Ministers and to present them with gifts on behalf of the Junior Ranger project.

Following the official ceremony, the Junior Rangers participated in a two-day international Junior Ranger programme. This included guided walks and talks from members of the National Park's ranger staff in the Wimbachtal and Königssee areas of the Park and a variety of environmental education activities led by a team of the Park's interns.



At the closing event in the Berchtesgaden NP (D), May 2003: the Bavarian Prime Minister Dr Edmund Stoiber and the Bavarian Environment Minister Dr Werner Schnappauf (see also cover photo) show their appreciation of the commitment of Junior Rangers from four European countries



7. Programme Results

Each of the four Junior Ranger programmes was successfully implemented. In total, 60 youngsters representing some 31 local communities and approximately 25 schools participated in the programmes - see Table 1 below.

Table 1: Overview of programme participants

	Triglav	Krkonoše	Kampinoski	Bavaria
Participants	16	18	12	14
Age range	11 - 17	15 - 18	11 - 18	11 - 13
No. of schools	9	Not known	6	6
Communities	10	11	6	4



Award of certificates in the Kampinoski National Park (PL)



Kampinoski Junior Rangers (PL): a group ethic is often also based on fun

The Triglav National Park (SI)

The Triglav National Park programme took place from 5 - 14 August 2002. A total of 16 youngsters ranging in age from 11 to 17 years participated in the programme. They came from nine different schools and ten local communities.

The programme contained a wide range of activities including lectures and field visits on wildlife and national park management issues, lots of hiking in the mountains and on nature trails, litter collecting, traditional hay making, rope traversing, designing and using visitor questionnaires, creative work with posters, t-shirts and modelling clay. On one morning the Junior Rangers woke at 4am and climbed into the mountains to complete a monitoring survey of the National Park's Ibex population. A copy of the programme can be found in Annex 3.

The Krkonoše National Park (CZ)

The Krkonoše National Park programme took place from 15 July - 2 August 2002. A total of 18 youngsters participated in the programme ranging in age from 15 to 18 years and representing 11 local communities.

Programme activities included an entrance test, lectures and field visits on plants and nature conservation law, litter collecting, monitoring wildlife, practical work on countryside furniture and footpaths, working with local communities and visitors and habitat management. Safety is a major concern so the Krkonoše Junior Rangers also learnt about basic mountain safety and first aid in the ideal location - outdoors in the wild environment of the Giant Mountains! A copy of the programme can be found in Annex 3.

The Kampinoski National Park (PL)

The Kampinoski National Park programme took place from 15 July - 26 July 2002. A total of 12 youngsters participated ranging in age from 11 to 18 years and representing six different schools and six local communities.

Programme activities included talks on the National Park and its historical, natural and cultural values. Field trips to learn about tree identification and species reintroduction, working with and guiding visitors and the pressures of people on the Park. The Kampinoski Junior Rangers also learnt about the reintroduction of the Lynx to the National Park and practised tracking the animals using radio-tracking equipment and, to add a little magic to the event, they actually met a Lynx! A copy of the programme can be found in Annex 3.

EUROPARC certificates for the Bavarian Forest Junior Rangers (D)

The Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D)

The Bavarian Forest Nature Park programme took place from 26 August - 6 September 2002. A total of 14 youngsters participated in the programme ranging in age from 11 to 13 years and representing six different schools and four local communities.

Activities included discussions on the differences between national parks and nature parks, lots of hiking to learn about the conflict between tourism and conservation, to see traditional land management by meeting a shepherd, to discuss the problems of bark beetle management and the conservation of the wolf, capercaillie and lynx, visits to various centres to learn about local culture and talks on the economic values of the Parks. Understanding how, when and why visitors come to the Park helps the ranger to better manage visitor movement around the area. The Bavarian Forest Junior Rangers also contributed here by monitoring and completing a questionnaire survey of visitors to the protected area. A copy of the programme can be found in Annex 3.



PÓŹNO • ZMĘCZONY • ZDOBYWAĆ • ODPOCZYNEK • RELAKS • POMI

8. Programme Costs

The costs of the programmes were covered by a combination of direct financial support from the project and the provision of staff / resources by the partner parks.

Direct financial support was provided to cover all costs of developing and implementing the programmes. This included items such as the provision of accommodation, food and drinks, insurance, transport, entrance fees to museums and visitor centres, writing and art materials and the costs of the closing ceremony.

Direct financial support was also given to cover part of the costs of the main contacts' time and the full costs of employing the interns for a period of three months. The project also provided the parks with equipment for the Junior Rangers including polo shirts, hats, badges, rucksacks and certificates.

The partner parks contributed the staff time and resources required for developing and implementing the programmes. The cost of two programmes was higher than the amount of direct financial support provided. In these cases, the partner parks covered the additional financial costs.

The programme costs varied according to the country concerned and to factors such as programme complexity, duration, participant number, transport requirements and whether the programme was residential or not.

A comparison of the four programmes allowed for a realistic estimate of the costs of a Junior Ranger programme to be calculated. Table 2 provides an overview of these costs.

Table 2: Overview of the cost of a programme of Junior Ranger activities.

	Residential	Non-residential
Central & East European *	Park owned house with food provided	
10 Day Programme costs	EUR 161 / participant	EUR 45 / participant
Staff time	90 - 95 days	90 days
Junior Ranger Equipment	EUR 90 / participant	EUR 90 / participant
Total for 10 Junior Rangers	EUR 2510 + staff time	EUR 1350 + staff time
West European **	Privately owned house with food #	
10 Day Programme costs	EUR 375 / participant	EUR 150 / participant
Staff time	-	127 days
Junior Ranger Equipment	EUR 90 / participant	EUR 90 / participant
Total for 10 Junior Rangers	EUR 4650 + staff time	EUR 2400 + staff time
* Based on the experience of 3 parks ** Based on the experience of 1 park # Programme costs + estimated EUR 25 / participant / night		

9. Programme Evaluations

The success of the Junior Ranger programmes is evident to all those that participated in them, either as a programme provider or as a participant. However, to ensure a more rigorous assessment of the achievement of both the project and programme aims, a series of evaluations were completed. These were:

- **Individual evaluation questionnaires completed by all participants**
- **An evaluation workshop for park staff involved in the programmes**
- **Final reports produced by each of the four partner parks**

A great deal of information was gathered during the evaluations. Much of this material relates to the practical aspects of the project and programme development and operation. This information was used to develop a model concept for Junior Ranger activities, which is presented in section 12 of this report.

An impressive mountainous landscape in the Triglav National Park (SI)



9.1 The Questionnaire Results

In total 60 youngsters participated in four programmes of activities. A total of 57 questionnaires were completed and analysed. Some questionnaires were not fully completed resulting in the number of responses to a question being lower than the number of questionnaires returned. To avoid confusion the actual number of responses and the percentage of the total responses are presented below.

The programmes met the expectations of 56 (98.2%) of the youngsters and all 57 (100%) said that they had enjoyed taking part. The best activities were those that were active, creative and outside. Hiking, meeting people, working with nature and practical work scored particularly well. The least enjoyable activities were those conducted in bad weather, were indoors or school type activities. 45 (77.6%) of the youngsters thought that the programme was useful for their schoolwork including geography, ecology / nature studies, biology and chemistry. Only 4 (6.9%) said it wasn't useful.

52 youngsters (91.2%) talked to their parents about the programme and in return received many positive comments and much support. The parents thought that the programme was "interesting", "professional" and "useful for learning". 36 youngsters (63.2%) talked to their friends about the programme and again in return received many positive comments.

31 Junior Rangers (54.4%) changed their opinion about the park. Opinions are now more positive with a clearer understanding of the work and responsibilities of the ranger and the park. In addition, the youngsters said that they now have more respect for nature, a greater understanding of the need for parks to protect the environment and an understanding about the differences between nature parks and national parks. 16 (28.1%) thought that they hadn't changed their opinion - what their opinion is we do not know - and 10 (17.5%) didn't know.

51 (89.5%) thought the programme content and topics were about right. 45 (78.9%) thought the activities were about right with 12 (19%) saying the activities were too easy. 31 (54.4%) thought the programmes were too short. 54 youngsters (94.7%) would like to participate in another Junior Ranger course.

50 youngsters (87.7%) said that they would keep in touch with each other. When asked how they will keep in touch, school, telephone, letters, email and youth groups organised by the parks were cited. 46 (80.7%) stated they would like to keep in touch with the parks. When asked how they will keep in touch, visiting the park, youth groups organised by the parks, direct contacts with rangers and helping at park events were cited.

37 (64.9%) would like to work in a national park or other protected area, 19 (33.3%) didn't know and only one said he / she would not like to work in a park.

43 (75.4%) would recommend the programme to their friends. Many of the youngsters believe that young people can help the parks by respecting the park's rules, keeping the park clean, informing others about the park's values, helping the rangers, bringing others to the park and providing a good example of how to behave.



Experiencing the wild: Bavarian Forest Junior Rangers (D)

27 youngsters (47.4%) thought that they had learnt enough about other national parks and protected areas. 18 (31.6%) didn't know whilst 12 (21.1%) said that they hadn't learnt enough. Of these many would have liked to learn more about the differences between parks and the work of the rangers.

41 youngsters (78.8%) think that they have something in common with the other Junior Rangers. They said that this is because they had made the same efforts and learnt similar things. They all protected nature and learnt how to care about it and how to work as a ranger. They believed that they had all worked towards the same goals, the only difference being citizenship.

Junior Rangers' comments: "The Junior Ranger project was super", "we learnt a lot of things". "I hope some similar activities will take place". "I would have liked to stay longer". "I would have liked to go to other national parks where the Junior Ranger project was running". "Most of the rangers were amazing". "We hope that we will stay in contact". "Good friendship - it was wonderful". "We must do it again". "I would like to participate next year, too". "I will never forget the camp". "You can meet really interesting people at this kind of course". "It was really great". "It was pretty cool and wonderful", "our rangers were cool with much power and nerves". "RANGERS ARE THE BEST!"

9.2 The Evaluation Workshop and Final Reports

At the end of each programme the Project Leader held a workshop with the park rangers and staff involved in the delivery of the programmes. This opportunity was used to ask the rangers what they believed the youngsters have gained. The workshop was also used to discuss and evaluate how the programmes were delivered, problems, issues, strengths, weaknesses, aspects of selecting and managing youngsters, etc. The workshop results and key points drawn from the parks' final reports have been combined and are presented below.

Organisation - The organisation of the project and cooperation with the EUROPARC Federation was very good. However, the late start of the project in the working year meant that time for preparation was too short and this caused complications in developing the programme and finding participants.

Parents - All parks provided parents with written information on the dates and timing of the programme and activities and details of the equipment required by the youngsters. Parents were also invited to attend programme opening (CZ) and closing ceremonies (all partners). Between 20 and 40 parents attended the closing ceremonies in 3 parks and none in the fourth park. Regular contact to the parents was useful and helped to enlist their support, e.g. in some cases parents assisted by transporting participants to activity locations and by preparing food for the closing ceremonies. The Triglav National Park actively involved parents in the programme on one morning by providing the opportunity for the Junior Rangers to interview their parents and to guide them along a Park trail.



International Links - All parks were brought together at the project introductory seminar. Afterwards, contact through the world-wide-web was attempted but not possible as not all parks had Junior Ranger web-sites. One park considered that active contacts during the programme were not a good idea, but that a post activity meeting to share experience, etc. would be. Following their meeting at the introductory seminar a group of Bavarian Forest National Park Rangers visited the Krkonoše National Park.

The Programme Topics / Activities - Each of the parks managed to meet all of the needs of the youngsters. The best activities were those that both physically and actively involved the youngsters (doing outdoors), e.g. learning about and monitoring wildlife, collecting litter, traversing with ropes and walking along rocky river beds, designing questionnaires and questioning visitors, guiding tours, learning about conflict resolution and doing practical things in nature. The least enjoyable activities were generally those that were less physical or involved some discomfort (not moving, only listening, too much physical exertion), e.g. too much walking, bad weather or waking up too early.

It was emphasised that the programmes should not be animated holiday programmes but active, thought provoking and productive. When asked what, if any, additional topics / activities should have been included, more presentations and information about other national parks in the world, more first aid and practical field work type of activities, e.g. fire fighting, and a greater focus on the delivery of basic knowledge were highlighted.

Timing - Without exception all thought that their programmes and the project as a whole had been excellent. All staff really enjoyed delivering the programmes, despite additional work pressures. A two-week programme of activities is considered optimum. Opinions differed, however, on whether there should be a weekend break in between the two weeks. The length of programme is linked to staff capacity.

The youngsters' interest in the Kampinoski (PL) lynx was particularly high

Programme Implementation - All parks operated two week programmes. The Krkonoše programme was residential and ran over a three week period with youngsters participating in two groups each for two weeks with weekend breaks. The Triglav programme was also residential and included one Saturday with parents. The Kampinoski and Bavarian Forest programmes were based on day visits with a weekend break between the two weeks. In some cases, it was difficult to find youngsters who could commit for a fortnight.

In respect to day length the residential programmes allowed for the activities to be spread throughout the whole day and evening. Residence seemed also to allow for a more intense integration of the youngsters, the development of deeper relationships with park staff and the provision of a greater variety of activities and greater flexibility in time management.

In the non-residential programmes the youngsters arrived at the start of each day. The daily timing of the Kampinoski programme was developed around a combination of the youngsters' wishes and their parents' work times. This resulted in a relatively short working day and the park felt this was very limiting, preferring in future to set longer times. The Bavarian programme ran from 8.30 - 9.00am to 5.00pm and this was considered fine.

Success of the Programme - It was felt that "everybody had an opportunity to gain" and that the programmes of activities had been successful in informing the youngsters about the work of the ranger and the protected area concerned. All parks accepted that the full scope of the work of the rangers and the parks could not be taught due to restrictions in time, the youngsters' ability and safety issues.

International Issues - It was considered that the programmes could have done more to inform the youngsters about rangers and protected areas at an international / European level. However, the time available was used to concentrate on the local situation. The diversity of global experiences and protected areas requires a special focus, which it wasn't possible to develop and incorporate into these programmes.

It was felt that getting the youngsters to develop and link international web-sites and to attend a European Junior Ranger camp would help to improve knowledge in this field. The Project Leader suggested that in the future special activities be developed and included that discuss and promote international cooperation. This was thought to be a good idea.

At the top of one of the numerous peaks in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)



Similarly, little information was provided on global concepts such as Sustainable Development, Agenda 21, Biodiversity Conservation, etc. The reasons given for this were: "a lack of knowledge in the parks", "the focus was local on the youngsters and their neighbours", "it wasn't necessary to include these topics" and "this is something for later with the more interested youngsters".

Changes in Attitude and Benefits to the Parks -

The project has allowed the parks to increase their experience and to realise their potential for working with youngsters in general and through Junior Ranger type activities in particular. There was particular surprise at the level of basic ecological knowledge of the youngsters and just how engaged they became.

The project work was different, thus providing staff with a diversion from their "normal" work. The programmes also proved interesting and provided staff with a "good feeling" as a result. Park staff also realised that they still have things to learn and really enjoyed having to learn how to think like children again.

Knowledge and experience have been shared and the development of good cooperation has made work easier. Amongst the full-time rangers old skills and knowledge have been reconfirmed and the interns feel that they in particular have learnt a great deal. The project has also improved relations between the neighbouring Bavarian protected areas at ranger level.

Staying in Contact - All parks believe that the youngsters will stay in contact with each other, however, the extent of contact appears dependent on opportunities for getting together. Many of the Junior Rangers go to the same school and live in the same villages. Many are also members of local alpine associations (CZ / SI) and these may provide a mechanism for the youngsters to stay in contact. Naturally, the competition winners from each park had the opportunity to meet and exchange stories at the project's closing ceremony.

Using Knowledge - The parks believe that the youngsters will use their newly gained knowledge, skills and experience outside of the park and will share it with friends and parents. For the future it is possible that some of the youngsters will work in protected areas, but this is difficult to say. Honest answers given to questions on rangers' pay and conditions may actually put some off.



Cultural landscape in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)



Putting up a sign in the Triglav National Park (SI)

9.3 Post Programme and Evaluation Activities

A range of activities in addition to the project's closing ceremony, have taken place since the end of the Junior Ranger programmes and completion of the evaluations.

In the Krkonoše National Park the Junior Rangers returned to the Park to continue with footpath restoration work and a visitor survey started during their Junior Ranger programme. The Junior Rangers have also approached the National Park with a request that they establish a Park Junior Ranger service.

In the Triglav National Park two meetings have taken place between Park staff and Junior Rangers to discuss how they can continue to work together. As this report was being written, the Junior Rangers were representing the Park at a special event. In this role, they met and guided over 800 of their peers from their own schools. The visiting children were surprised to see their friends in uniform undertaking important work for the National Park and many questions were asked about the Junior Ranger project.

10. Achievement of the Project Aims

10.1 Aim

To develop concrete nature / environmental education programmes for children and youngsters in Eastern European protected areas.

Achieved? Yes

The project has developed and delivered nature / environmental education programmes for children and youngsters living close to four protected areas - three located in Central and Eastern European countries and one in Bavaria. The Junior Rangers were satisfied (98.2%) with and enjoyed (100%) the programmes. The park final reports and evaluations confirm the full and successful implementation of four programmes.

10.2 Aim

To create a network of youngsters taking part in nature protection in their region, who will thereby act as advocates for the realisation of protected area aims.

Achieved? Yes

60 youngsters took part in nature protection in their region. 54.4% of these have positively changed their opinion about the parks. The majority (80.7%) would like to keep in touch with the parks and / or to work in a protected area in the future (64.9%). Many have returned to the park since the programme, thus demonstrating their support for the protected area.

The majority (87.7%) would also like to keep in touch with Junior Rangers from their own park. The majority (78.8%) also believes they have something in common with Junior Rangers in other parks. Many are looking for ways to maintain contact and to continue working with the parks and each other. This reflects a 'network' in development. However, a concrete system that facilitates the coming together of Junior Rangers and parks, both locally and internationally, is required to ensure the development of a sustainable network of Junior Rangers in the long-term.

Post programme activities have already taken place in the Triglav (SI) and Krkonoše (CZ) National Parks, thus demonstrating the Junior Rangers' commitment.

10.3 Aim

To raise awareness of the natural, landscape and economic potential of protected areas.

Achieved? Yes

The contents of the Junior Ranger programmes focused on nature / landscape, recreation and tourism and local history issues. The most popular topics were practical nature / animal topics, e.g. monitoring, tracking, nature study and management. Also meeting visitors and recreation such as hiking and mountaineering and practical skills such as footpath repair. The Junior Rangers were satisfied with (98.2%) and enjoyed (100%) the programmes. This level of satisfaction and enjoyment suggests that the youngsters remained interested and engaged throughout the programmes, thus it is highly probable that they will have an increased knowledge and awareness of these issues.

10.4 Aim

To promote cooperation between protected areas across national borders, through information and experience exchange at the European level.

Achieved? Yes

Cooperation between the four partner protected areas was promoted through information and experience exchange at the project introductory seminar. Exchange continued to take place in the development of the programmes and later at the project closing ceremony. Presentations were given at a number of international conferences and events. Articles were published in European professional journals, national and local newspapers and on park web sites. As the parks involved in this exchange are located in different European countries, cooperation took place at the European level across national borders.

10.5 Aim

To promote friendship and a group ethic between youngsters by engaging them in the achievement of common goals for nature conservation.

Achieved? Yes

60 youngsters were engaged in the achievement of common goals for nature conservation. 87.7% said they would keep in touch with each other and 80.7% said they would like to keep in touch with the parks. This is supported by the park rangers and other staff who believe that the Junior Rangers will keep in contact.

Post programme activities in the Triglav (SI) and Krkonoše (CZ) National Parks with the Junior Rangers indicate that friendship has been maintained.

10.6 Aim

To contribute to promoting the involvement of future generations in conservation, thus providing potential future staff, volunteers and supporters.

Achieved? Yes

60 youngsters were engaged in the achievement of common goals for nature conservation. 64.9% said that they would like to work for a national park or other protected area in the future. Many youngsters have maintained contact with their park and are actively seeking ways to cooperate in the future as demonstrated in the Triglav (SI) and Krkonoše (CZ) National Parks.

10.7 Aim

To sensitise children and youngsters (the future adults) to the economic potential provided by protected areas.

Achieved? Yes

The contents of the programmes focused on a wide range of issues including recreation and tourism, agriculture and local history. As a result of the programmes the youngsters discovered that their national / nature parks are an important part of their region and local economy. They learnt that the parks provide opportunities for the continuance of

Krkonoše National Park (CZ)

traditional land use and for recreation and encourage work and investment in the region through the attraction of both national and international tourism.

54.4% of the Junior Rangers have positively changed their opinion about the parks and many (64.9%) would like to work in a protected area in the future, thus demonstrating the Junior Rangers' acceptance of these values.

Additional Aim

Although not stated in the original project aims as detailed in the project contract it is clear that an important additional aim has been achieved:

10.8 Aim

To win children over as enthusiastic advocates for the national / nature park amongst family and friends and to encourage them to voluntarily participate in conservation work.

Achieved? Yes

The majority of the Junior Rangers talked to their parents (91.2%) and friends (63.2%) and received positive comments in return. 75.4% of the Junior Rangers would recommend the programme to their friends and over half (54.4%) have positively changed their opinion about the parks. The majority (80.7%) would like to keep in touch with the parks and / or to work in a protected area in the future (64.9%). Post programme activities in the Triglav (SI) and Krkonoše (CZ) National Park with many Junior Rangers indicate that friendship has been maintained.



11. Conclusion

The results confirm that the Junior Ranger project has successfully achieved its aims. The project has developed and delivered four nature / environmental education programmes for youngsters living in Central and Eastern Europe and Bavaria. These programmes allowed 60 youngsters to take an active part in nature protection in their region. The programmes enabled the youngsters to develop

a relationship with their local national park / nature park and to make many new friends. As a result, a significant number of the youngsters have changed their opinion about their local park in a positive way. The majority has spoken with family and friends about the Junior Ranger programmes and feedback from these has been positive.



Almost all of the youngsters would like to participate in the project again and would recommend it to their friends. The majority would like to keep in contact with each other and with the parks. The evidence is, post programme, that contact has been maintained and that many have already returned to the parks to request or carry out voluntary work / activities. This suggests that these youngsters have been won over as advocates for protected areas. Moreover, 64.9% of the youngsters would like to work for a national park or other protected area in the future.

The Junior Ranger programmes delivered a wide range of activities that explored the flora, fauna, and landscape values of the partner protected areas. Activities relating to tourism, visitor management, traditional land use and a range of practical conservation skills were also included in the programmes. As a result, the awareness of the youngsters in respect to the natural, landscape and economic values of their local protected area has been raised. It is most likely that awareness of these issues has also been increased amongst family and friends.

The project has, through the development and delivery of the programmes, promoted cooperation between the partner protected areas across their national borders. Moreover, the results of their efforts have been widely presented at conferences and through various other media, thus facilitating information and experience exchange at the European level.

The feedback received from the Junior Rangers and the partner parks makes it clear that the Junior Ranger concept is an excellent idea. Most importantly, the feedback also indicates that all partners would like to repeat the Junior Ranger programmes again in 2003.



Pointing out the rules: leaving the path to collect berries is not allowed in the nature reserve - Bavarian Forest Nature Park (D)

12. A Model Concept for Junior Ranger Activities

The model concept has been developed out of the experiences gained by the four partner parks, located in West, Central and Eastern Europe, in developing and implementing programmes of activities for Junior Rangers.

The purpose of the model is to save both time and effort by providing clear and logical guidance that will facilitate protected area staff in protected areas across Europe, through the process of developing and implementing programmes of Junior Ranger activities in their own parks.

The model consists of a series of 'ideal' criteria followed by 10 stages of guidance which, when followed in their logical order, make up a planning process for Junior Ranger programmes.

The 'ideal' programme:

- **Lasts 10 days**
- **Develops skills**
- **Has 10 - 15 youngsters**
- **Gives responsibility to the youngsters**
- **Youngsters of similar ages**
- **Involves parents and other groups**
- **Well structured**
- **Is responsive to youngsters' needs**
- **A clear thematic focus**
- **Is delivered with enthusiasm**
- **Mostly active outdoor activities**
- **Clear staff responsibilities**
- **Indoor back up activities**
- **Is followed up**
- **Promotes a group ethic**

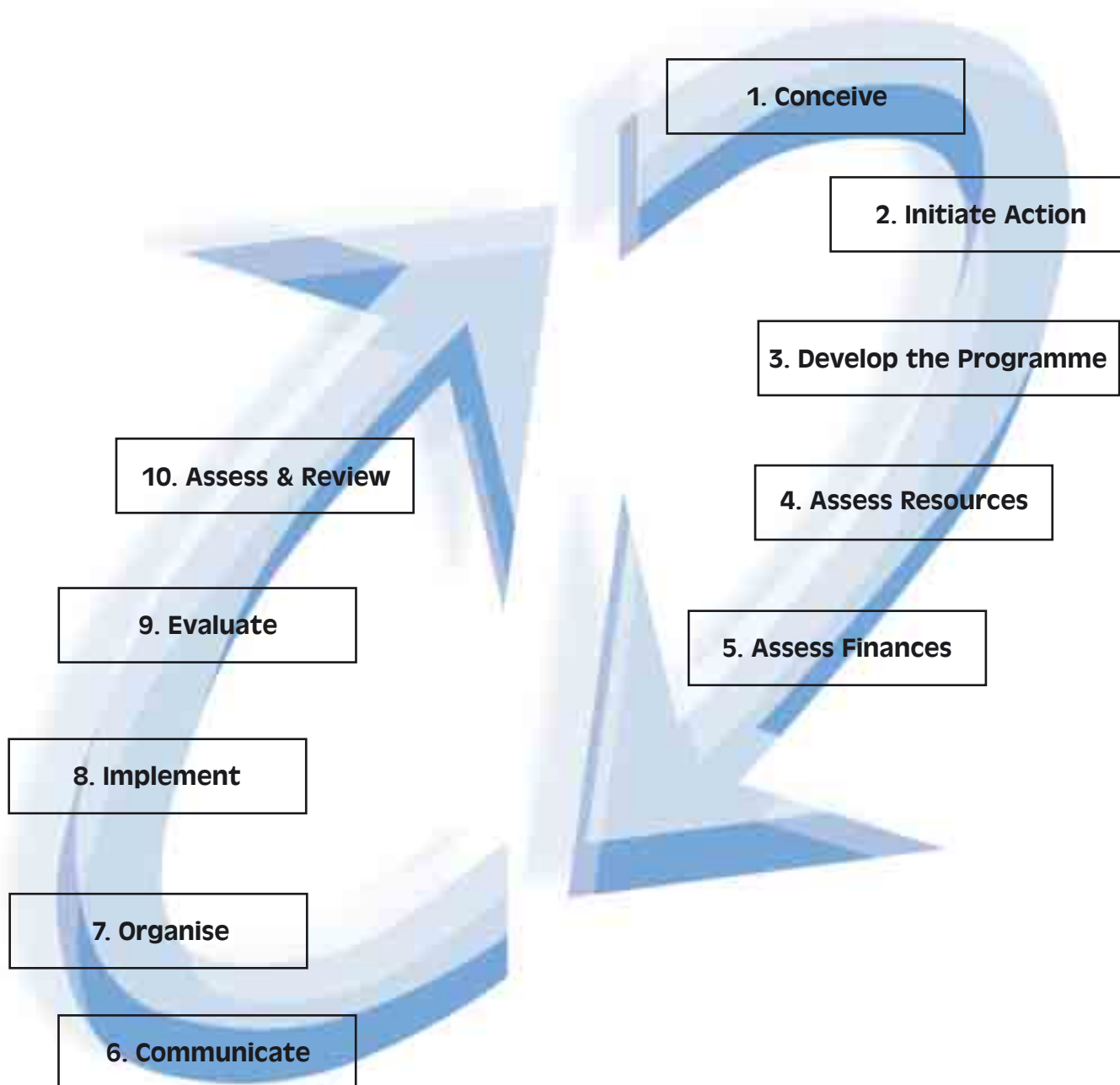
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... is about fun, excitement, awe, inspiration, creativity, insight, meaning, developing transferable skills and is experiential and memorable!

Map-reading: an important skill



The "Junior Ranger planning process":





Bavarian Forest Junior Rangers (D) produced a photo montage of the results of their work

Stage 1: Conceive of the idea

Summary:

- **Somebody conceives of the 'Junior Ranger' idea**
- **Build support within the park**
- **Sell the benefits to your colleagues and others**

Conceiving of the idea

Initially somebody within the protected area must have the idea of developing a Junior Ranger programme. The idea then needs to be worked up into something concrete that can be presented to senior managers and other park staff.

Building support

Their cooperation and full support is essential for success. It allows for responsibilities to be shared and provides quicker access to resources, skills and staff time.

Selling the benefits

The benefits of Junior Ranger programmes provide a powerful argument for their development. Junior Ranger programmes result in better relations with local people, active relations with local youngsters, enhanced support for the protected area, significant publicity and an improved public profile. In addition, the parks benefit from increased networking and the generation of ideas and the motivation for developing future initiatives that could attract external funding. Finally, the parks' staff will be re-energised and re-enthused about their work.

Stage 2: Initiate action

Summary:

- **Turn ideas into reality - develop a proposal**
- **Start as early as possible**
- **Set aims and consider future expectations**
- **Allocate responsibilities**
- **Set dates and location**
- **Identify your participants**
- **What are the risks?**
- **Seek advice**

Develop proposal

Put ideas into action by developing a proposal for Junior Ranger activities in the park. Take time to consider reasons for and the aims of the programme, to decide when and where the programme will take place and who will be responsible for developing and implementing it.

Start early

Start with preparations as early as possible and at the very latest 7-8 months before programme implementation.

Set aims

The project aims presented on page 12 provide a good starting point for developing programme aims. Ultimately, the aim may be to build bridges with local communities concerning a specific issue or to generally improve relations in the long-term. In all cases, be aware that you are making a long-term commitment. Successful Junior Ranger programmes will raise the expectations of the youngsters, the parents and park staff. As such, consider the park's future options for following-up the programmes.

Allocate responsibilities

Allocate the responsibility for the development and delivery of the programme to one person. He / she should hold a high position within the organisation. This will facilitate quick decision-making and access to resources.

Engage a full-time junior (younger) member of staff or an intern on the programme. This person should assist with the programme's development and be responsible for communicating with the participants and their parents. Later they should be the contact for the Junior Rangers during the programme. Sorry oldies! Their youth makes them more approachable.

Set dates

Set preliminary dates for programme implementation. Write the programme into staff work plans, and

highlight when staff and resources will need to be mobilised. Establish a time frame for communicating with participants and their parents.

The participants

Who are the target groups? What ages, fitness levels, background, school types are to be targeted? Selecting pre-trained youngsters, e.g. scouts or members of alpine clubs allows for more technical and / or physical programmes to be developed. Younger and less experienced / able youngsters require less demanding programmes.

How many Junior Rangers are practical for your programme? What is your supervisory capacity? What information do you require from the participants - age, health, diet requirements?

Set location

Establish where the programme will be implemented. Locate the programme in the park close to nature and all its wonders. Is accommodation required and available? Are meeting rooms, changing rooms, toilet facilities, car parking, bus access required? (See also stages 3 and 5)

Risks

Carry out a risk assessment at the strategic level - what are the initial risks presented by the programme and in working with youngsters in the outdoors? How can these risks be overcome or mitigated? Later, carry out a risk assessment for each activity to be undertaken during the programme. In any case, check the park's insurance cover and assess additional requirements.

Seek advice

Seek advice from more experienced parks. The EUROPARC network brings together protected areas working in Junior Ranger activities in all corners of Europe. Join the network and benefit from access to activities that will support your Junior Ranger programme.

Stage 3: Develop the programme

Summary:

- **Develop an outline programme**
- **Have a clear thematic focus**
- **Choose the topics**
- **Choose the activities**

Outline programme

Consideration about the type of programme and activities should begin as early as possible. Without a broad idea of the likely duration of the programme and the type of activities to be undertaken, it will be difficult to assess resource and finance requirements.

The precise detail and timing of activities can be refined at a later stage. However, before going any further, an outline programme that gives consideration to possible activities and timings should be developed. Going through this process will allow for an estimate of the likely amount of time to be spent outdoors / indoors and thus room, accommodation, transport and staffing requirements. See also stage 5 concerning residential programmes.

To assist with this difficult stage of planning, copies of the four programmes implemented in the project, including details of actual activities are provided in Annex 3. In addition, an overview of the programme themes and the range of topics and activities used are provided below.

Programme themes

Junior Ranger programmes should focus on the role and work of the ranger. Within this context, the programme should aim to educate youngsters about the role, values and work of the protected area and its importance for recreation, local employment, economy and tourism. The programmes should also aim to enthuse and inspire the youngsters about the protected area and its place in their home landscape as well as providing real work experience in nature conservation. In summary, programmes should focus on:

- **the role and work of the ranger**
- **the role and work of the protected area**
- **the conservation of nature, landscape, historical and cultural values**
- **tourism and the economic values of the protected area**
- **practical ranger / conservation skills**
- **communicating and dealing with visitors**
- **the promotion of a group ethic and common European identity**

Flowers in the parks are especially beautiful



Topics

A broad range of topics can be used to address the above themes, including:

- **Field crafts**
- **Nature / landscape study**
- **Conflict management**
- **Communicating with visitors**
- **Studying local history**
- **Managing pest species**
- **Protected area rules**
- **International/European protected areas**
- **Orienteering and navigation**
- **Visitor management**
- **Surveying and monitoring visitors**
- **Language and communication skills**
- **Habitat protection & management**
- **Economic activities**
- **Culture community**
- **Species protection & management**
- **Working with local communities**
- **First aid**
- **Conservation law**
- **National parks and their image**
- **The protected area family**
- **Surveying and monitoring wildlife**

Activities

As discussed earlier, the best activities are those that both physically and actively involve the youngsters, i.e. doing outdoors. The least enjoyable activities are those that are less physical or involve some discomfort, e.g. only sitting, only listening, too much walking, bad weather or waking up too early.

The focus should be on the outdoor activities, however, it is wise to also create a number of indoor / less physical activities. These not only add variety to the programme by providing opportunities for resting, for stimulating creativity and for learning, but they also provide a useful back up in the case of bad weather. A list of possible activities is presented below:

Outdoor activities:

Making and installing information boards and footpath signs, maintaining/repairing countryside furniture, earth games, collecting litter / waste, learning how to use ropes - basic mountaineering, doing traditional farm work, recreation activities - e.g. walking, cycling, boating, working with visitors - e.g. guiding visitors or parents, following nature trails and learning in the field, meeting people, visiting wildlife enclosures, completing sound maps, tracking and encountering wildlife, identifying trees and plants, visiting centres, leading excursions and completing night walks.

Indoor activities - used to support learning or in bad weather:

Lectures on ecology, biology, geology, history, culture and so on. Games, slide shows, t-shirt logo designs, using modelling clay, writing a group newsletter, photo montages, writing poems, stories, reports, diaries, doing all sorts of artwork, creating songs, creating and editing websites.

Activities that can be implemented both indoors and outdoors:

Learning about reptiles and snake bites, plant identification, learning about wildlife, theatre and role play, constructing things out of natural materials e.g. ships, doing warm-up and getting to know each other activities, telling fairy tales and folklore, designing visitor questionnaires, learning about geology and landscapes, completing interviews, learning about hazards e.g. fires, free-time.

Naturally, the range of activities chosen, will be dependent on the staff, resources, skills and specialised equipment (if required) available.

Stage 4: Assess resources

Summary:

- **Staff are the key resource**
- **Identify gaps in knowledge and skills**
- **Use volunteer rangers**
- **Develop and update resource needs**

Staff

The planning of resources started with the identification of the staff responsible for developing and implementing the programmes in Stage 2. Stage 2 also required the programme dates to be written into staff work plans. Stage 3 required the broad detail of the activities to be considered in the form of an outline programme, thus the necessary supporting staff resources should have, to a great extent, already been identified. Consideration should now be given to identifying the remaining resource requirements and gaps in resource provision. Who will stand in in the event of staff sickness or call outs on urgent business?

Knowledge and skills

Staff resources have been accounted for but what about knowledge and skills? Is there a need to train staff in 'working with young people' or 'risk assessment' for example?

Voluntary rangers

A significant and often unused resource lies within park voluntary ranger services. Voluntary rangers increase the pool of supervisor capacity, knowledge and experience available to the protected area. Moreover, their involvement provides an ideal opportunity to diversify the voluntary rangers' work, thus increasing job satisfaction and deepening their relationship with the protected area.

Resourcing the programme

The type of programme to be implemented will influence the resources required (see Stages 3 and 5 concerning residential programmes). Depending on the programme, resources may include:

- **money**
- **food**
- **entrance fees**
- **transport - cars, bus, bikes**
- **outdoor equipment**
- **note books**
- **writing materials**
- **art materials**
- **clip boards**
- **slides, photographs**
- **camera**
- **computer (web-site / email)**
- **first aid equipment**
- **binoculars**
- **navigation equipment**
- **uniforms**
- **nature guides**
- **rooms (meeting, eating, sleeping)**
- **certificates**
- **projectors**

The list is potentially endless and highly dependent on the choice of programme. As such it is wise to consider resource requirements thoroughly at the start of each stage of the Junior Ranger planning process and to review requirements regularly.



Observation activities in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)

Stage 5: Financing the programme

Summary:

- **Take account of actual and hidden costs**
- **Residential programmes add value but all programmes bring benefits**
- **Seek financial support**

Programme costs can be broken down into actual costs, e.g. food, materials, entrance fees, and hidden costs, e.g. staff time, use of park resources.

Programme content, e.g. lots of museum visits, level of supervision, transport and sleeping accommodation are all major cost factors.

Residential programmes are normally considered more expensive than non-residential programmes. However, caution is needed, as residence may be more economical than transporting participants to and from home each day. The type of accommodation, e.g. park or privately owned, camping or pension will have a direct effect on the cost of residential programmes. However, the additional benefits may be worth the extra cost.

Residential programmes allow the activities to be spread throughout the day and evening. Residence also allows for the more intense integration of the youngsters, for deeper relations with park staff, for the provision of a greater variety of activities and greater flexibility in time management. However, both non-residential and residential programmes are proven to deliver substantial benefits.

The estimated costs, based on the project's experiences, of running a ten-day programme for ten participants, including provision of Junior Ranger equipment are provided in Table 3:

Where will the money come from?

Can the costs of the programme be paid out of park finances? If not what alternatives are there for accessing finances - the EU, the EUROPARC project, sponsorship by a high profile organisation? There is a great interest in Junior Ranger activities and many organisations are interested in funding them.



Krkonoše National Park (CZ)

Table 3: Costs of running a ten-day residential / non-residential programme

	Residential	Non-residential
Central & Eastern European		
Staying in protected area accommodation with food provided		
Total for 10 Junior Rangers	<u>EUR 2510 + staff time</u>	<u>EUR 1350 + staff time</u>
West European		
Staying in private accommodation with food provided		
Total for 10 Junior Rangers	<u>EUR 4650 + staff time</u>	<u>EUR 2400 + staff time</u>

Stage 6: Good communication is fundamental to success

Summary:

- **Effective communication is essential**
- **Provide targeted information**
- **Involve parents and keep them engaged**
- **Use all communication tools**

Effective communication is essential to fully engage participants, their parents, other interested parties and the media. The best communication starts early in the process and is targeted.

Participants and parents

Sell the benefits of the Junior Ranger programmes (see page 36). Don't wait for interested youngsters to call - be proactive - go out and meet them in their schools and other groups and clubs.

The youngsters and parents need to know what the Junior Ranger programme is, when and where it will take place and if they meet the application criteria, e.g. age, fitness, equipment, skills and date of programme.

As parents need to build trust with park staff, they should be engaged fully in the Junior Ranger process. They also need to give / sign permission for their children to participate. Parents should be kept engaged by keeping them informed, e.g. by providing a copy of the programme and letting them know how they can become involved.

Remember - a relationship is being developed and expectations are being raised from the very first contact. The park has a commitment to maintain this relationship and to meet expectations.

Other groups

The programme of activities can be used to establish effective links with other groups such as farmers' organisations, scout groups and mountain rescue associations. Include activities within the programme that utilises one or more of these groups.

The media

The media will be interested in the Junior Ranger programme. Communication with the media will be both reactive and proactive. Briefs should be prepared before, during and after the programme. Take lots of good action photographs and select your best Junior Rangers to be interviewed. Experience indicates that TV, radio, newspapers and journals will all be interested in Junior Ranger activities.

Communications tools

Establish a Junior Ranger web-site and allow the Junior Rangers to contribute to it. Prepare a leaflet, write articles for publication, brief the press. Get the Junior Rangers to produce their own newsletter - and distribute it to the media and parents.



Stage 7: Organise the essentials

Summary:

- **Set final programme and timing**
- **Organise rooms, transport**
- **Organise equipment / materials**
- **Complete risk assessment for activities**
- **Act upon risk assessment findings**
- **Consider post programme follow-up**
- **Mobilise and brief staff**

Final programme and organisation

Now is the time to finalise the programme and activities. Decide on the final order and delivery of the activities. Remember to focus on outdoor, doing activities with back up options in case of bad weather. It is good practice to start and end the day with a warm-up / team type activity and to allow adequate time for feedback and questions. Once the final programme has been decided, the rooms, transport, meals, group booking to visitor centres, materials required for activities need to be pre-booked / organised.

Risk assessment¹

If possible a risk assessment should be undertaken for each individual activity within your programme. Action should be taken to mitigate identified risks. Where this is not possible and the risk is considered high, serious consideration should be given to changing the activity.

Programme follow-up

Once the Junior Rangers, their parents and other groups have become engaged their expectations will be raised. Furthermore, the media will be interested in the outcome of Junior Ranger activities. Questions will therefore be asked about future activities and cooperation with the protected area.

It would reflect well on the protected area and improve staff morale if positive support for follow-up within the park exists and ideas for follow-up activities have already been considered and, if possible, acted upon.

Identifying plants



¹ As a formal process risk assessment is relatively new to Europe. The aim is to assess the risks involved in undertaking an activity, prior to that activity taking place, thus allowing time for identified risks to be mitigated. The process should be completed in writing, thus formalising an activity that rangers instinctively do in their heads.

Stage 8: Implement the programme

Summary:

- **Set standards of behaviour**
- **Be clear about staff responsibilities**
- **Identify contact point**
- **Cancel all other plans / actions**
- **Have a back up plan**
- **Keep parents informed and involved**
- **Have a high profile closing ceremony**
- **Be flexible - respond to issues**
- **Allow for participatory decision making**
- **Evaluate**

At this stage the key task is to mobilise staff and resources and to support and motivate them as they implement the Junior Ranger programme. However thoroughly planned and timed the activities are it would be a simple matter to run the programme without further thought. There are a number of additional actions that can be done, firstly to reduce potential problems and, secondly to promote a deeper and longer lasting relationship with the Junior Rangers.

Standards of behaviour

At the start of the programme carry out the simple exercise of getting the Junior Rangers to identify their rules for participating in the programme, e.g. everybody has the right to ask questions, everybody must take a turn in doing unpleasant work. Staff should also use this opportunity to introduce a few rules of their own if they haven't already been suggested, e.g. no mobile phones, no smoking.

Later, should it become necessary, staff can remind the Junior Rangers of the list of rules they democratically drafted.

Staff responsibilities

It should be clear to the Junior Rangers and park staff who is responsible for what at any given time. For example, who should the Junior Rangers go to if they have a problem during an activity? Who should they go to in the evening? In the EUROPARC project the interns acted as the main point of contact for the Junior Rangers at all times and, as such, they were committed to being present throughout the whole programme.

Keep diaries clear

Junior Ranger programmes make a high demand on staff time and energy. Significant problems and disturbance can be caused to the programme, the youngsters and other staff, by staff being called out on other business at short notice. It is therefore essential that ranger staff involved in the programme ensure that senior staff support the programme and are aware of the rangers' commitment and thus make every effort to keep their time free to concentrate on the programme.

Back up plan

Bad weather, sickness, injury, urgent business, changes in conditions, breakdowns in transport and many other things can conspire to disrupt the programme. Have a daily back up plan for activities and predictable eventualities such as transport failure.

Involve parents

Parents enjoy being with the Junior Rangers and their involvement in the programme is strongly encouraged. At the very least they should be kept informed of what is happening, perhaps through a simple newsletter or web-based bulletin board.

Parents can be involved in the programmes in a number of additional ways, e.g. providing transport, preparing food for the closing event, being questioned and guided by the Junior Rangers. Be creative and find ways to engage with parents.

Stage 9: Evaluate progress and results

Summary:

- Evaluate progress and result
- Short but thorough evaluation

- Use formal and informal techniques
- Is about giving and receiving

Evaluation should aim to obtain appropriately focused feedback from the Junior Rangers, which can be used to assess whether or not the programme and activities have achieved their aims and to improve future programmes. Evaluation is a two way process and consideration should be given to using techniques that not only provide the feedback required but also allow the Junior Rangers to express their own thoughts and ideas as fully as they desire.

Experience has shown that short but thorough evaluation is best. It is easy, in the drive to justify the programme, to overburden the Junior Rangers with evaluations. This is counter productive as it is likely to result in poor responses to questions.

Effective evaluation can be achieved through completion of simple structured questionnaires or by other more stimulating means such as group discussions or even Junior Ranger to Junior Ranger interviews! A great deal of information can also be gained from work created by the Junior Rangers during the course of the programme, e.g. newsletters, diaries, discussions, photograph montages.

Park staff should be included in the evaluation process. A workshop for all staff that participated in the programme and its organisation will provide the ideal opportunity to review the programme's strengths and weaknesses, to highlight gaps in resources and skills and issues relating to health, safety and welfare. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for staff to be thanked again for their efforts and in this respect provide a further boost to morale.



Park planning - hard work and great fun

Bavarian Forest (D)



Stage 10: Assess and review

Summary:

- **Learn from mistakes**
- **Give feedback**
- **Share experiences**
- **Keep contact with Junior Rangers**

Learn from mistakes and make changes

The programme has been completed and evaluated. The evaluations provided a wealth of information. It is essential that this information be reviewed as soon as possible and recommendations drafted on how to improve the programme and how to avoid a repeat of any problems in the future. Do this exercise even if no Junior Ranger programme is planned in the immediate future. The results of the review and the resulting amended programme and the experience gained will prove useful, not only for future Junior Ranger activities, but for developing all types of education activities.

Provide feedback and gain support

As can be seen on pages 24 and 25, the result of the programmes and evaluations can be outstanding. Share positive results with park staff, the funding organisation, the Ministry or Board responsible for the protected areas and the media. In this way the staff, public, political and media support gained through the Junior Ranger process will be enhanced and potential for attracting future funds increased.

Share experiences

Find an opportunity to share and exchange experiences. Other parks within the respective national protected area system or even in other countries can benefit from your unique experience. Whilst most protected areas have some experience in 'environmental education' and school groups, very few have attempted to implement Junior Ranger programmes. Moreover, by sharing experience through, for example, the EUROPARC Junior Ranger network, your own park will benefit from access to the knowledge and experiences of protected areas across Europe.

The Junior Rangers

The Junior Rangers are now one of your most important assets. They are highly motivated and have been encouraged to eat, sleep and work conservation and protected areas for two whole weeks. Many will be very eager to return to and work for the protected area.

This provides an ideal opportunity for both the protected area and the youngsters. Objectively one could say that by continuing to engage this group it will be possible to further develop and maintain lasting relations with local communities, thus securing their support for the protected area. However, the experience of the staff rangers in the project's partner parks makes it clear that the relationship goes beyond objective gain to one of a personal and very satisfying friendship with young people.

The evidence suggests that Junior Ranger programmes do work to foster support for the protected area. At the same time, the youngsters and staff rangers have a wonderful personal experience and develop (or redevelop for many staff rangers) a great fascination and enthusiasm for their local nature, landscape and culture. At the same time, the youngsters learn how to think and act responsibly and to work for and defend their natural and cultural heritage. Furthermore, they and many of their parents become now strong advocates for protected areas. Moreover, many want to stay in the region and work in the protected area.

Are we going to disappoint them? Ideas for following up the Junior Ranger programmes are currently being developed and tested by the EUROPARC Federation. In the meantime, an insight into follow-up activities can be found in section 9.3. Further information and advice can be obtained by contacting the EUROPARC office in Grafenau (contact details on the back cover).

13. Recommendations

This report reflects a wealth of knowledge, experience and practical expertise on Junior Ranger activities, and as such makes the following recommendations:

1. Protected areas should take and use the model concept to develop Junior Ranger programmes. The concept can be modified and adapted to the special circumstances of each protected area.
2. This report should be used to convince decision-makers at all levels as well as protected area managers of the vital interest of protected areas in both more active youth work and the involvement of local communities and institutions.
3. There is an urgent need for funding agencies at local, national and European levels to support protected areas in developing Junior Ranger programmes.
4. To ensure sustainability, a successor Junior Ranger project to look specifically at the issues of following up Junior Ranger programmes is urgently needed.
5. More opportunities for training of staff rangers in the skills essential for developing and implementing Junior Ranger programmes are required.
6. The promotion of activities that support practical cooperation and cultural and social exchange between both Junior Rangers and protected areas at European level should be encouraged.

Left and right: The wild and the cultivated: different landscapes in the Krkonoše National Park (CZ)





7. Consideration should be given to developing options for the long-term career development of the Junior Rangers with a view to them taking advantage of job opportunities and finding employment in a protected area later on.
8. Increased networking in the field of youth work amongst both the young people and the protected areas is needed.
9. Given the importance for the future of nature conservation of involving young people more actively in the work of protected areas, it is vital that awareness raising amongst the wider public be stepped up or initiated.
10. The Junior Ranger network should be built up and made sustainable at the European level.
11. Junior Ranger programmes should be extended and opened up for participants from big cities, school classes and youth groups. The inclusion of disabled and socially disadvantaged young people should also be sought.
12. EUROPARC should form the umbrella for Junior Ranger activities - either already existing or planned - in their different forms throughout Europe.
13. Liaison and cooperation with other organisations with similar aims should take place.

Participants List - Junior Rangers

Germany

1. Enrico Bannies
2. Leopold Götze
3. Martina Bayer
4. Michael Jungwirt
5. Daniel Richter
6. Max Drexler
7. Denis Probst
8. Christof Schwarz
9. Simona Geisreiter
10. Melanie Leillinger
11. Corina Meisinger
12. Christian Hartl
13. Alexander Straßner
14. Tobias Waschinger

Poland

15. Adam Figat
16. Karolina Mazur
17. Piotr Nowak
18. Aneta Raczynska
19. Pawel Szaga
20. Elzbieta Sikorska
21. Dawid Szlaski
22. Jakub Wawer
23. Marta Wieczorek
24. Milena Stalczewska
25. Starzycka Katarzyna
26. Kamila Sieczkowska

Slovenia

27. Tilen Skerbec
28. Miha Golja
29. Sara Mencinger
30. Nives Jensterle
31. Anze Smodis
32. Primos Langus
33. Rok Kalan
34. Jaka Urevc
35. Uros Sivec
36. Doris Petac
37. Gasper Kokosar
38. Rok Vengar
39. Mojca Benedejcic
40. Anze Miklavic
41. Julija Erman
42. Mateja Pogacnik

Czech Republic

43. Lenka Frejklová
44. Jan Hanuš
45. Tomáš Holý
46. Michaela Janáková
47. Kamila Jebavá
48. Petr Jindřich
49. Erika Jindřichová
50. Jitka Jindřichová
51. Mirek Knez
52. František Kohl
53. Zuzana Konasová
54. Tomáš Kurik
55. Tomáš Nosek
56. Ela Říhová
57. Vojtěch Schmidt
58. Denisa Skalková
59. Petra Sosnová
60. Petra Svobodová



Krkonoše National Park (CZ)



Bavarian Forest (D)

Rangers and Associated Staff

Triglav National Park, Slovenia

- Marjeta Albinini, Project Intern
- Janez Bizjak, Director
- Mag. Martin Solar, Deputy Director, Head of the Professional Park Ranger Service
- Joze Mihelic, Education Officer
- Rado Legat, Ranger, Head of the Department Kranjska Gora
- Toni Urbas, Ranger
- Iztok Butinar, Ranger
- Tomaz Bregant, Ranger, Technical Staff
- Peter Belhar, Ranger
- Martin Završnik, Ranger
- Marko Pretner, Head of the NP Information Centre in Trenta
- Maja Fajdiga, TNP LIFE Project Staff (Biologist)
- Alenka Mencinger, TNP LIFE Project Staff (Biologist)

Krkonoše National Park, Czech Republic

- Petra Hrdličková, Project Intern
- Oldřich Pažout, Official Contact, Evaluation, Treasurer
- Ing. Vladimír Jiříčka, Official Contact between JR and the Krkonoše NP Authority
- Ing. Michal Skalka, Official Contact, Translation, PR, Lecturer
- Jan Leitgeb, Responsible in Pec pod Snežkou
- Jiří Pícha, Zdeněk Morkes, Alfred Pucher, Jirka Marek, Milan Dyntar, Pavel Jiříčka,
- Ivo Tasler, Radek Veselý, Petr Blažek and Petr Hartmann, Staff Rangers, Lecturers
- Leoš Zavřel, Mountain Rescue Service Lecturer
- Dr. Jan Štursa and Ing. Lubos Jiříšte, Lecturers
- Alena Tondrová, Webmaster of the NP

Bavarian Forest / Upper Bavarian Forest Nature Parks and Bavarian Forest National Park, Germany

- Karin Hodl, Project Intern
- Elke Ohland, Ranger, Nature Park
- Caroline Stautner, Ranger, Nature Park
- Mario Schmidt, Ranger, National Park
- Thomas Drexler, Ranger, National Park
- Manfred Wöfl, Biologist
- Otto Lendner, Biologist

Kampinoski National Park, Poland

- Maria Borowska, Project Intern
- Sylwester Cholast, Ranger
- Piotr Fidler, Education Officer
- Jan Reklewski, Scientist - Lynx Project Coordinator
- Andrzej Starzycki, Forester, Field Manager
- Jacek Zadura, International Cooperation, Coordinator / Senior Specialist
- Ludwika Wierzbicka - Head of the Museum and Visitor Centre

Bavarian Forest (D)



Bavarian Forest Nature Park and Partners (D) Junior Ranger Programme 2002 26.08. - 06.09.2002

26.08.2002 Monday Topic: Meeting Day

- warm-up game to introduce the children to each other
- interviewing the youngsters on the Junior Ranger Programme
- short presentation on the two nature reserves in the border crossing information centre at the border railway station
- general introduction to the programme
- handing over the equipment
- creating and forming a diary (making clear to the children that negative impressions can also be included)
- allocating a team of two or three children to record each day with pictures and some short notes (it is intended to change the team every day/group record)
- Short hike to the "Urwaldrelikt" Hans-Watzlik-Hain

"The Pfahl" - a limestone formation in the Bavarian Forest (D)



27.08.2002 Tuesday Topic: Bavarian Forest National Park

- short game
- detailed presentation of the National Park idea (pointing out the economic importance of the National Park facilities / economic benefits)
- visiting the "Hans-Eisenmann-House" (National Park information centre)
- view behind the scenes (visiting the "Betriebshof", animal park, carpentry etc.)
- visiting the "Freilichtmuseum Finsterau" (open-air museum) (tradition and culture)
- 1/2- 1 h reflection / discussion on the activities (what was good or bad etc...)

28.08.2002 Wednesday Topic: Bavarian Forest Nature Park, Protection of Species

- short game or role play
- introductory day on the Nature Park (pointing out the touristic and economic benefits of the Nature Park)
- guided tour of the information centre ("Null-Energy-House", regenerative energies)
- short hike on the "Great Arber" (conflicts: tourism versus conservation) (critical public opinion survey on the mountain cable railway carried out by the children)
- participation in the Nature Park event "Indigenous Reptiles"
- 1/2 h reflection on the day (discussing the records of the chosen team)

29.08.2002 Thursday Topic: Environmental and Landscape Protection

- short game
- grazing of sheep, meeting a shepherd
- conservation and protection of species in the "Regentalae" (perhaps visiting the LBV (bird protection) centre)
- 1/2 h discussion on the day

30.08.2002 Friday

Topic: Active Assistance in Caring for the Nature Reserve

- short game
- e. g. clearing / picking lupins on the peak of the Arber
- work shadowing the rangers (role and activities of the ranger)
- counting, monitoring and questioning the visitors (who visits the Parks and when?) (the youngsters can create their own questionnaire / creative work)
- short first aid course by the mountain rescue service (first aid / behaviour in the mountains)
- short discussion at the end of the day on the whole week

02.09.2002 Monday

Topic: Bark Beetle

- short game on the "Lusen"
- hiking on the "Lusen", explaining the difficulties with beetles
- nature experience path in the "forest playground"

03.09.2002 Tuesday

Topic: Species Protection

- introduction to the Nature Park species-protection-project "Lynx"
- short presentation of the project by Biologist Manfred Wölfel
- illustration of trapping methods, radio-collar tracking, perhaps looking after injured animals, basic navigation skills (how can I locate the lynx?)
- visiting the "Lohberg Zoo" (short guided tour and talk on the capercaillie reintroduction project)
- wolf and lynx reserve, "Primeval Forest House"

04.09.2002 Wednesday

Topic: Active Assistance in Caring for the Nature Reserve

- see Friday, 30.8.2002



Maintenance of hedges: another interesting task

05.09.2002 Thursday

Topic: "Geotop" and Nature Reserve "Pfahl"

- short game
- nature reserve "Great Pfahl"
- visiting the Pfahl information centre
- short hike around the "Great Pfahl"
- assistance with Pfahl maintenance

06.09.2002 Friday

Topic: Final Day

- handing in the diaries
- exhibition of the team-created photos and records in the Nature Park information centre
- barbecue
- big, final party with all participants (including parents, head of the Parks, local press), award of certificates
- Location: "Wilderness Camp" Falkenstein

Alternative programme in case of rainy

weather: spontaneous change e. g. visiting the "Nöbwartlinger Mühle", short hike on the "Wolfsteiner Ohe", visiting the "Unterwasserbeobachtungsstation" (sub-marine watching station), "Hunting and Fishing Museum" in Freyung.

Kampinoski National Park (PL) Junior Ranger Programme 2002 15.07. - 26.07.2002

15.07.2002 Monday

- introduction of participants and project team
- the National Park in a nutshell - permanent exhibition, slide show, artificial dune
- what the participants know about the Park and its surroundings; historical, cultural and natural values - quiz and additional information

16.07.2002 Tuesday

- trees of the Park - short lesson on how to recognise different tree species. Then visit to the Park's small botanical garden and finally a forest walk combined with a competition - "who will find most tree species?"

17.07.2002 Wednesday

- animals - introduction, slides, pictures, exhibitions. Then forest walk "looking for footprints and animals"

18.07.2002 Thursday

- forest and non-forest ecosystems - field trip where different ecosystems will be presented

19.07.2002 Friday

- what have we learned about the Park? Field trip combined with quiz



Views of the Kampinoski National Park (PL)



Views of the Kampinoski National Park (PL)

22.07.2002 Monday

- field trip "threats to the Park" - excursion to show different threats from human activities: waste, trespassing, fires, erosion, etc.

23.07.2002 Tuesday

- forest management - field presentation of different activities managed by Park staff: reforestation, selective thinning etc. and explanation of why these activities need doing

24.07.2002 Wednesday

- field trip "reintroduction" - visit to the lynx enclosures and presentation of different examples of reintroduction. Some information about the scientific research in the Park.

25.07.2002 Thursday

- how to be a guide? Practical training on how to talk to visitors and how to guide an excursion.

26.07.2002 Friday

- young rangers in action - an excursion where the project team will play the role of visitors guided by Junior Rangers. Who is the best and the most informative guide?
- farewell picnic with a fire, sausages
- Junior Rangers receive their certificates

Triglav National Park (SI) Junior Ranger Programme 05. - 14. 8.2002

05.08.2002 Monday

- arrival of participants
- games to get to know each other, slide show on the National Park

06.08.2002 Tuesday

- trip to the Mojstrana - Alja hut: educational path with information on the Park and work of the rangers
- trip to monument: writing, drawing, map of sounds, first aid
- bird life (slide show, presentation)
- review of the day, writing of diary

07.08.2002 Wednesday

- expedition: Vrata - Trenta
- arrival at information centre: break, guided visit, return by bus
- review of the day, writing of diary

08.08.2002 Thursday

- work of ranger: introduction, organisation, putting together questionnaire, practical work of farmers
- work with grass, vegetation
- games
- review of the day, writing of diary, lecture (waters, animals)

09.08.2002 Friday

- expedition to Vrata - Sovatna (b.IV)- Kriški podi: vegetation, animals, lakes, forms in kars
- picking up rubbish, lakes
- review of the day, writing of diary, free time

10.08.2002 Saturday

- arrival of parents: questionnaire, guiding parents, ending

11.08.2002 Sunday

DAY OFF

12.08.2002 Monday

- arrival in Mojstrana
- Triglav museum
- depart for Zg. Radovna (Pocar home, special grass terrain)



- transport to Vrata, break
- free time, drawing, writing, questionnaires, climbing
- review of the day, writing of diary
- preparing rucksack

13.08.2002 Tuesday

- 3.30: wake up, 4.00: departure
- monitoring of animals
- free time
- orienteering
- bivouac
- preparing a newspaper
- preparing souvenirs
- drawing
- climbing
- dinner / picnic around fire, review of the day, funny games, souvenirs, diary

14.08.2002 Wednesday

- quiz
- preparing a newspaper
- arrival of parents
- short speech by the Director of Triglav National Park
- review of the programme
- results, discussion
- handing out certificates

Colourful panorama in the Triglav National Park (SI)



Krkonoše National Park (CZ) Junior Ranger Programme 2002 15.07. - 02.08.2002

The Krkonoše Junior Ranger Programme took place over 3 weeks and in 2 groups. Each group's programme lasted 2 weeks. There was an overlap of 1 week for each group. To avoid repetition, we are only printing one programme schedule.

General Schedule:

9.00 a.m.	short start activity
9.30 a.m.	introduction to day's topic
10.00 a.m.	morning programme
12.00 a.m.	lunch
12.30 p.m.	start afternoon programme
3.00 p.m.	end afternoon programme, dinner break
6.00 p.m.	start of evening programme - discussion and evaluation of day's programme

Location: Harrachov, Špindlerův Mlýn

15.07.2002 Monday

- ice-breaking games, introduction to Junior Ranger Programme, entrance test
- lecture & slideshow by Dr Jan Štursa
- visiting the Krkonoše NP Authority's building
- visiting the exhibition "Stone and Life" in Vrchlabí (guided by Mrs Štursová)

Krkonoše National Park (CZ): source of the River Elbe



16.07.2002 Tuesday

- basic mountain safety, danger situations and places in the Giant Mountains
- first aid lecture and practice, nature conservation laws and rules, possible conflict resolution
- the ranger as a public figure
- determination main types of conflicts: National Park / visitors
- conflict management training
- ranger = teacher + green policeman + negotiator

17.07.2002 Wednesday

- monitoring of game, moulding of game tracks
- flora and fauna monitoring in the core zone of the National Park
- flora & fauna identification, special characteristics of mountain ecosystems
- glacial relicts, endemic species, map reading, navigation and orientation
- practice on the way back from Černá hora to Špindlerův Mlýn, nature path Černoohorské rašeliniste - management and types of nature paths, working with local community (Mega Plus as manager of gondola car on NP area, discussion with manager Mgr. Petr Hynek, management of XC ski traces and MTB nature path, look at ski-slopes)
- rubbish monitoring, work with visitors, glacial features of the Giant Mountains

18.07.2002 Thursday

- species protection
- meadow management
- identification of meadow flowers
- history of the Giant Mountains' meadows
- rubbish monitoring, working with visitors
- glacial features of the Giant Mountains
- map reading, navigation and orientation
- practice on way back from Černá hora to Špindlerův Mlýn, nature path Černoohorské rašeliniště (see 17.07.2002)

19.07.2002 Friday

- visiting glass work factory with original glass brushing workshop
- rubbish monitoring and analysis
- determining who left the litter
- suggestions for solving litter problems

22.07.2002 Monday

Arrival of new Junior Ranger group:

- ice-breaking games, introduction to Junior Ranger Programme, entrance test,
- lecture & slideshow by Ing. Lubos Jiříšťa
- visiting the Krkonoše National Park Authority's building
- visiting the exhibition "Stone and Life" in Vrchlabí (guided by Mrs Štursová)
- country furniture (CF) tasks: planning of CF, production and situation of CF, maintenance of CF, cooperation with PR Department of NP Authority
- path maintenance, repairing of mountain footpath, cooperation with local craft firm
- basic of competition of contracts

23.07.2002 Tuesday

- see 16.07.2002

24.07.2002 Wednesday

- see 18.07.2002

25.07.2002 Thursday

- see 17.07.2002

26.07.2002 Friday

- work with visitors in town and NP centres
- closing test, evaluation and 1st part of competition
- discussion about JRP
- visiting glass work factory with original glass brushing workshop
- monitoring and analysis of rubbish
- determining who left the litter
- suggestions for solving litter problems

29.07.2002 Monday

- see 22.07.2002

30.07.2002 Tuesday

- see 16.07.2002

31.07.2002 Wednesday

- see 17.07.2002

01.08.2002 Thursday

- see 18.07.2002

02.08.2002 Friday

- working with visitors in town and NP centres, Vrchlabí
- closing test, evaluation and 2nd part of competition
- discussion about JRP

Please note:

- morning activities will be managed by one or two JRs each day (under control of responsible person)
- evening activities (and "wet" weather variants) include: discussions and evaluation conflict management training, garbage monitoring analyses, writing of press releases, report preparing, preparing of suggestions of information systems, lectures about CRA and IRF, work on poster and basic materials for homepage
- some changes as a result of the weather, duty situation, illness etc. are possible
- responsible persons for JRs during free time are Pažout (in Harrachov), Hrdličková and Jiříčka (in Špindlerův Mlýn)



In the core area of the Krkonoše National Park (CZ): the upper reaches of the River Elbe, one of the main rivers in Europe

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



EUROPARC Federation

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