



Short summary, programme and participant list for the seminar

Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks **October 5-7, 2011. Tikkurila (City of Vantaa), Finland.**

Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services and the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section organised this seminar on volunteering in protected areas, aiming to give participants an opportunity to learn more about practical voluntary working models in several countries and exchange experiences of why, how, where and when to encourage volunteers in protected area management.

The seminar was organised with financial support by Metsähallitus and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency as one activity contributing the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

For whom?

Protected area managers, information experts, planners, experts on biodiversity-cultural diversity, project managers, park stakeholders, NGOs.

Why is this topic important?

Realistic budget is a permanent issue for managers of protected areas (PA). Voluntary work for the benefit of nature can give important contribution for the park management. Private and institutional partners of the parks and other PAs often feel strong commitment towards the objectives of the target areas. They also actively seek opportunities to do something useful for the PAs. The benefits for the volunteers are also recognizable; like learning about the nature, meeting interesting people who share the same values, improving their health with positive leisure activities and above all feeling good after a good labour of love.

What to expect from this seminar

The aim of this seminar was to exchange experiences and share practical working models for volunteering in protected areas. Among the issues discussed were:

- How volunteering is considered in different countries: A great opportunity or burden? How widely it is used?
- What topics are essential in the development of volunteer concepts?
- The practical side of volunteering: What needs to be done when starting a volunteer program? Supervising, housing, food, safety and insurances. Should there be age limits? If there are participants from abroad: language skills, cultural borders, need for additional insurances etc.? Are there agencies that deal with these things? Can I volunteer myself?
- How are new volunteers recruited in different countries?
- The role of volunteering in our societies, today and in the future: Social capital gain
- Case presentations from protected areas in different countries - what kind of voluntary work has been done, what practices have proved to be successful, what practices have failed?
- Case presentation by the volunteer: Why do I volunteer for parks?
- Corporate volunteering – revitalizing the staff and nature
- Opportunities of increased international co-operation between EUROPARC members – e.g. youth camps, volunteering activities for students/young adults/seniors

Contact persons:

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Programme

Tuesday 4 October - Arrival day

Wednesday 5 October

7.30	Breakfast in Restaurant Käpykolo at Metsähallitus, Vernissakatu 4, ground floor
9.00	Registration and coffee in METLA seminar room
9.30	<p>Welcome!</p> <p>Introductions by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rauno Väisänen, director, Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services • Thomas Hansson, president EUROPARC Federation
10.30 - 12.00	<p>Session I: Strategies and flagships</p> <p>EUROPARC Grundtvig Project Volunteers in Parks. Presentation by Bettina Soethe (GER), project coordinator EUROPARC Deutschland</p> <p>Russian volunteers in parks and nature. Presentation by Lidia Krinova, Coordinator of international volunteer program, Centre Zapovedniks, Russia</p> <p>Volunteering in Italian National Parks: Inachis experience. Presentation by Dr. Claudia Alessandrelli, Inachis Association (IT)</p>
12.00 - 13.30	LUNCH at METLA
13.30 - 14.30	<p>Session II: Volunteering in Nordic and Baltic Protected Areas.</p> <p>Members of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section present the volunteering programmes in their protected areas.</p> <p>Latvia: Agnes Balandina, senior adviser, Kemer NP</p> <p>Sweden: Arne Andersson, Park Manager, Store Mosse NP</p> <p>Denmark: Annette Buck, volunteer coordinator, Nationalpark Thy</p>
14.30 - 15.00	COFFEE
15.00 – 17.00	<p>WORKSHOPS 1-4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benefits for the park from volunteering (Chair Jouko Högmander, Finland, Case Central Finland national parks/Hannamaria Potila, Finland) 2. Benefits for the volunteer (Chair Anita Prosser, UK, Case Laurea University of Applied Sciences by Sari Jääskeläinen) 3. How to promote international volunteering (Chair Lena Malmström, Sweden) 4. How to lead the volunteering activity (Chair Jere Rauhala, Finland)
17.00 – 18.00	<p>Reports from Workshops</p> <p>Lovers of labour in US</p> <p>The Forest Park Conservancy, Portland, Oregon, USA. Presentation by Tuomas Uola, Finland</p>
19.00 -	DINNER Vernissa-Kahvila , Tikkurilantie 36, Tikkurila

Thursday 6 October:

7.30	Breakfast in Restaurant Käpykolo at Metsähallitus, ground floor
8.00	Bus transfer to Nuuksio National Park , Kattila How to organise volunteering in Nuuksio NP, Annukka Rasinmäki, senior advicer The view of Volunteering Partners and stakeholders (Finnish experiences; NGO/WWF Petteri Tolvanen)
12.00 – 13.30	LUNCH at Metla
13.30 – 14.30	Session III: More international views 628,000 volunteers a year. British BTCV organises volunteer programmes for young people, businesses, Green Gyms and more... Presentation by Anita Prosser (UK)
14.30 – 15.00	COFFEE
15.00 – 17.00	Session III continues Metsähallitus NHS Voluntary project 2011 . Presentation by Minttu Perttula, development manager, Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services (FI) Volunteering in Estonia: Presentation by Siim Kuresoo, project manager, Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF) Volunteering in Iceland: Presentation by Chas Goemans, Volunteer Co-ordinator , Department for natural resources, Environment Agency of Iceland Volunteers in Russian park and nature: experience of Nizhne-Svirsky Nature Reserve. Presentation Marina Stolyarskaya from Nizhne-Svirsky nature reserve, Russia
18.00	HEUREKA Planetarium Black Holes-Journey into Unknown DINNER Mummola- Grand Mothers kitchen

Friday 7 October:

7.30	Breakfast in Restaurant Käpykolo at Metsähallitus, ground floor
8.00	Bus transfer to Sipoonkorpi NP
9.00 – 12.00	International Voluntary Day - Practical activities in Sipoonkorpi National Park Introduction and guidance; planner Esko Tainio Media meeting
12.00	Light LUNCH in the field and final discussion
13.00	Transportation back to Tikkurila

Participants

Name	Organisation	Country
Alessandrelli Claudia	Inachis Association	Italy
Andersson Arne	Store Mosse National Park	Sweden
Balandina Agnese	Kemeri National Park	Latvia
Buck Annette	Nationalpark Thy	Denmark
Esko Tainio	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Giannetti Francesca	Inachis Association	Italy
Goemans Chas	Department of natural resources	Iceland
Hansson Thomas	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section	Sweden
Hokkanen Marja	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Holmberg Tanja	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
Högmänder Jouko	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Itkonen Pertti	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Jääskeläinen Sari	Laurea University of Applied Sciences	Finland
Kallunki Airi	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Krinova Lidia	Centre Zapovedniks	Russia
Kuresoo Siim	Estonian Fund for Nature ELF	Estonia
Kylliäinen Liisa	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Kyndi-Pedersen Mona	Nationalpark Thy	Denmark
Leivo Anneli	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Lovén Lasse	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Malmström Lena	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section	Sweden
Pedersen Arthur	consultant	Finland
Perttula Minttu	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Potila Hannamaria	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Prosser Anita	British BTCV	UK
Raatikainen Katja	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Rasinmäki Annukka	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Rauhala Jere	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Serup Bjarni	The Danish Outdoor Council/Friluftsrådet	Denmark
Soethe Bettina	Grundtvig project	Germany
Stolyarskaya Marina	Nizhne-Svirsky Nature Reserve	Russia
Tolvanen Petteri	WWF	Finland
Uola Tuomas	Syöte National Park	Finland
Wennström Carina	Metsähallitus NHS	Finland
Witzell Jesper	Söderåsen NP, The County Administrative Board of Skåne	Sweden