



EUROPARC NORDIC-BALTIC

Newsletter No.5:2011

www.europarc-nb.org



Dear members,

Greetings from Regensburg! We are here for the annual November meeting when all sections present the activities lined up for the upcoming year. Although we may not have all the details ready, it gives an inspiring overview of the breadth of work carried out within the organisation. So, it will be an interesting meeting! We'll get back to you with a report in due time.

While Regensburg offers rather raw and cold weather, it 's been amazingly warm in Sweden the last few weeks. I'd like to think that it's been the same in all your countries. On those beautiful days, when the sun is shining and the falling maple leaves create crazy coloured (and irresistible!) heaps on the ground... And the air tastes good... Wouldn't it be nice if winter could simply wait a little? Enjoy the reading.Until the next issue!

SECTION NEWS

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section member meeting

On the arrival day of the EUROPARC Conference 2011, 22 Nordic and Baltic participants attended our Section's member meeting. If you haven't read the minutes, or seen the **video presentation of our next President Kaja Lotman**, you'll find them on our website:

<http://europarc-nb.org/what-we-do/member-meetings>



ENBS section meeting.

Guide to Sustainable tourism in Protected Areas

The Parks & Benefits project for sustainable tourism in protected areas in the Baltic Sea Region have published their final report. It provides guidelines and useful advice for any protected area that considers working with sustainable tourism and the European Charter. Several Nordic-Baltic Section members have participated in the project which comes to an end in January 2012. Recommended reading!

Within the next few weeks, Nordic-Baltic members (except P&B project partners who should already have the publication) will receive a number of copies in the post. Please ask your organisation's contact person for a copy, or e-mail lena.malmstrom@naturvardsverket.se

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas: Guidelines for implementing Part II of the Charter (working with tourism business partners) within the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section was accepted by the EUROPARC Federation Council meeting in Bad Urach, Germany on September 21st, 2011 and is now ready for use! This document was developed by the Nordic-Baltic Section secretariat together with the Parks and Benefits project for sustainable tourism in protected areas in the Baltic Sea Region and EUROPARC Federation. It has been reviewed and accepted by the members of the Nordic-Baltic section.

Download the document from our website <http://europarc-nb.org/what-we-do/publications>

Successful autumn seminar held in Finland



Metsähallitus hosted this year's autumn seminar, "Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks", in Tikkurila just outside the Finnish capital city. On October 5-7, 35 participants put their wise heads together and shared experiences from the Nordic and Baltic countries, the UK, Russia, Germany and Italy. An inspiring meeting indeed!

As it turned out, the existence of volunteering in protected areas varies quite a bit between the represented countries – and especially within our own section. In Iceland for instance, there is a full-blown and very popular 11 week programme, whose 200 international volunteers significantly contribute to and complement the work of the Umhverfisstofnun Environment Agency rangers every summer. At the other end of the spectrum, countries such as e.g. Sweden, there is great potential, need and interest in establishing conservation volunteering programmes, but so far only a few and small scale initiatives have been realised. Other Nordic and Baltic countries seem to fall somewhere in between these two.



So how should a volunteering programme be set up? Well, from what we learned, there are many ways of doing it. In some places it makes sense for a governmental agency to run a programme, while in another an independent NGO would be more suitable, or why not a collaboration between the two? The presented cases pointed to the fact that every country probably needs a different solution to suit their needs and context. In this regard, we had great input also from participants from outside the section: Bettina Soethe from EUROPARC Germany and Anita Prosser, BTVC, gave us insights into the broad scopes and many activities of their volunteering

programmes in Germany and the UK respectively.

On the other hand, Claudia Alessandrelli and Francesca Giannetti who run Inachis, a small NGO consisting of four volunteers (themselves and two colleagues) and Lidia Krinova, from EcoCenter Zapovedniks in Russia, showed that even very slim organisations can make wonders.



Many hands-on and useful pieces of advice were exchanged during these days. And many more excellent presentations were given in addition to those mentioned here. All are available on our webpage, together with a report by Liisa Kylliäinen, a summary of the results, photos, links and more:

<http://europarc-nb.org/seminars-and-events/seminars-in-the-past/>

One interesting outcome of the evaluation was that participants would like to see volunteering as a part of all EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section seminars! It was suggested that, no matter the theme of a seminar, there is always some task that needs doing and to work on it together would truly add to the experience exchange. It could be anything from clearing trees during a seminar on meadow management, to working on texts for the hosting organisation's protected area brochures at a communication seminar. This is certainly an idea that the

secretariat will consider and pass on to future seminar organisers.

Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks was excellently organised and the section secretariat would like to extend our most grateful thanks to Lasse Lovén and his colleagues at Metsähallitus: Liisa, Annukka and Katja!! Thank you also to Metsähallitus and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for supporting the event.



MISCELLANEOUS

Thy National Park has its own TV show! National Park TV broadcasts from Thy NP several times per week, one half hour at the time. Watch it here: <http://www.nationalparktv.blogspot.com/> (In Danish)

EUROPARC and Parks Forum Australia have signed a memorandum of understanding about an international staff exchange programme. If you and your organisation are interested in sharing skills, ideas, best practice and developing your individual and the organisations overall capability, then you should check out the Parks Forum site: <http://www.parksforum.org/cms/pages/International-Staff-Exchange-Programme.html>

More information will be sent out to all EUROPARC members, once the exchange with Europe is fully up and running.

Protectedplanet.net is the new face of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), a joint initiative between IUCN and UNEP-WCMC. It is an interactive map that lets you explore the world's protected areas. And, what's more, you, as protected area managers are asked to register information about your own protected area. Global datasets on protected areas are available for downloading and analysis. Questions about how to contribute to the WDPA can be sent to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org
To the site: <http://www.protectedplanet.net/>

Any activities for the 60+ in your PA next year?

2012 is the European year of active ageing and, according to the European Commission, "active ageing includes creating more opportunities for older people to continue working, to stay healthy longer and to continue to contribute to society in other ways, for example through volunteering. This needs to be supported by a wide range of policies at all levels of governance". So, have you planned any activities for this age group for next year? Health walks? Volunteering?

And, it makes sense to continue planning for this age group. Chances are there will be quite a few 60+ visitors in your parks even beyond 2012. From then, the

Fragmentation in Europe's landscapes. The European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) recently published the report 'Landscape fragmentation in Europe', which demonstrates how areas of land are often unable to support high levels of biodiversity when they are split into smaller and smaller parcels. It presents a study of fragmentation across the whole of the European continent for the first time. To download <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/increasing-fragmentation-of-landscape-threatens>

The LIFE programme celebrates its 20th anniversary in May 2012. To mark the birthday of the EU's financial instrument for the environment, the LIFE unit invites you to take part in a photo competition and a 20 words competition open to all LIFE projects past or present. The closing date for both competitions is 15 DECEMBER 2011.

Also, events will take place across Europe. If you are organising an event you can upload in the 20th anniversary calendar. You find both the competitions and calendar here: <http://www.life20.eu/>

European working-age population will start to shrink, while the over-60 population will continue to increase by about two million people a year. The strongest pressure is expected to occur during the period 2015-35 when the so-called baby-boom generation will enter retirement. (Admittedly, that would include many of ourselves. So, let's meet in the park!)

Related

8th World Congress on Active Ageing in August of 2012 in the City of Glasgow, Scotland
<http://www.wcaa2012.com/>

EUROPARC Conference 2011



The EUROPARC Conference 2011 in Bad Urach, Germany, was perhaps the most anticipated event this year – obviously because of the General Assembly and its important elections of a new resident and Council representatives, but maybe even more so since this is the one time of the year when we get a chance to meet with so many colleagues and friends during a number of consecutive days.

As most of you already know, our own Thomas Hansson (SE) was elected president (168 votes over Ignace Schops 40 and Gabor Szilagyi 28). Thomas takes over after Erica Stanciu (RO), who has been a most appreciated president since six years. Rolands Auzins (LV), also from our section, was re-elected for Council, where the other members are: Giampiero Sammuri (IT), Ignace Schops (BE), Gabor Szilagyi (H), Marian Woltgen-Jäger (NL), Dominique Leveque (FR). Michael Hosek, president of the Czech section, is the representative of the EUROPARC Sections on Council.



Registering votes during the General Assembly.

The conference was attended by more than 330 participants from all over Europe and far beyond. The theme, “Quality Counts - Benefits for Nature and People”, referred not least to the recently finished and thorough work carried out by EUROPARC Germany in the last few years, to ensure a high and even quality standard in German protected areas. Conference delegates got a sense of the German attention to detail (throughout the conference but not least) during one of the dinners where every item on the rich buffet menu consisted of a speciality

from a different protected area.

During the plenary sessions there were many interesting speeches about e.g. the future of nature conservation by the IUCN, communicating our love for nature not loss in order to get our conservation message across (Futerra Communications Agency) and the diversity of conservation work carried out throughout Europe today (WWF) and many more. They seemed to have one theme in common, a message to bring home: There are initiatives and efforts that are successful and we should not forget to highlight them. In the words of Trevor Sandwith from the IUCN: Shine a light on what works!



Excursion take-off.

In addition to speakers and dinners, there were dynamic workshops and sunny excursions, more or less informal networking and fruitful side meetings. Find the documentation and pictures on our website <http://www.europarc-nb.org/seminars-and-events/europarc-conference-20112> There is also a detailed day-by-day report available on the Federation website <http://www.europarc.org/whats-on/annual-europarc-conf/europarc-2011/>



Sunny coffee break for (a part of) the Danish delegation.

Related

EUROPARC Conference 2012: “(Re)connect with nature” will be held in Genk, Belgium, on October 22-25. The website www.europarc2012.com will open on November 23.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On November...

... 4th, the secretariat will participate in a meeting for the sections of EUROPARC in Regensburg. This is when our upcoming activities are fed into the Federation's activity plan for 2012.

... 16-17th, Eurosite, EUROPARC and Landmarc organise a seminar about integrated land and nature management models. The main aim is to explore different, innovative models being developed to deal with the needs of nature as well as current economic pressures affecting the environment and public land management sector. Find more information in our calendar of events <http://www.europarc-nb.org/calendar/2011/11/16#calendar>

... 16-18th, a French delegation from the Espaces naturels régionaux (ENRx) will visit EUROPARC members (and non-members) in Denmark and southern Sweden, to look at educational sites and facilities linked to environmental education and exchange ideas and experiences with Swedish and Danish colleagues on the topic. This visit is to prepare a study trip for a larger group (40-45 people) in March 2012. The visit has been organised through EUROPARC and the Nordic-Baltic Section.

... 21st, the Federation is organising a special workshop/volunteering event in Plateau de la Foresterie Natura 2000 site in Brussels. The aim of "Volunteering for nature: let's get our hands dirty!" is to provide an opportunity to exchange views about the role of volunteering in protected areas. Invitations have been sent to the EU institutions, protected areas around Brussels and NGOs based in the EU capital.

MORE EVENTS

- 29-30 Nov Course (in Danish): Positive psykiske processer i naturen
http://sl.life.ku.dk/kurser/AAbne_kurser_alfabetisk/positive_psykiske_processer_i_naturen.aspx
- 1 Dec European Biodiversity Conference, Brussels. <http://www.europeanlandowners.org/index.php>
- 5-9 Dec International Congress for Conservation Biology. Auckland, NZ.
http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2011/index_al.cfm?CFID=26743163&CFTOKEN=22275196
- 11 Dec International Mountain Day <http://www.fao.org/mnts/en/>
- 18-19 Jan Climate Change Adaptation in Practice, 3rd Int. BaltCICA Conference. Helsinki, Finland.
<http://www.baltcica.org/meetings/conference12.html>

This is only a selection of upcoming events. Find more events in our calendar: <http://www.europarc-nb.org/calendar>

Next Issue

In the next issue of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section newsletter, you will get to know more about upcoming events during the Estonian presidency. Due out in December.

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section

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