



# EUROPARC NORDIC-BALTIC

## Newsletter No.6:2011

www.europarc-nb.org



Winter in Gauja National Park, Latvia. Photo by M. Ziverts

**On your screen is the very last newsletter of 2011 and of the Swedish EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section presidency. Without further ado, we'll let you get to reading it. So, this time you'll find the secretariat's greeting at the very end of the newsletter. Enjoy the news! And Happy Christmas!**

### Important meetings coming up

#### EUROPARC/Eurosite to meet with Commissioner of the Environment

EUROPARC's Thomas Hansson, Carol Ritchie and Federico Minozzi together with Henkjan Kievit and Neil McIntosh of Eurosite will meet with the European Commissioner of the Environment, Mr Janez Potočnik. The purpose of the meeting is to make EUROPARC/Eurosite visible, and to show that as we join forces, we become an even stronger organisation that represents managers at all levels of European protected areas. The meeting will take place in the European Commission Headquarters on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Nordic-Baltic Section's Rolands Auzins and Thomas Hansson attend the **EUROPARC Council meeting** in Maremma Regional Park, Italy.

You will get a full report from both these events at the **Nordic-Baltic Members Assembly** in Estonia on March 7<sup>th</sup> (date and exact location to be confirmed).

### Section to join project on volunteering management

The Nordic-Baltic Section has been invited to become a 'silent partner' in the EU-Grundtvig funded project Volunteer Management in European Parks (<http://www.volunteers-in-parks.eu/start>), which seeks to raise the profile of volunteering and develop good practice in volunteer coordination.

An important part of the project is to facilitate the exchange of experience on volunteering through a tutoring programme, where protected areas volunteer coordinators may benefit from tutoring in another European protected area.



Since the Section is not a legal body, a full partnership is not possible, but in this way, Nordic-Baltic section members would still gain access to activities organised by the project. Members will be asked to make the decision at the Members Assembly, 7 March in Estonia. For more details please contact Nele Söber ([nele.sober@keskkonnaamet.ee](mailto:nele.sober@keskkonnaamet.ee)).

## News from our members

### Akwé: Kon principles in Hammastunturi wilderness area

In the Mohawk language spoken in North America, the original meaning of the words Akwé: Kon is "everything in creation". However, in UN language they mean the principle that indigenous peoples' traditional relationship to and knowledge about nature must be preserved.

Now, for the first time in the world, the principles that were formulated in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity are applied in practice when Metsähallitus and the Sámi Parliament update the management and land use plan in Hammastunturi Wilderness Area

The work continues until next spring when the plan is to be finalised and simultaneously, a working group responsible for the adoption of the Convention has set the target that the Akwé: Kon principles should be adopted in all land use planning in the Sámi homeland. In this context, the experiences gathered from the work in Hammastunturi will be utilized.

Read more about the adoption of the Akwé: Kon in Hammastunturi Wilderness area: <http://www.forest.fi/smyforest/foresteng.nsf/tiedotteetlookup/BB9B87BEABA7A90C-C2257959002E0A8D>

Akwé: Kon Guidelines from the CBD: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/akwe-brochure-en.pdf>

### Dive in!



Self-guided nature interpretation trails under the sea surface have become increasingly popular. In the waters of Kullaberg Nature Reserve in Sweden, divers can learn about the marine environment from a number of signs suspended above the seabed.

Those of you who cannot visit Kullaberg yourselves can simply follow reserve manager Daniel Åberg along the subsurface trail on your computer screen:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDDtJzwEU3c>

### Norway establishes councils, 'nodes for nature conservation competence'

The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management now invests the equivalent of approx. EUR 1.4 million in 'nature conservation management nodes', where protected area managers, nature interpreters, rangers and project managers will be collocated.

The local placement of such councils is to ensure that staff possess first hand knowledge about the protected area and that managers may provide counselling to local communities and stakeholders.

The work to establish councils for protected area management was initiated in 2010, and aims to put in place 45 councils and employ 40-50 managers. As 2011 comes to a close, 26 management nodes are in place. For more information contact Olav Nord-Varhaug@dirnat.no

## MISCELLANEOUS

### EU Cormorant Platform online



Through its new EU Cormorant Platform ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/cormorants/home\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/cormorants/home_en.htm)), DG Environment will disseminate information about cormorants, cormorant numbers, management and conflicts related to cormorants, fish, fisheries and aquaculture.

The Platform has been developed as part of the work of the EU 'CorMan' project ('Sustainable Management of Cormorant Populations').

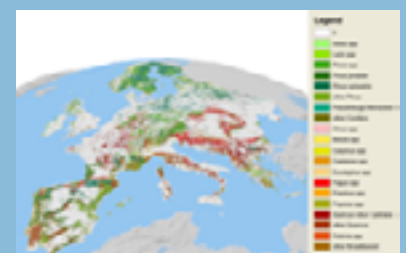
**The LIFE+ beyond 2013 commission proposal has been announced.** Read all about it here: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/beyond2013.htm#press>

### Tree species maps for European forests

European Forest Institute (EFI) in cooperation with Alterra/Wageningen University has released a set of 1x1 km tree species maps showing the distribution of 20 tree species over Europe.

To compile the maps, data from 260,000 national forest inventory plot locations from 17 countries have been used. Forest inventory statistics plus forest plot data collected in a European-wide network (ICP Level I) extended the available data for the remaining European countries.

Never before have such detailed maps been available, and they are thought to become an important tool for resource and carbon analyses.



The data is available on the EFI website after a short registration ([www.efi.int/projects/tree-species-map/register.php](http://www.efi.int/projects/tree-species-map/register.php)).

## FOLLOW-UP: Ecosystem services

In May, the section ran a seminar on ecosystem services in protected areas. Soon after, we started hearing about an attempt to estimate the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services throughout the Nordic countries. Marianne Kettunen is senior policy analyst at IEEP, the Institute for European Environmental Policy, and coordinator of TEEB Nordic. We decided to ask her 5 (well, 6) straightforward questions.

### Hello Marianne Kettunen, what is TEEB Nordic?

- TEEB Nordic refers to the assessments called "The State and Economics of the Key Ecosystem Services in the Nordic Countries", a project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers in the context of the Finnish Presidency 2011 and led by Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) and Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).



*Marianne Kettunen, coordinator of TEEB Nordic. Photo iEEP.eu*

Following the global Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative ([www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)), the aim of TEEB Nordic is to make a preliminary scoping assessment of the socio-economic significance of biological diversity and ecosystem services for the Nordic countries.

### And, in more practical terms, how is this done?

- TEEB Nordic focuses on synthesising and analysing existing information, based on which we identify the most important ecosystem services maintained by healthy, well-functioning ecosystems and biodiversity for Nordic societies and national economies. Also, the project will synthesise existing information on the present state, trends, possible threats to and economic importance of these services.

The aim is to integrate the real value of nature into the decision-making processes in the Nordic context. The project complements the global TEEB initiative with insights from the Nordic countries, which have remained less explored in TEEB so far.

### Who participates in TEEB Nordic?

- TEEB Nordic aims to bring together a range of relevant stakeholders. It is supported by a wider team of co-operators from different research organisations, NGOs and national ministries. Different case studies demonstrate the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Nordic countries.

### How are protected areas involved?

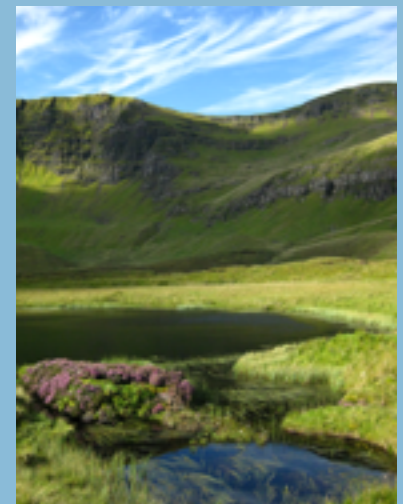
- The value of protected areas – for biodiversity and people – forms an integral part of TEEB Nordic and there will be a dedicated chapter providing existing evidence of this. Furthermore, Finnish Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services is developing a case study that shows how national parks can be an important source of revenue to local and regional economies in Finland. *More case studies and examples demonstrating the socio-economic value of protected areas are of course always welcome!*

### What are the main expected outcomes of TEEB Nordic?

- Hopefully it will pave the way for further and more in-depth assessments of the value of nature. For example, Norway has already initiated their own national TEEB assessment (<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/md/pressesenter/pressemeddinger/2011/hva-er-norsk-natur-verdt.html?id=661599>). It is foreseen that a range of national assessments will follow suit and also to comply with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

TEEB Nordic aims to provide recommendations – maybe even a general road map – for the Nordic countries on how to proceed with integrating the true value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the value of protected areas, into decision-making. It will also provide concrete examples that can be used to increase awareness on and create policy support for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

While TEEB Nordic does not provide practical tools for valuation, it might be of interest to EUROPARC members to hear that in the context of the wider TEEB framework a dedicated guidebook for assessing the socio-economic value of protected areas, led by IEEP, is planned to be published in 2013.



*Marianne Kettunen: A photo from Isle of Skye last summer, demonstrating the beauty of nature that lures in masses of tourists every year, supporting local economies. Photo by M. Kettunen*

### Finally, any plans for future studies that include the Baltic countries?

- A regional scoping assessment for the Baltic countries could support and add value to such developments, however I have not heard of any concrete plans so far.

*Thank you very much Marianne Kettunen and good luck with the project! TEEB Nordic will be finalised by summer 2012.*

## Related

In order to investigate the economic benefits of conservation measures carried out in Natura 2000 areas, a specific tool was developed and tested in practice by site managers. The final project report "**Recognizing Natura 2000 benefits and demonstrating the economic benefits of conservation measures**" contains the tool, plus a number of case studies and recommendations to site managers as well as government agents. Download: [http://www.ecnc.org/file\\_handler/documents/original/view/466/2011--recognizing-natura-2000-benefits-and-demonstrating-the-economic-benefits-of-conservation-measurespdf.pdf](http://www.ecnc.org/file_handler/documents/original/view/466/2011--recognizing-natura-2000-benefits-and-demonstrating-the-economic-benefits-of-conservation-measurespdf.pdf)

### Who will be the Section's 50<sup>th</sup> member?

2012 may well be the year when the Nordic-Baltic Section hits the magic number 50. Will you be the one to mobilize Member no. 50? We don't know. But there are some strong candidates in Sweden: Hamra National Park recently applied for a 2012 membership and it seems that Abisko and Sånfjället could be the first to follow. So, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Finland and Denmark, take up the gauntlet!

It is up to the new secretariat to decide if there should be some kind of celebration, we are just very happy to see that the section is growing and that there is interest in collaborating between protected areas!

If you wish to become a member, please visit <http://europarc-nb.org/about-us/become-a-member> where you'll find all the information and forms you need. Aspiring members should now that there is no extra fee to become a member of EURO-PARC Nordic-Baltic Section.

### Nature on screen: Quality never goes out of style



Nature is an important subject in Russian children's literature and film. Whether you are a child or an adult, do not miss this beautiful short film (10 mins) by animator Jurij Norstein.

"The Hedgehog in the Mist" (1975) has won many awards around the world and, together with Norstein's "Tale of Tales", it is considered one of the great masterpieces in animated film. See for yourself: <http://youtu.be/oW0jvJC2rvM> Hoot-hoot! as the owl would say.

With mere days remaining before the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency hands over the Section presidency to Keskkonnaamet Environmental Board of Estonia, we asked what they think has come out of hosting the secretariat in 2009-2011.



#### Anna von Sydow, Coordinator Sweden's National Parks:

"I'd like to think that, by hosting the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section secretariat, Swedish nature conservation has become more visible in Europe.

Photo by Swedish EPA

For our own part, we have come

closer both to our Nordic-Baltic and European colleagues. By interacting and working together, we have gained valuable insights into protected area management in the European context.

In practical terms, being part of this international network means that neither the Swedish EPA or the managers of our protected areas need to reinvent the wheel, but can exchange ideas and draw from the experiences of European colleagues.

Another positive effect is that the number of Swedish EURO-PARC members has increased during this period and we expect it to continue doing so in 2012."

*Nothing more remains for us to do, other than to say goodbye and thank you all so very much for these years when we have had the pleasure to constitute the Nordic-Baltic secretariat! It has been wonderful to get to know all of you and work together!*

*We are pleased to see that the membership continues to grow and that the Nordic-Baltic Section is increasingly visible in the European context, with you members as attractive partners in working groups and international nature conservation projects. The Section is in a position now from it has all the opportunity to continue to develop its work and exchange - both among members and with others.*

*We wish you the best of luck in the future and a Very Merry Christmas!  
- Thomas and Lena -*



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