



EUROPARC NORDIC-BALTIC

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www.europarc-nb.org



On June 16-17, EUROPARC Federation held its annual strategy meeting in Schwerin in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany.

Dear members and friends,

the last few months have certainly been eventful! In this issue, you can read about activities such as the the ecosystem services' seminar in Kristianstad, the first ever meeting of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group, the EUROPARC Federation strategy meeting and much more! And don't miss: Important information about the most crucial event this year, the EUROPARC Conference and Members Assembly 2011. On page 4.

Whether you are about to go on a long summer holiday or dive head first into the most intense field season of the year, we wish you all a very pleasant, fun and relaxing summer!

SECTION NEWS

Welcome to the Section's autumn seminar 2011!

"Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks" takes place on October 5-7, in Tikkurila (City of Vantaa), Finland.

Take this excellent opportunity to learn more about practical volunteering working models and exchange experiences of why, how, where and when to encourage volunteers in protected area management. Speakers from our Nordic and Baltic member countries have been invited, plus from the UK, Italy and Russia.

The seminar is organised by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services and the Section secretariat as an activity contributing to the European Year of Volunteering 2011. It is also supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Please find our invitation here <http://www.europarc-nb.org/seminars-and-events> August 19th is the last day to register.

Secretariat to visit Estonia

In August, the Section secretariat will visit Keskkonnaamet Environmental Board, Estonia, to prepare the handing over of the secretariat and presidency at the end of this year. In 2012-14, Nele Söber will be section coordinator. The name of the president candidate will be announced later.

Summertime

The secretariat will be unmanned between July 15 - Aug 12. For urgent matters please contact Lena Malmström on +46 10 698 16 46 or Thomas Hansson thomas.hansson@lansstyrelsen.se

RECENT EVENTS

Spring seminar

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT



Ecosystem services seminar participants listen to Hans-Inge "Hånsa" Olofsson by Tvillingaboden eel fishing cabin on the south east (Baltic Sea) coast of Sweden. Photo: Lena Malmström

On May 3-5, the Section's seminar "Ecosystem Services in Protected Area Management" gathered 25 participants from the Baltic and Nordic countries, as well as Belgium, Romania, Serbia and the UK, in Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, Sweden. The seminar was quite successful and most enjoyable (as the evaluations will testify), with interesting presentations and interactive sessions mixed with on-site visits.

The topic clearly engages protected area managers and several participants expressed a wish to continue learning more about ecosystem services. There is still today, a demand for knowledge and tools for the practical implementation of the ecosystem approach in protected areas. Experience exchange and learning from those who have already worked on it for a while is essential. Plus, communication of the values of ecosystem services is another topic to develop further.

The seminar was organised by the Section secretariat and made possible by financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers. Reports, presentations and photos from the seminar are available on our website: <http://www.europarc-nb.org/seminars-and-events/seminars-in-the-past> A full report will be ready in July.



RELATED

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): What role for a green economy? Concept, Approaches and Case Studies.

4-6 July 2011, Geneva. A workshop addressed to all those who are responsible for, or involved in the process of developing and/or implementing PES schemes, at the national, regional and transboundary levels.

Read more <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=329>

For life, for the future. Biosphere reserves and climate change. A collection of good practice case studies is a publication on Biosphere reserves and climate change. It is connected to the upcoming high level international Conference that was held on 27-28 June in Dresden/Radebeul (DE). Download the pdf [http://www.mab40-conference.org/index.php?id=360&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=69&cHash=40bca6fa304f0f20d45046e3857c6f94](http://www.mab40-conference.org/index.php?id=360&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=69&cHash=40bca6fa304f0f20d45046e3857c6f94)

IUCN Environmental Law Programme: Payments for Ecosystem Services - Legal and Institutional Frameworks. Find this new IUCN publication available for downloading on: http://www.cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eplp_78_1.pdf

NEWS FROM OUR WORKING GROUPS

Sustainable Tourism

About a month ago, the EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Working Group held its very first meeting. It took place in the La Garrotxa Natural Park in Catalunya, Spain. Read the first hand report by Lasse Lovén, chair of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group (STWG).



Still smiling after two long working days. STWG members in front of La Garrotxa park office: Josep Maria Prats, Monica Herrera-Pavia, Lasse Lovén, Paulo Castro, Mike Pugh, Stefania Petrosillo and Richard Partington. Photo: Lasse Lovén

The first meeting of the new EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Working Group was held on May 24-25 in La Garrotxa, Olot, Catalonia (ES). Seven STWG members were able to join the meeting, which started to realise the road map accepted by EUROPARC Council last April. As a starter, the STWG analysed the roles of different actors in the European Charter processes. Also, the coordination of different working groups and external projects was discussed thoroughly. Finally, the STWG focused on innovative ideas for possible EU-funded development projects covering sustainable tourism and protected areas.

As chair of the STWG and representative of the Nordic-Baltic Section, I see a remarkably promising future for the park oriented tourism. Quality is now a target for development and there is a wide range of funding opportunities. At the same time, several projects and

working groups are developing methodologies towards more sustainable and responsible tourism activities. The follow-up and coordination of these activities is the key issue of the STWG in its role as providing expertise to the EUROPARC Council, not least on the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The STWG will be in place until the end of the year 2012.

The STWG will work in close connection with the Charter Parks Network, which brings together all parks and protected areas awarded with the European Charter Certificate. The Charter Network is coordinated by the EUROPARC Directorate with Focal Points in each section. The Nordic-Baltic Section Focal Point is Klaas van Ommeren, Dovrefjell Council (NO). The Charter Parks Network arranges seminars and meetings for the staff of Charter parks. The next upcoming takes place in Djerdap, Serbia on 26.6-1.7.2011. Find the latest news from Djerdap on the European Charter website <http://www.european-charter.org>

*Written by Lasse Lovén, Metsähallitus
Chair EUROPARC Sustainable Tourism Working Group*

More Sustainable Tourism News

The section, together with representatives of the Parks&Benefits Project for Sustainable Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region and EUROPARC Federation, has submitted a Methodology for Implementation of the Charter II for Baltic Sea Region.

This second phase of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism is aimed to help protected areas and local tourism businesses work together. The proposal has been submitted to the European Charter Evaluation committee and EUROPARC Federation, where it will be reviewed in June and September respectively. Find the proposal on our website <http://www.euoparc-nb.org/what-we-do/working-groups>

Protected Areas and Health

What has people's health got to do with trees, woods and forests?

On March 29-30, the Working Group on Protected Areas and Health visited Scotland for a working meeting and study visit. The presentations are now available on our website. Learn more about initiatives such as Branching Out: Greenspace on Referral, Green Gym, Paths for All -Walking for Health and more...

<http://www.euoparc-nb.org/what-we-do/working-groups>

The Working Group on Protected Areas and Health will hold a side meeting during the EUROPARC Conference 2011, in Bad Urach.

Time: September 22nd 19.00-20.00

Place: Stift Bad Urach, room Johannes Kullen.

NB. Check the time and place when you get to the conference, as they may be subject to changes. Welcome!

EUROPARC CONFERENCE 2011

No-one can have failed to notice that this year's EUROPARC Conference will be held in Germany, from 21st – 25th September. More precisely, the conference will take place in the town of Bad Urach in the Schwäbische Alb Biosphere Reserve, under the theme 'Quality counts – Benefits for Nature and People'. Find the latest news and updates here: <http://www.europarc2011.com/en/welcome.html>

Important events during the conference

Wednesday 21st September, 16.00- 18.00: Nordic-Baltic Section member meeting.

Stift Bad Urach, room Anna Magdalena Bach. For more info download the invitation here: <http://www.europarc-nb.org/what-we-do/member-meetings>

NB. Since this is the arrival day of the conference, participants are recommended to be at Stuttgart airport no later than 13.00 in order to make it to this meeting.

Thursday 22nd September: General Assembly and elections.

An important event this year will be the EUROPARC elections that will take place during the General Assembly. A new president and five council members will be elected.

Nominations close on Friday 22nd July, after which the nominees will be presented. All documents needed to nominate are available in the europarc.org members library (login needed) <http://www.europarc.org/members/members-library>

Deadline for members' requests to the General Assembly is July 14th.



NB. It is obviously important that you, the members, are involved in the decisions that will be taken during the General Assembly. We therefore strongly encourage those who cannot make it to Bad Urach, to authorize another member to vote for you by proxy! Further information about the General Assembly will be sent to you in the weeks to come. The necessary documents will also be available on the EUROPARC Member pages: <http://www.europarc.org/members-login>

Thursday 22nd September, 19.00 – 20.00 Working Group on Protected Areas and Health side meeting, in Stift Bad Urach, room Johannes Kullen.

Please NB that the rooms may be subject to changes. Make sure to check the locations and times when you get to the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

FEDERATION NEWS

2011 Strategy Meeting

The annual EUROPARC strategy meeting was held in Schwerin (DE) on June 16-17th. The meeting constituted an opportunity for Council, the sections and representatives of the working groups to meet all at once.

Also, EUROPARC Council and Eurosite Board met jointly to discuss the development of the two organisations' future collaboration. This meeting resulted in a communiqué which has been sent to all members of both organisations. In brief, they jointly recommend "that both organisations should seek to form one network, the aim is to seek to create a single representative organisation to serve common and shared priorities of both memberships, as efficiently as possible."

Still, the final decision lies with the members and a paper will be co-developed to present to the 2011 General Assemblies, setting out joint recommendations, as well as the rationale for and purpose of the proposal to form one network.

Read more on the EUROPARC member web pages <http://www.europarc.org/members/>



Johannes Hager, EUROPARC Deutschland, EUROPARC Director Carol Ritchie and President Erika Stanciu in Schwerin.

Rangers and Youth

Together with the International Ranger Federation, Scottish Ranger Association, Romanian Ranger Federation and the Danish Ranger Association, EUROPARC Federation has been given a EU-grant to hold a ranger seminar in Denmark in November. Action for Youth in Parks will be open to representatives from different ranger organisations in Europe, by invitation only.

MISCELLANEOUS

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2012

In May, the European Commission adopted its new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. The targets cover:

1. Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity
2. Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure
3. More sustainable agriculture and forestry
4. Better management of fish stocks
5. Tighter controls on invasive alien species
6. A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

Currently, one in four species is threatened with extinction and 88% of fish stocks are over-exploited or signifi-

cantly depleted in the EU. Read the full Strategy: http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf
More info from the European Commission <http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>

Nature + Culture = Resilience. New website on Biocultural Heritage

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and partners have launched a website on the links between nature and culture and on their crucial role in coping with climate change and other environment challenges.

<http://www.bioculturalheritage.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4-8 July EuroMAB (Man and Biosphere) Conference 2011, Biosphere Reserve Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle, SE <http://www.euromab2011.se/>
- 11 – 14 July Interpret Europe Conference 2011, Freiburg, DE. <http://www.interpret-europe.net/top/whats-on/events/interpret-europe-conference-2011.html>
- 13-16 July **EUROPARC Siggen Seminar 2011: Delivering a new nature message.** <http://www.europarc-nb.org/calendar/2011/07/13>
- 16-23 July **10th International Junior Ranger Camp. NL.** <http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/junior-ranger>
- 31 July World Ranger Day. Worldwide. <http://www.int-ranger.net/whatsnew.html>
- 21-25 Sept **EUROPARC Conference 2011. EUROPARC Federation Members Assembly. Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, DE.** <http://www.europarc2011.com/>
- 21 Sept **Member meeting EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section, Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, DE.** <http://www.europarc-nb.org/what-we-do/member-meetings>
- 5-7 Oct **EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section seminar: "Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks". Tikkurila (Vantaa), FI.** <http://www.europarc-nb.org/seminars-and-events/>
- 19 -21 Oct STEPPA 4th Network Meeting and Sustainable Tourism Conference 2011. Savonlinna, FI. <http://www.uef.fi/mot/stc>
- 2012**
- 21-24 Aug 6th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas, MMV2012. Stockholm, Sweden. <http://www.mmv2012.se/>

Presented here is a selection of upcoming events. For more events, please visit our calendar: <http://www.europarc-nb.org/calendar>

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section

ADDRESS
Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency
Coordinator Lena Malmström
S-106 48 Stockholm



TELEPHONE
+ 46 (0)10 698 16 46

E-MAIL
lena.malmstrom@naturvardsverket.se