



## Christmas E-News 2010

Dear colleagues,

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, fröhes Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr, Joyeux Noel et Bonne Année.*

The streets of Regensburg are covered in snow, the Christmas lights are up and on and the Christmas markets are buzzing. This month's E-News, the last of 2010, brings a plethora of news from the Federation with a touch of Christmas spirit. There is much to read about what has occurred in the month of November and a some important deadlines for the month of December.

On behalf of the President Council and staff of the EUROPARC Federation, we offer you our best wishes for the holiday season and all the best for the New Year. In 2012 we are once again looking forward to promoting the values and benefits of Europe's natural heritage and rising to the challenges of better managing the protected areas of Europe with renewed vigour, together. We thank you for your collaboration and encouragement during 2010 and hope we can rely on your support for 2011 and beyond.

Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Director.

**Reindeer on the fell. Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park (FI). Picture: Olli Autto**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, FRÖLICHE WEINACHTEN UND EIN GLÜCKLICHES NEUES JAHR, JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNÉE**

### A new era of living in harmony with Nature is born at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit

**Nagoya, Japan 29 October 2010: Some 18,000 participants representing the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and their partners closed the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit by adopting historic decisions that will permit the community of nations to meet the unprecedented challenges of the continued loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change. Governments agreed on a package of measures that will ensure that the ecosystems of the planet will continue to sustain human well-being into the future.**

COP 10 MOP 5

いのちの共生を、未来へ  
Life in Harmony, into the future



The meeting achieved its three inter-linked goals: adoption of a new ten year Strategic Plan to guide international and national efforts to save biodiversity through enhanced action to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a resource mobilization strategy that provides the way forward to a substantial increase to current levels of official development assistance in support of biodiversity; and a new international protocol on access to and sharing of the benefits from the use of the genetic resources of the planet.

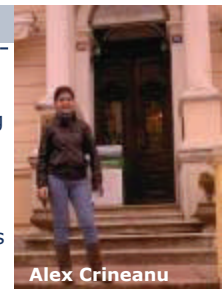
"History will recall that it was here in Nagoya that a new era of living in harmony was born and new global alliance to protect life on earth was established. History will also recall that this would not have been possible without the outstanding leadership and commitment of the government and people of Japan," said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention. "If Kyoto entered history as the city where the climate accord was born, Nagoya will be remembered as the city where the biodiversity accord was born."

**Read further**

**BON NADAL I UN BON ANY NOU!, TCHESHITA KOLEDA, TCHESHITO ROJDESTVO HRISTOVO, PREJEME VAM VESELE VANOCE A ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK**

### EUROPARC's gets a new intern

In September a new member of the team joined the small core of staff in Regensburg: Alexandra Crineanu is from Romania and will be our intern for the next year. She studies International Business Studies in Bucharest and can speak English, Spanish, Italian and French. She will be working on the Federation's new project Sustainable Destinations but also supporting the team with other tasks. Her first task was assisting with the conference in Pescasseroli where.



Alex Crineanu

**Alex, welcome to EUROPARC. Maybe you could start by telling our members something about the following:**

**Your background:** I grew up in the region of Oltenia in Romania. This year I graduated from a Bachelor in International Business and Economics in Bucharest. I am currently studying a Masters in Geopolitics, International Business and Economics

**Your hobbies:** One of my biggest hobbies is to travel to new places and get to know people and cultures. I also like reading about what really happens behind the scenes, whatever the subject. Other hobbies of mine would be skiing, swimming and listening to music.

**Your outlook on/motto for life:** I don't have only one motto in my life because depending on the situation you might need to adapt. One motto I do like though is "Dare!", because no matter how difficult things will be in life you first of all need the courage to take the initiative.

**Your experience with nature conservation:** To be honest, before coming to EUROPARC I have had no experience with nature conservation. I wanted to do something good for nature and the environment and that brought me here.

**What made you decide to do a placement with EUROPARC?**

Firstly, after I graduated I felt it was time to take responsibility. I found the internship on the AIESEC platform, went to [www.europarc.org](http://www.europarc.org), and was convinced that "this was the job for me!" I grew up for a while with my grandparents in the countryside where I learned about taking care of nature. Later, when I was student in a big city, I realised the importance of acting sustainably.

**What skills/characteristics do you think you will bring to the office here in Regensburg?**

My eagerness to work for the environment and to find the way to act sustainably, my ability to work in a team and help at whatever is necessary, my flexibility, my social skills and the fact that I am hard working.

**What do you expect or hope from your position here with EUROPARC?**

Of course I expect to learn many new things in the office, I've already a lot. What is more important for me is to learn how an organization is managed, to make new contacts and learn from them. Last but not least, to have the feeling that my work was useful for EUROPARC.

**What are you looking forward to about working for the Federation?**

I am looking forward to working with more people from the Federation's large network, to sharing ideas, to finding the best way to put plans in action, to attend more EUROPARC events and to contribute with my work to projects that are useful for the environment, nature and tourism.

**Many thanks for your time. We hope you enjoy working for the Federation.**

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### Survey for the Impact Assessment and Ex-Ante Evaluation of the Life+ Programme

DG Environment is carrying out an Impact Assessment and Ex-ante Evaluation of the LIFE+ Programme. An important part of this study is a comprehensive stakeholder consultation. With this study the European Commission wishes to assess options for the replacement or continuation of the current LIFE+ Regulation that runs to 2013. The LIFE+ Regulation is the only specific EU instrument for the environment.

This survey requests your opinion on the nature and scale of problems that a European environmental instrument should seek to address. The results of this survey will inform the development of options for LIFE and the case for replacing, modifying, continuing or discontinuing the existing LIFE+ instrument. It is the first of two surveys the second survey will be conducted early in 2011 and will focus on assessing the options that have been developed.

Deadline is Monday 6th December. This is your chance to let the Commission know, what Europe's protected areas need regarding funding structures. You can find [a link to the survey on the commission's website](#).



### Protected Areas: Survey on Biodiversity Conservation

This piece of research is for members who are protected areas only. It is being carried out by Chiara Montagnani, a PhD student of the University of Genova (It).

Her study aims to collect data about where protected areas work, the threats to their natural heritage and relative conservation measures implemented.

She hopes to use the results to compare different situations in which protected areas find themselves. Chiara would be very grateful for any information you can provide her with and she will share her results with the Federation when she has finished.

Deadline for the survey, which is [available to download from our website](#), is Monday 20th December at the latest. Please send your answer to [parks.survey@gmail.com](mailto:parks.survey@gmail.com) or by post to: Chiara Montagnani, DIP.TE.RIS., Università degli studi di Genova, C.so Dogali 1M, 16136 GENOVA, Italy.

### Commission seeks greater wilderness protection

European Commission officials confirmed plans to boost the protection Europe's undisturbed and unmanaged wild areas at a conference last week. The **'Restoring the Natural Heart of Europe'** conference was held by the Belgian presidency in Brussels.

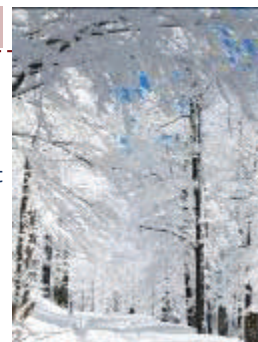
Stefan Leiner, in charge of the EU's Natura 2000 network of protected areas at the commission, told delegates that a wilderness register would be developed next year. Specific guidelines for its management in the network will also be produced, he said.

Kurt Vanderberge, head of cabinet for environment commissioner Janez Potočnik, added that the wilderness concept would be integrated into the EU's post-2010 biodiversity strategy. In February last year, a European Parliament resolution called on the commission to give special status to wilderness areas.

Enhanced protection should be delivered alongside the restoration of former wild areas through reintroducing species such as wolves, delegates were told. New areas could also be created on abandoned agricultural land. Wild areas could double as a result.

More wilderness could offer significant economic, social and environmental benefits, through new jobs, greater tourism and improved ecosystem services. Pavlan Sukdev, lead author of last year's TEEB study the economics of ecosystems, added that wild areas also cut the costs of water treatment and climate change adaptation.

*Original press release from ENDS (Environmental Data Services) 23.11.2010. The conference was attended by Erika Stanciu, President of the EUROPARC Federation, and EUROPARC member the Bavarian Forest National Park gave a presentation.*



A winter wilderness in the Bavarian Forest National Park. Picture: Federico Minozzi

VROLIJK KERSTFEEST EN EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR, NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH ÛR!, GUID YUIL N' GUID NE'ERDAY

### Conservation Finance – A mounting challenge in the face of climate change

EUROPARC was recently invited by **IUCN** and the **Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege (ANL)** to share its thoughts on conservation finance and its current challenges at an **international conference in Laufen**.

The workshop was moderated by Hans Friedrich from IUCN and was embedded into the wider topic of the conference: Biodiversity and Land Use Systems in Europe. The conference and the presentations gave a lot of food for thought related to the current challenges of conservation finance. One of the recent developments recognised by the participants was the rising awareness and interest of the private sector in biodiversity protection. Many different examples showed the window of opportunity for conservationists to find a new source of income after the major cuts in government budgets. But caution is necessary as to how far corporate finance is a solution and the need to a policy framework for this was mentioned as well as the need to set guidelines for corporate involvement. Participants also highlighted the need to support the CAP reform and the current communique on its reform. Suggestions were made to lobby at the MEP level for the current suggestions.

Food for thought came also from Tamas Marghescu, who reflected on Nagoya and said that he had missed on the one hand the leadership of the process and the discussion about financing all the good ideas that came out of Nagoya. His main point was that we need to start living a new economic system that takes into account the true value of nature.

EUROPARC wants to thank the IUCN, especially Hans Friedrich, and the ANL, especially Christian Stettmer, for the invitation to this high level event!

**Cornelia Ehlers**

### Living parks:

#### A great Christmas gift

Don't know what to buy a loved one for Christmas? For a mere 14,90€ why not buy them a gift that will take them across the entire European landscape.

The beautiful EUROPARC book **"Living Parks: 100 Years of National Parks in Europe"**, presents readers with images from parks that is both a feast for the eyes and an inspiration to experience. Detailed profiles of the first parks, founded in many European countries, highlight the diversity, beauty and complexity of these protected landscapes.

Purchase the book online from the publishers **Oekom** or **Amazon.co.uk** or **Amazon.de**.

KELLEMES KARACSONYI UNNEPEKET, GLEDILEG JOL, NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT, BUONE FESTE NATALIZIE, BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA

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### Verifiers training available for transboundary and charter parks

To develop further the **transboundary** and **European Charter** work across Europe, EUROPARC are seeking to train new verifiers. This opportunity is open to EUROPARC members with an interest in transboundary cooperation and development of shared management systems as well as the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

The training for each programme will run in tandem to one another in July on the Island of Vilm (DE), through the generous support of Federal German Agency for Nature Protection. Individuals attending the seminar will be expected to use their new skills immediately to verify new transboundary and Charter parks for the Federation. Training costs will be covered.

This is a unique and excellent personal development opportunity for those working in EUROPARC member organisations. If you are interested **please send us an email** with your name, nationality and mother tongue, your prior experience with the areas of training, which training you would be interested in and why you would like to participate. We have already had a huge amount of interest in the training so the selection process will be fairly rigorous. For the Charter training we are particularly looking for French native speakers.



"Trying to make sense" (verifiers training 2009). Picture: Bettina Kreisel

### Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe and Southern Africa

The Faculty of Law of Gießen - what do they have to do with Transboundary Protected Areas? That was my first thought when I received their invitation to present the EUROPARC basic standards for transboundary parks at their international conference '**Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe and Southern Africa**' held in Gießen (DE) from 11th - 12th November. I was soon to find out that their work is extremely relevant for the EUROPARC network. These lawyers try to bridge the gaps that transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) face in their daily work with their neighbours. They have created the project at **Transboundary Protection of Biodiversity (TraProBio)**.

It was refreshing to be made to think out of the box again and to hear their discussions and thoughts about the ecocentric and anthropocentric approach of nature conservation and the need for a more people centred approach in future. To hear about human rights conflicts and about human security problems, be it food security or personal security, that occur in TBPAs and to learn about the challenges TBPAs in Southern Africa deal with everyday.

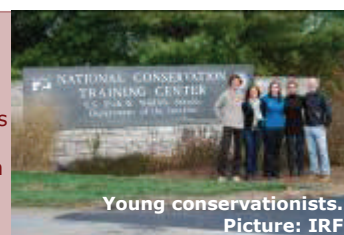
Contributions from the University of Gießen, the North West University, the German Federal Agency for Nature Protection, the GTZ, the KfW Bank and other stakeholders involved in nature conservation and international environmental law made this a very lively conference with the chance to exchange many ideas. **EUROPARCs Transboundary Parks - Following Nature's Design initiative** was valued highly as a quality criterion for good cooperation amongst the participants.

The EUROPARC Federation wants to thank the University of Gießen for the kind invitation to this event.

**Cornelia Ehlers**, EUROPARC transboundary park programme coordinator.

### 2011 Young Conservationist Award

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), in collaboration with Parks Victoria and the George Wright Society, call for nominations for the **Young Conservationist Award**.



Young conservationists. Picture: IRF

The award aims to recognize and raise awareness of the outstanding contributions made to the management of protected areas, and leadership shown, by young conservationists. It also seeks to encourage young professionals and help them develop networks by inviting a recipient to attend a global conservation events and become a member of the global community of Young Conservationists.

Nominations/applications are invited for/from: young people working in conservation and actively managing protected areas. This includes all people working in protected areas, such as (but not limited to) rangers, interpreters, people working with local communities, policy makers, and scientists, people working for government agencies, the private sector, non-government organizations, local communities, etc., who deal directly with protected area management and policy.

The deadline for applications is **22nd December 2010**.

**KELLEMES KARACSONYI UNNEPEKET, GLEDILEG JOL, NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT, BUONE FESTE NATALIZIE, PRIECI'GUS ZIEMSVE'TKUS UN LAIMI'GU JAUNO GADU!**

### New EUROPARC members 2010

In the second half of 2010 the EUROPARC Federation welcomed the following eight new members to its network. This brings the total new members in 2010 up to 26. We hope you will all join us in making them feel welcome and look forward to their input into the Federations work in the future.

**South Downs National Park Authority (UK), Peter Glaves (UK), Thy National Park (DK), Camargue Regional Nature Park (FR), Regional Nature Park of Vercors (FR), Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park (NO), Millevaches en Limousin Regional Park (FR), Avesnois Regional Park (FR)**

### A new approach to nature conservation: A call for good practice examples

As all of Europe struggles to protect its precious biodiversity resources, Wales (UK) is looking at a radically new approach to managing its conservation and landscape assets. In the quest to achieve sustainability and given the many pressures facing wildlife and natural resource use, we recognise that conservation approaches which simply protect ring fenced designated sites and manage individual species is no longer good enough as the foundation for a national strategy of environmental stewardship.

What is needed in Wales is a more visionary and progressive approach which embraces a wider and more inclusive ecosystems approach. It should seek to recognise and manage the goods and services which our environment provides in order to optimise the wide range of public benefits it offers. It recognises the environment as a "front line public service" providing health, well being and quality of life benefits as well as being the basis for a sustainable future.

We are looking for others across Europe who are thinking in the same way, so that we can share experiences and good practice case studies. If we can show the benefits this approach can bring through practical examples then we feel sure can gain public and political support. If you have case study examples which you can share with us in Wales, then please email details to **Peter Ogden** before December 11th 2010.

**LINKSMU KALEDU, WESOLYCH SWIAT BOZEGO NARODZENIA, SARBATORI VESELE, VESELE VIANOCE. A STASTLIVY NOVY ROK**

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POZDREVLJAYU S PRAZNIKOM ROZHDESTVA IS NOVIM GODOM, VESELE BOZICNE PRAZNIKE SRECNO NOVO LETO, SROZHDESTVOM KRISTOVYM

### The value of the "Charter" in identifying sustainable tourism destinations

EUROPARC is very pleased to announce that its project application to the German Federal Agency for Nature Protection has been successful. 'The value of the "Charter" in identifying sustainable tourism destinations' is now one of three projects that the Federation is involved in concerning the development and promotion of EUROPARC's European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

The Charter destinations project will work with a number of Charter protected areas to find out what additional value the European Charter brings to those implementing it, with a particular view at being able to promote it to businesses in these areas better and of course to politicians on a European and National level to create more support and recognition for the European Charter. Its main objectives are:

[Read more](#)



### STEPPA project partners meet for the second time in Seville

STEPPA project partners from Finland, UK, Latvia, Italy and Spain gathered for the second time in Seville (ES) at the end of November to discuss project implementation and activities. The Department of the Environment (CMA) hosted the meeting in their premises. The event had four main themes:

#### The process of Charter Part II (CPII)

Xavier Font, Leeds Metropolitan University, presented the first draft of the accreditation manual - a proposal to harmonize and accredit the CPII with certification programmes at European Level. This was a starting point for very fruitful discussions concerning problems with processes and criteria of different schemes. The manual will give good guidance on evaluating the feasibility of different schemes and it can act as a guideline when new (national) schemes are developed.

#### Business and customer surveys

The business survey will start during December and January in most partner areas. The preliminary results will be presented in the next project meeting in Adamello Brenta National Park (IT). In addition, the content of the customer survey was agreed. It will be implemented in partner areas during the spring and early summer. In addition to the project research activities, partners also discussed the projects communication plan, reporting and budget.

[Read more](#)



STEPPA partners hard at work in Seville. Picture: Henna Konu



### Marketing eco-tourism products and identifying carrying capacity for sustainable tourism

From 10-15th October 2010 the 5th **PARKS & BENEFITS** partner meeting took place in the beautiful surroundings of Matsalu National Park in western Estonia. The overall project aim is to demonstrate the beneficial socio-economic effects of protected areas and support the implementation of the "European Charter For Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas" in seven partner parks of the Baltic Sea Region.

This seminar was focused on the development and marketing of qualitative eco-tourism products. Representatives from protected areas and private tour operators presented and discussed their experiences and different point of views together. The participation of private tourism businesses allowed for a different perspective on the subject and also lead to the identification of potential for cooperation. Partners also considered the implementation of the Charter Part II (the second part of EUROPARC's European Charter for Sustainable Tourism) and how they could work together with tourism businesses in and around the protected areas. A working group has been created that will elaborate a framework of the Charter Part II in the Baltic Sea Region.

Participants were also able to experience the unique floodplains and coastal meadows of the Matsalu National Park, which create a unique natural and cultural landscape in the western part of Estonia. Matsalu Bay (Matsalu laht) is one of the most important wetland bird areas in Europe, due to its prime position on the East Atlantic Flyway.

**Diana Gallrapp**, PARKS & BENEFITS project officer, EUROPARC Federation.



Matsalu National Park. Picture: Keskkonnaamet



### The Vision on Sustainable Tourism Awards (VESTAS)

All certification programmes and awards for sustainable and responsible tourism in Europe are invited to nominate their best practice examples for these awards. All nominees will be published as unique list of excellence on the DestiNet Atlas. The nominating certificates and awards will be interviewed by and presented on Vision on Sustainable Tourism. Nominations are open until 15th December 2010!

In addition a "rusty nail award" for destinations or enterprises who are clearly unsustainable may also be given for each category. Finally, to demonstrate that the awards cover the issue of sustainability in depth, a special national award shall be given to 'the country contributing most to peace through tourism'.

EUROPARC encourages Charter protected areas in particular to make nominations for this award.

[More information on the VESTA's](#)



BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO, GODT NYTÅR, GOTT NYTT ÅR, GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR, ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA

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### Sections meet for EUROPARC work-planning 2011

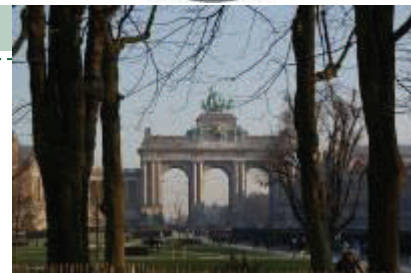
On November 23rd, the EUROPARC sections met in Brussels at the EUROPARC office in the IUCN building. The main objective of the meeting was to contribute our activities to the Federation's work plan and NGO grant application for 2011.

As we shared activities planned by the sections for 2011, it became clear that our organisation is certainly a very active one! The activities are very numerous indeed. They range from overarching policy making and communication work to one-day excursions and talks, and include all topics imaginable in between! Here are just a few things we can expect to hear more about in the coming year: France will continue their work to promote nature conservation to policy makers; the Atlantic Isles will run a seminar on the economic values of nature; while the Spanish Section seminars in 2011 will focus on marine areas and global change; an international conference organised by the Czech section will highlight transboundary issues; and the Nordic-Baltic section will organise a conference on sustainable tourism in protected areas. In Germany, much of the focus is on the upcoming EUROPARC Conference 2011. Johannes Hager of the German Section informed us that the preparations and planning of speeches, workshops and side-meetings are already well underway.

These meetings are good opportunities for sections to catch up on the development of one another's projects and activities. Although the ways in which the sections are organised and work are quite different, there is always an exchange of good ideas that helps push our work and hence that of the Federation forward.

For most of us, this meeting was also our first opportunity to visit EUROPARC's new Brussels office. We were pleased to find a most friendly atmosphere and a very nice working environment. Members who wish to send representatives to Brussels and need help setting up a programme and/or arrange meeting with the EU institutions may contact [Federico Minozzi](#).

[Lena Malmström](#), Nordic-Baltic Section coordinator



Cinquantenaire Arch, Brussels.  
Picture: EUROPARC

FELIZ NAVIDAD Y UN PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, FRÖLICHE WEINACHTEN UND EIN GLÜCKLICHES NEUES JAHR

### EUROPARC Consulting meets EUROPARC staff

On Friday 19th November the EUROPARC office in Regensburg was a busy place (article on Eurosite meeting to come in the next edition). Two of the visitors were Wilf Fenten, Chief Executive of [EUROPARC Consulting](#) and Richard Partington, member of the consulting company's board. The meeting took place a day before the annual board meeting of the GmbH and was an opportunity for EUROPARC staff to find out more about EUROPARC Consulting and vice versa.



Wilf and Richard at the new EUROPARC office

EUROPARC Consulting is the daughter organisation of EUROPARC created by the Foundation in 2002 so that experts within the EUROPARC network could offer members good rates for consulting work in the area of protected area management. The company are now also doing a lot of work for members and non-members across Europe and their circle of expertise is growing ever stronger.

Topics on the agenda were the organisation of EUROPARC Consulting and current projects; the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, for which Consulting does a lot of work, its structure and its promotion; the improvement of cooperation between the two entities; and the verifiers training on Vilm in 2011. Sausages, sauerkraut and typical Regensburg bread rolls with cumin at the oldest sausage house in Germany was the highlight of the day.

It was a very productive meeting for all and there is a lot to follow up on. In particular it was great to get to know Wilf and Richard better and work out areas for increased cooperation in the future, which is beneficial for the whole EUROPARC network.

At the EUROPARC Consulting board meeting on the Saturday Richard Partington was elected chair of the board and says he is 'both thrilled and honoured' at the role. He is very committed to a fruitful and very close partnership between the Federation and Consulting arms of EUROPARC.

We look forward to further successful meetings with EUROPARC Consulting in the future.

### EUROPARC Conference news

The General Assembly Minutes from the EUROPARC Conference 2010 and the remaining presentations from keynote speakers are now available on [www.europarc.org/library/conference-presentations](http://www.europarc.org/library/conference-presentations). The film advertising next year's conference in Bad Urrach (De) can now be viewed at [www.europarc2011.com](http://www.europarc2011.com).



### Strengthened relations with the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation

On Wednesday 24th November the Regensburg was delighted to receive another visitor. Johann Schreiner director of EUROPARC member the [Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation \(NNA\)](#) dropped by to talk to us about further areas of cooperation between the two organisations. EUROPARC and the NNA established very good relations whilst working closely together (also with Euronatur) on the project NatuRegio for four years. The project came to an end this year and so it is time to look at other ways of keeping up relations.

Discussion touched upon the second Danube related project that the NNA is currently working on, the possibility of organising joint events and also sharing expertise for those events that either organisation may put on. The NNA has a great expertise in organising seminars; workshops etc and have a large network of experts. They put on a great programme of events in the field of nature protection every year at their beautiful base in the Lüneberger Heide just south of Hamburg (DE).

We were particularly honoured to receive a copy of Johann's 'Practical Dictionary of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainability. English - German.' This dictionary, published by the Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Stuttgart (ISBN: 978-3-8047-2483-9), is a comprehensive compilation of words and terms that Johann has collected during his work in nature protection, particularly through the course he teaches on English for environmentalists, over the last 15 years.

EUROPARC looks forward to further fruitful cooperation with Johann and the NNA in the future.



Johann Schreiner's De-En environmental dictionary

JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNÉE, PREJEME VAM VESELE VANOCE A ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK, VROLIJK KERSTFEEST EN EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR

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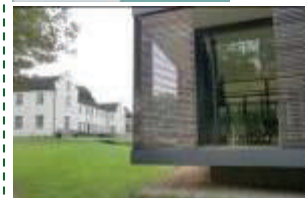
### A Summer visit to Gut Siggeren

**Gordon Millar won EUROPARC's Alfred Toepfer Medal in Sweden in 2009 for his contribution to nature protection in Europe. As part of that prize the Alfred Toepfer Foundation offers awardees the chance to take part in their summer get-togethers at Siggeren.**

My first sight of the white manor house at **Gut Siggeren** was as my taxi turned into the tree lined drive past massive grain barns. I was greeted at the main entrance and invited to make myself at home. Some months before I had been surprised and delighted to receive an invitation to join other recipients of Alfred Toepfer awards and scholarships for a week at the Alfred Toepfer Foundations beautiful house and working farm in Holstein, Northern Germany. What a great experience it proved to be, from the moment I met the other house guests in the wonderful atmosphere of the beautiful manor house to the peace and tranquillity of area.

Situated in a rolling landscape of golden grain fields and hilltop forests the house is only a 10 minute ride by bicycle from a swim in the Baltic while in the nearby forest the tops of the tallest trees were hosts to magnificent sea eagles. On more than one occasion I was entranced by large herds of roe deer moving quickly and silently through the grain fields. One day I took one of the bicycles that were available to us and cycled 10 km to a village and local craft fair getting drenched with rain as I rode back across the open landscape...

[Continue reading this article](#)



The seminar rooms and main house at Siggeren. Picture: Gordon Millar

### Siggeren seminar series

The Alfred Toepfer Foundation are letting EUROPARC use their seminar rooms at Siggeren to put on a yearly series of seminars. **The report of the 2010 seminar is now available.** Read about the location, the work, the results and view some great pictures online now.

JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNÉE, PREJEME VAM VESELE VANOCE A ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK, VROLIJK KERSTFEEST EN EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR

### EUROPARC Consulting: Happy endings and hopeful beginnings

As the last of the leaves swirl past the window here in the **EUROPARC Consulting** office, it is again that time of year where we say goodbye to a full and action-packed 2010 and lay out the plans to welcome new ones.

With a tinge of sadness we celebrate the successful conclusion of the "Training Champions" programme for the seven countries in the Carpathian Mountains. A great and committed team of trainers and participants explored management planning, sustainable tourism, education and outreach across a dizzying series of seminars and field trips over three years. After Carol Richie, director of the EUROPARC Federation, handed out the certificates and the final CD of documentation and outputs is prepared, it is with some satisfaction that we send our Carpathian colleagues off to their home territories for the final time. Although the formal training has concluded, for this dedicated team the work of putting into practise the skills they have gained is just beginning.

It is time also to take stock of the usual busy series of training events, expert studies, advisory reports, tendering exercises, meetings and travel. Whilst finalising reports suddenly an article or a series of photographs will trigger an avalanche of memories: the image of a group of participants engaged in vigorous debate around a flip chart stuck hedgehog-like with a thick covering of yellow post-it notes; the anguish of unexpected last-minute visa problems at the Embassy relieved by the joy of Ukrainian field-study participants wholeheartedly relishing the resultant study tour in the Harz mountains.

And it's not only participatory events that have been satisfactorily concluded. EUROPARC Consulting's dedicated team have cleared major technical and administrative hurdles with the complete revision of the process documentation for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, as well as the production of an easy-to-use Toolkit to support new applicants entering the procedure.

As the Charter continues to go from strength to strength (five newly-awarded protected areas and 10 successfully re-evaluated in 2010) its spread into new countries has dictated the need for updated, streamlined and interlinked documentation to explain clearly and precisely the benefits of the Charter, and exactly what is required to achieve it. The Charter manual is now complemented by clear and concise application documents with a fresh new look.

In a short time the application dossiers from the new Charter hopefuls will begin to arrive. An intense amount of work will have gone into the preparation of each five year action plan and strategy, mapping out as it does the cooperative working towards a sustainable future between stakeholders and authorities. As each new set of aspirations and intentions are committed to paper and approved, so each commitment strengthens the family of Charter parks, and the protection of the beautiful landscapes of Europe.



**EUROPARC**  
CONSULTING



Seminar on Wheels. Picture: Rosie Simpson



New Charter documents



On top of Brocken. Picture EUROPARC Consulting

### Uramba Malaga Bay declared 56th National Natural Park in Colombia.

After a thorough biological, social and economic conditions analysis, the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development declared Uramba Malaga Bay the 56th national natural park of Colombia this August. This increases the total number of hectares of the National Natural Park System to 12.601.817 ha.

Located in the mid Pacific Coast of Colombia in the jurisdiction of the municipality of Buenaventura, the Uramba Malaga Bay National Natural Park covers 47.094 ha. It contains a large number of terrestrial and marine fauna and flora species, making it a conservation hotspot on a global scale. The natural diversity of the park is complemented by its large variety of cultural heritage. This is due to the presence of Afro Colombian and indigenous communities who are strongly connected to the territory because they have been present in the area for many generations. Their cultural practices have substantially contributed to the conservation of the ecosystems in the park.

Uramba Malaga Bay National Natural Park is part of the REDPARQUES network. REDPARQUES have a Memoranda of Understanding with the EUROPARC Federation and work closely with the Spanish Section.

[More information \(in Spanish\)](#)



Uramba Malaga Bay National Natural Park. Picture: Park archive

If you no longer wish to receive these updates from us or you have any questions or comments please [write to us](#). Please circulate this E-News to others who might be interested!



## Christmas E-News 2010

### Russian – Swedish Exchange

From 24th - 30th of October 2010 I participated in the study trip for the exchange of experiences between the protected areas of Russia and Sweden. Eight participants from eight Russian protected areas took part in the first part of the study trip in Sweden, where the representatives of protected areas from Northwest Russia had the chance to learn about the most advanced experience in nature conservation and eco-tourism management in the world.

The activities were arranged and managed by Sune Sohlberg from the Environmental Protection Agency of Sweden and Thomas Hansson, The County Administrative Board of Skåne. Russian specialists were able to visit Fulufjället and Tyresta National Parks and a national park that is currently being planned on the islands of the archipelago of the Nature Reserve Bullerö. The trip ended in the office of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, with presentations from Swedish and Russian colleagues. In addition, preliminary results of the trip were summarized and further activities for implementation within the project were identified.

We will now assess the possibility to introduce the Swedish experience to Russian territories, work out objectives for further cooperation and prepare the second phase of the project – Swedish protected area experts in Russia.

**Mikhail Yablokov, Director, Polistovsky Nature Reserve**

Russian delegates in Sweden.  
Picture: Mikhail Yablokov



### Sustainable tourism theme for Nordic Baltic spring seminar

Sustainable tourism and the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism are the themes for the Nordic-Baltic Section's upcoming spring seminar. It will take place in Riga, Latvia on 22nd - 24th March and is organised in collaboration with the Latvian

Country Tourism Association and the **PARKS & BENEFITS project**.

At the conference '**Nature Tourism: Policies – Products – Practices**' international speakers will talk about the relation between nature conservation and tourism from a variety of angles like policies, products, and visitors. Keynote speeches, case presentations and discussions will range from tourism product development and branding to stakeholder involvement, cooperation and partnership between tourism and nature conservation sectors, to legislation and its implementation. In our workshop on day two, we examine the implementation, advantages and future of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in the Baltic Sea region (and Iceland!). On the final day we learn first hand about the process by visiting **Kemer National Park**, who have recently implemented the Charter.

The deadline for applications is **22nd December 2010**.

### An update from EUROPARC Atlantic Isles

#### EUROPARC Atlantic Isles (EAI) events 2011

The dates for the next EAI events have been set:

*26.01.2011: CAP reform and its impact on protected landscapes, Manchester*

*10.02.2011: The economic value and benefits of protected areas, Oxford*

Further information will be made available shortly.

#### EAI Twitters

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles now has a Twitter page. With brevity its main feature **Twitter** is an excellent way to share and highlight information rapidly. Do sign up for a twitter account at twitter.com. Our user name is #EFAtlanticIsles and we aim to tweet regularly!

For more information contact **Richard Blackman**

### News from Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services

Metsähallitus would like to inform EUROPARC E-News readers that the focal point for Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services has changed with the retirement of Lassi Karivalo this year. The person that you can now contact if you need anything from the organisation is **Liisa Nikula**, Senior Advisor, International Cooperation.

**Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services** manages Finland's protected areas on a total area of 7 million hectares including 35 national parks and two in the making. It is represented with eight members in the EUROPARC Federation and also the Nordic-Baltic Section. They are the Natural Heritage Services Steering Units, the three regional units of Southern Finland, Ostrobothnia and Lapland plus the national parks Archipelago, Koli, Oulanka and Pallas-Yllästunturi.

### EUROPARC Germany: Junior Rangers in Germany

#### Trans-atlantic cooperation

From now on the United States Park Service and EUROPARC Germany will be working together more closely in the field of nature protection. The cooperation between the two entities began in 2006 on environmental education for children and youths. It has now been extended with the Junior Ranger Programme involving the increased use of innovative games and methods of learning via the internet—an area that the Park Service already has a lot of experience in. EUROPARC Germany will be producing a website not unlike the US Services **www.webrangers.us** in order to increase children's awareness of issues in nature protection.

#### Junior Ranger Camp 2010

The German National Junior Ranger Camp took place from 11th – 13th June 2010. 300 Junior Rangers from 26 German protected areas met for a whole weekend in Müritz National Park. The camp took place this year in Müritz as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the young friends of nature. In the county of a thousand lakes water was the focus of the different excursions. Whether on foot or on bicycle or in a canoe the kids learnt about the importance of water.

Next year the camp will take place from 23.-26. June in the Saxony Waddensea National Park.

More information from **www.junior-ranger.de**

Nationale  
Naturlandschaften



Junior Ranger Camp 2010.  
Picture: EUROPARC Germany

## Christmas E-News 2010

NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH ÛR!, GUID YUIL N' GUID NE'ERDAY, KELLEMES KARACSONYI UNNEPEKET, GLEDILEG JOL

### Protected Area Management in Europe: Estonian Environmental Board (EE)

This month we hear from our first environmental agency. EUROPARC member the Estonian Environmental Board, or Keskkonnaamet, tell us about this field of work in Estonia.

#### 100 years of nature protection in Estonia

Nature protection derives from the need to protect and preserve nature. Earlier in Estonia, nature protection was all about protecting natural spiritual and sacred sites. More official nature protection began with hunting and fishing restrictions and forbidding forestry near towns and castles. In 1297 the Danish King Erik Menved, made deforestation illegal on three islands near Tallinn and may be considered the first recorded nature protection act in Estonia.

Classical nature in Estonia originated from the beginning of the 19th century. The first protected area, Vaika Birding Protected Area, was founded in 1910. The initiative came from the Vilsandi Island lighthouse keeper A. Toom with the support of Riga's Nature Researchers Foundation. It was the first protected area in the Baltic Region.

Estonian's natural heritage is rich and diverse with many wetlands, forests and birding areas. 18% of the land in Estonia is under protection. The objective of nature protection is to keep the species and biotopes viable and prosperous. The future is not about creating new protected areas but rather about how we can conserve our flora, fauna and their habitats.

#### Estonian protected areas

According to data from December 2009, in Estonia there are 3543 protected nature objects. These include: 131 nature protected areas, 148 landscape protected areas, 5 national parks (Lahemaa, Karula, Soomaa, Vilsandi and Matsalu), 546 parks and meadows, 343 other protected areas, 1038 habitats, 11 nature objects that are protected under local government level, 1203 individual protected natural phenomena. National nature protection is under Ministry of Environment jurisdiction. The authority of these protected areas is given to Environmental Board.

#### Threats and solutions in Estonian nature protection

Many threats are related to land reforms. Land owners do not maintain the meadows which may cause the loss of habitats. Subsidies for maintaining meadows give local people the possibility to be part of the protection and preservation of these. Another threat involves development pressure and also the pressure to use land resources (oil, shale mining). This is solved by verifying different management plans and communicating with local and county governments in handling the overall development and management of land and resources.

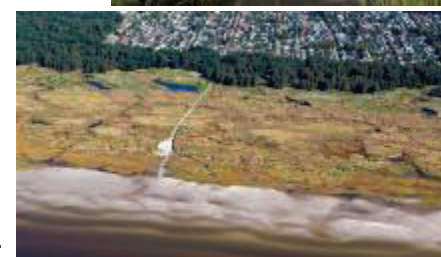
In addition, there is not much information about the values of our protected areas, particularly because a lack of specialists working in this field. This means training our own staff so that they can contribute to solving these issues. Further, many of the management plans of the protected areas have not been compiled or verified yet. To overcome this threat to species, the Environmental Board has introduced species protection methods and management plans that address the values of each protected areas and work with different stakeholders to protect these values.

#### PARKS & BENEFITS

The project "PARKS & BENEFITS" gives us the opportunity to get an insight into EUROPARC as a network and into the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism. The brand 'Baltic Sea Region' has gained a larger profile through the project. In addition, the study trips and project seminars have helped us to work out which direction to go in with national park management. Discussions on different problems and approaches help the project partners to learn from each other's mistakes and achievements. Starting this year the Environmental Board has founded a workgroup that will come up with a plan on how to develop Estonian national parks so that they become 'business cards' for the country.

#### More information

[www.keskkonnaamet.ee](http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee); [www.envir.ee](http://www.envir.ee); [www.parksandbenefits.net](http://www.parksandbenefits.net); [www.europarc-nb.org](http://www.europarc-nb.org)



Scenes from Estonia. Pictures: Keskkonnaamet

NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT, BUONE FESTE NATALIZIE, PRIECI'GUS ZIEMSVE'TKUS UN LAIMI'GU JAUNO GADU!, LINKSMU KALEDU

#### Points of interest...

- A brand new computer game called Fate of the World uses global warming as the scenario for its adventure. [Read more about the game.](#)
- New publication: **Best LIFE Nature Projects 2009**. This document provides readers with information on the 23 most outstanding LIFE Nature projects completed by 2009.
- There is no shortage of tools and resources to help in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. You can search for what you need on the [Documents and Tools page of the CBD website](#).
- Read about the [highlights of the international Year of Biodiversity in October](#)
- Interpret Europe - the European Association for Heritage Interpretation - is now in action. [Read more about Interpret Europe.](#)
- The wild cat has returned to Austria. If you want to find out more about this [please fill out this form](#).
- The 2010 Red List of Finland's Species was published last week. [Download the publication here.](#)

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