

EUROPARC Conference 2009 9-13 September

The EUROPARC conference in 2009 will celebrate 100 years of national parks in Europe. The overall conference theme in 2009 is "100 years of national parks in Europe - a shared inheritance; a common future" which marks 100 years since the first 9 national parks in Europe were established in Sweden in 1909. The conference will explore what has happened within the field of nature conservation over the last 100 years and what challenges are we facing in the future. The focus will be on the marine environment, climate change and biodiversity as well as on how to use adaptation, benefits and values, and networks to create successful nature conservation and management.



The conference will take place in the picturesque town of Strömstad in South-West Sweden. Strömstad is located between Sweden's second largest city, Gothenburg, and the capital of Norway, Oslo.

The Koster sea, home to more than 6000 marine species, is located just outside Strömstad. This marine area will become Sweden's 29th national park and will be inaugurated on the first day of the EUROPARC conference together with the Hvaler National Park in Norway. Read more about the conference location at www.europarc.org/sweden-09/location

More information on the conference will be posted regularly over the next few months on www.europarc.org, and we aim to have a programme ready for you towards the end of April - so watch this space!

Date for your diary - Sustainable Tourism Network Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Atlantic Isles Sustainable Tourism Charter Network in Manchester on the 23rd March 2009. More details will be sent to Network members soon – if you wish to come, or to be kept informed of what is happening, please let Dan Bloomfield know as soon as possible.



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Junior Rangers – calling all members

If you are already involved in the Junior Rangers programme, or have been in the past, then we would like to hear from you; there is a need to better understand the reach of this programme in the UK, Ireland and Iceland. Please drop Dan Bloomfield an email if you can.



If you are not involved, then perhaps you should be!

One of the greatest challenges facing protected areas today is to find ways of demonstrating that the conservation of nature and culture and the sustainable use of natural resources have a fundamental relevance to people's daily lives. To accomplish this EUROPARC strives to encourage the exchange of experiences between leaders of Junior Ranger programmes and to improve the quality of the regional programmes through the organisation of international workshops and training seminars. The Junior Rangers Programme Network now has a total of almost 50 partners in 2008, and was launched in 2002. See below for details of the next Annual Camp.

To find out more, contact Dan Bloomfield or Federico Minozzi – see below for details.

EUROPARC's 8th International EUROPARC Junior Ranger Camp. 25th July - 1st August 2009, Parc Natural de Aigüamolls de l'Empordà, Spain



EUROPARC's international Junior Ranger Camp this year, will be hosted by the Parc Natural de Aigüamolls de l'Empordà in Catalunya (ES).

The Park is a magnificent example of the coastal wetlands, including salt-water wetlands, fresh water ponds, reed beds and dunes. Birds are one of the park's main attractions: 329 species have been sighted there!

The programme, which is still in progress, will include fieldwork, games on the beach and cultural activities, e.g. a visit to the Dalí museum in Figueres. The camp will also offer participants the opportunity to discover the beautiful Catalonia through a visit to three of the regions natural parks: Parc Natural de Cap de Creus, the Parc Natural de l'Albera, Parc Natural de les Illes Medes. Further details will soon appear on the website.

In addition, the Junior Rangers are asked to give a short presentation about the country and park that they come from as well as their Junior Ranger activities. To make the

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presentations even better we encourage participants to bring materials (maps, brochures, pictures etc.) to illustrate their information.

All protected areas with a Junior Ranger Programme can apply to attend the camp. This year a total of 30 participants will be able to attend: 2 Junior Rangers from up to 10 European protected areas represented by 1 mentor ranger. Participant Junior Rangers should have already been involved in Junior Ranger activities in their park and be between 13 and 16 years.

Registration

The registration form will be available on www.euoparc.org soon. The final deadline for registration is the 24th of June 2009.

As the places are limited, we advise interested participants to contact and send EUROPARC their registration forms as soon as possible. Participation in the camp will be only be definite when you receive a confirmation from EUROPARC.

Costs

Participants must cover all travel costs themselves. The host park will provide food, accommodation and transfers from and to the airports.

For more information on the camp please download the information below. If you have further queries please contact Federico Minozzi at f.minozzi@euoparc.org

European Volunteers in Parks – now online!

Our Grundtvig-funded programme between 8 countries to set up exchanges of volunteers, and also to swap best practice in volunteer management, is now on the web. Visit the website below and you can see a number of short-term volunteer opportunities. More tools, photos etc will be added soon. If you think you would like to exchange volunteers and benefit from the Project, please let Dan Bloomfield know as soon as possible.

<http://freiwillige-in-parks.de/grundtvig-learning-partnership-european-volunteers>



European Landscape Convention seminar – feedback

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles held a seminar on the 26 and 27th January 2009 in London, entitled 'Beyond boundaries - protected landscapes, cities and the European Landscape Convention'. Forty people came together from government agencies, protected landscape management authorities and NGOs to focus on the role and function of protected



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landscapes around urban and growth areas, and how the ELC can help plan programmes of work. The seminar focused in particular on the Thames Gateway zone east of London, and how to connect new and existing communities with nearby protected landscapes.

Colleagues from Disputacio de Barcelona, RECEP-ENECLC and Uniscape were able to bring a broad perspective, in particular by drawing on examples from Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Barcelona.

From the point of view of the UK and the Republic of Ireland, the following conclusions were drawn:

- that there is a deep and broad need to raise awareness of the usefulness of the European Landscape Convention, especially across government departments and agencies
- that a medium to long-term programme of action was needed to ensure that the Convention becomes part of everyday debate within land use planning, from the local to the regional level
- that the community-led approach enshrined in the Convention was the correct one, but it requires adequate resources and skill deployment
- that expanding the role played by the Convention in the UK and the Republic of Ireland will require further enhanced partnerships with projects and networks elsewhere in Europe, and that to this end there is scope for an INTERREG IVC bid to further enhance ELC implementation, and that EUROPARC Atlantic Isles and other UK and Ireland-based partners are ready and willing to contribute to the development of such a bid
- that there was an identified need for an ELC 'champion' within the Atlantic Isles
- that the ELC should be the cornerstone of new landscape policy and vision work currently underway by EUROPARC Atlantic Isles

All of this will be fed back to 5th Conference of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Convention March 2009, Strasbourg, at which EUROPARC Atlantic Isles will be represented.

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EAI seminar on health – 26th March 2009

Our next seminar will take place in Oxfordshire, and is entitled "Naturally better: how protected landscapes can help deliver health and wellbeing outcomes". A flyer with more details will be coming out very soon.



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Protected landscapes have long been seen as places for improving health and wellbeing. Today they are increasingly expected to contribute to this agenda, but at the same time the challenges are growing and the social and financial strains are becoming more acute. Obesity, depression, and increasing disconnection between the urban and rural environments – how can these be addressed? How can we move from good intentions to partnership working for positive health outcomes – towards what has been described as a 'Natural Health Service'? Who should we be working with? This seminar is aimed at looking beyond fitness and leisure to establish practical and focused ways of working with health service providers. It follows on from work carried out by the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section last year, and will bring together representatives from elsewhere in Europe with the aim of developing lasting collaboration.

Autumn seminar - early notice

EAI will be running a seminar in Scotland on the 3rd and 4th November, that will focus on the general trend within protected landscape management to move from a focus on measurable outputs, to less measurable outcomes. What are the implications for staff development, engagement and funding? If you think you might be interested, make a note of the date – more information to follow.



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Briefing on seascapes and the Marine Bill

The Coastal and Marine Working Group of EUROPARC Atlantic Isles has been instrumental in briefing Peers during the House of Lords Committee Stage of the Marine Bill. In particular, an amendment has been tabled to ensure that the Bill provides for, and enables the conservation of, nationally important seascapes by means of a mechanism for designating such areas. The full briefing is available from EAI – please contact Dan Bloomfield.



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Professional placements arriving in the UK and Ireland

EUROPARC would like to float an idea amongst our members. Staff at the Federation are aware of the large number of professional placements requests and exchanges that occur between individual parks, and of the fact that a large number of these involve those individuals wishing to learn English. Are you receiving many requests for such placements? And if so, would it be helpful to develop some sort of toolkit – something that explains what to do in practical terms – visas, accommodation, language and so on? We would be very pleased to hear your responses - please contact Dan Bloomfield.



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Partner search – use your membership!

Just a general request to consider EUROPARC as a resource for partners searching. There are increasing numbers of partnership projects being set up between protected areas of all sorts, right across Europe, using the EUROPARC network. The Atlantic Isles should get their share of all this learning and co-working – but as a network we rely on our members to thrive – so please think of EUROPARC when considering ideas that might benefit from a European perspective – we'd be happy to help!



Symposium – protected areas, social acceptance and environmental conflicts. Chambéry, France 16-18 September 2009



The international symposium on "Protected areas, social acceptance and environmental conflicts" aims to bring together researchers working in the field of geography as well as in the social sciences (history, sociology, political science, economics, ethnology, public law, etc.) who focus especially on protected natural areas.

For many years the exclusive domain of naturalists, protected areas today are widely investigated by the human science disciplines. The goal of this symposium is to present the most recent advances and the avenues of research likely to be explored in the future.

To find out more visit

<http://edytem.univ-savoie.fr/esppro2009.html>

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**Landscape Character Network seminar: From Historic
Landscapes to Future Landscapes**
18th March 2009, Manchester



We live in landscapes that have been changed through the centuries by people modifying their environment. The European Landscape Convention, which came into force in the UK in 2007, defines a landscape as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Our landscapes continue to change; people's perceptions change all the time too.

The Convention highlights the need to identify and assess landscapes. To do this requires an understanding of how landscapes have changed throughout history. This understanding is needed to inform work with local communities or developers to shape continuing landscape change. This workshop will cover recent developments in characterisation techniques for landscapes in country, town and at sea. It will include presentations by people shaping policies for historic landscape and applying the latest techniques to their work. It will also look ahead to future landscape change.

The workshop is the latest of a popular series of topical workshops organised by the Landscape Character Network. The workshop will appeal to anyone with an interest in landscape protection, management and planning

This event is open to all. Numbers attending the workshop will be limited to around 60 and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis on receipt of payment.

To find out more visit <http://landscapecharacter.org.uk/historic-future>

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