



March seminar – Protected Areas in the 21st Century – what does the future hold?

It's not too late to book onto our spring seminar, to be held at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff on the 27-28 March. The programme and booking form can be downloaded from our website. The seminar features presentations from four European countries on how they are currently planning the future management of protected areas, as well as perspectives from within the UK.



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Grundtvig partnership – European Volunteers in Parks

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles has joined forces with colleagues in Germany, Spain, Latvia, Iceland, Italy, Romania and Lithuania in an application to the Grundtvig Programme – the European Commission's lifelong learning partnerships scheme. The aim is to provide those co-ordinating and managing volunteers, as well as the volunteers themselves, the opportunity to travel elsewhere in Europe and learn what other protected areas and other nations, are doing about volunteerism. If successful, the scheme will allow up to twelve individuals to travel and study in other participating countries, in a project that will run for two years from September 2008. If you think you might be interested in participating, please contact Dan Bloomfield.



Denmark Conference in Public Health and the experience of nature: the role of protected areas. Sponsored places available!

Our sister Section covering the Nordic-Baltic area is holding a seminar in public health and protected areas in Maribo Nature Park, in the south of Denmark, from the 27th to the 30th May 2008. There are optional site visits on the 31st May.

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles are sponsoring six free places at this seminar. We will cover the participation fee and accommodation – but not the costs of traveling to and from Maribo. These will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Dan Bloomfield for the draft programme, as well as accommodation details.



Study trip to Iceland – 5-6 June 2008

The details are all confirmed for our study trip to Iceland. This is a great opportunity to Purpose - study trip, opportunity to find out how the Icelandic authorities are structuring protected landscapes management. There will be two field trips, to Thingvellir and Snaefellsnes National Parks, as well as meetings with the new Director of Umhverfisstofnun, the Environment Agency of Iceland, and the Government Minister



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with responsibility for this area. There will also be a drink reception.

Travel and accommodation costs will be somewhere in the region of £550. The exact figure depends on which flights participants book, and which rooms they occupy.

What you need to do now:

First, let Dan Bloomfield know that you are coming on the trip.

Second, book accommodation. Huge thanks are due to Chas Goemans at UST for helping us out here! Accommodation in Reykjavik in June is hard to find, and usually very pricey. Chas has found a local guesthouse (www.sunna.is) and made a block booking on our behalf. Participants should contact the Sunna guesthouse themselves to confirm their rooms. The evenings of the 4th, 5th and 6th are all booked; there is apparently some capacity for people to extend their stays. You need to use the booking reference #6470 and give a credit card number to secure your booking. Breakfast is included. Please note that there is a cancellation policy: if a cancellation is made less than 48 hours before arrival, 1 night will be charged to the card.

Please note: we have booked 4 single rooms (approx. £90 per night) and 10 twin rooms (approx. £70 per night). The majority of participants will need to double up!

Their email is: sunna@sunna.is

Tel: +354 511 5570

Third, book flights. Iceland Express (www.icelandexpress.com) fly from London Stansted and are currently offering a return fare of £227 including taxes. Iceland Air (www.icelandair.co.uk) offer £273 from Heathrow, and also fly from Dublin, Manchester and Glasgow.

www.workingfornature.org goes online

Today many young people committed to nature conservation are looking for possibilities to do an internship in a national or nature park or other protected area in Europe.

The new EUROPARC website www.workingfornature.org aims to facilitate exchanges between people searching for, and protected areas offering, such internships. Protected areas can register and announce their internship vacancies in a standardised database thereby making their offer available to a wide public.



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Diary date: Annual European Charter Network meeting

The Alpi Marittime Nature Park (Italy) and the Mercantour National Park (France) are pleased to invite you to the first transfrontier European Charter Network meeting from the 3th to the 6th June 2008. If you are interested in the European Sustainable Tourism Charter, put the date in your diary and look out for further details soon.



Sustainable live/work space – national conference

The RTPI and Live/Work Network, with the support of three RDAs, are holding a national conference to explore the significant sustainability potential – and entrepreneurial appeal – of live/work development. The conference, to be held at BT headquarters in London on April 16th 2008, will include: Kate Barker, adviser to Treasury and Bank of England; Richard McCarthy, director general, places and communities, CLG; Robert Upton, secretary general, Royal Town Planning Institute; and Matthew Taylor MP – rural live/work adviser to the Prime Minister. To find out more about how live/work can bring about low-carbon, mixed-use rural economic development, visit www.liveworknet.com/event08



European Congress of Speleology

The 4th European Congress of Speleology "Vercors 2008" will be held during the whole week from the 23rd of August 2008 and you are welcome to participate to its programme. Following on from the Congress, the European Speleological Federation (FSUE) and the Regional Natural Park of Vercors invite proposals of communications/presentations for the 2nd Symposium "Alpine Underground" which will be held in Lans-en-Vercors (France) near Grenoble, from the 27th to the 29th of August 2008. This second edition will be particularly focused on the "Protection and the Valorization of the Underground Environment" including caves and karsts inside the Natural Parks and other Protected Areas in every European countries. All relevant information can be found at <http://vercors2008.eu/>



Channel EUROPARC

EUROPARC Atlantic Isles is involved in a developing project that will form the basis of a proposal to the INTERREG IVA cross-channel programme. Along with Cornwall AONB and the Cornwall Sustainable Coast Project, the aim is to build up co-operation and joint initiatives around sustainable tourism across the Channel. In England, the eligible area spreads from Scilly to the north Norfolk coast. If you think you might be interested in joining such a partnership, please contact Dan Bloomfield in the first instance.



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Regional workshops

As part of our ongoing improvement in our services to members, EAI are holding regional workshops this year. Having met members and potential members in Belfast



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recently, the next workshop is in Perth on the 12th May. Future meetings are planned for Wales and England. The intention is two-fold; to present EAI and its work to as many people working around protected areas as possible, and to listen to what members want from EAI. Please look out for future announcements.

European Charter Leaflet

As part of the activities under CharterNet, the project aimed at strengthening and further developing the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, a new leaflet has been published that explains how the Charter works, how business partners can get involved and the benefits of gaining Charter status. Contact us if you would like some copies (also available in French).



ANPA Conference 2008

Booking is now open for the Association of National Park Authorities Conference 2008, to be held at Lake Windermere, in the Lake District, from the 17th to the 19th September. This year's conference takes the theme 'Inspirational Landscapes - Aspirational Communities' and will include a diverse programme of high profile speakers, covering the most important issues relevant to those committed to the future of UK National Parks. The draft programme, as well as booking details, are at www.regonline.com/anpa08



New Communications Officer

The EUROPARC Federation has a new Communications Officer. Her name is Morwenna Parkyn, originally from the UK and now living in Germany. At the end of 2006 Morwenna completed her masters' degree at the Eberswalde University of Applied Sciences in Germany with a dissertation on increasing public awareness of sustainable tourism in protected areas. Morwenna will be in contact with you all in the coming days, weeks and months. If you would like to contact her directly she can be reached on m.parkyn@europarc.org, by telephone on +49 (0)8552 961021 or via skype.



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