



EUROPARC 2008 – Brasov, Romania 24-28 September 2008

It's not too late to register for the 2008 EUROPARC Conference and General Assembly. The event will feature a host of in-depth training sessions that will cover a very wide range of topics, as well as the election of a new Council (see below).



All details, including booking arrangements, can be found at www.europarc2008.com

Making Sustainable Tourism a foundation of the rural economy. Belfast, 23-24 October 2008

The full programme and booking details for our next seminar, have been circulated. We have an exciting couple of days planned in Northern Ireland, with site visits to Mourne and the Causeway Coast, and a very wide range of speakers from the Republic of Ireland, the UK and Italy, including sustainable tourism networks and business owners; we want very much to look at things from the practitioner's point of view. The event will be held at the Europa Hotel in the centre of Belfast. The programme and booking form are available from our website, www.europarc-ai.org



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EUROPARC Federation Council Elections

Information on the EUROPARC Council election to be held in Brasov, the roles of Council members, and the candidates standing for election is all now available on www.europarc.org. You are strongly encouraged to read the short biographies from the candidates, their statements concerning their thoughts as to the future of the organisation, and also view their election video messages. Each voter will be voting for five candidates (excluding the current Council President, Erika Stanciu, who is standing unopposed).



Very important - the proxy voting form can be downloaded from the same website, along with a template letter and further information on voting by proxy. We really need to ensure that the Atlantic Isles casts its full entitlement of votes. Please note members must find another full member to be their proxy; various Directors of EAI who are attending have volunteered to take proxies with them, so please get in touch with the

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Development Officer and we can make sure this happens. The proxy must turn up at the General Assembly **with** the signed letter from the non-attending member in order that the Federation can provide them with the voting papers.

Please also bear in mind that registration for voting might take a bit of time – please work with the organisers and be as patient as possible. Shortly before the conference information will be available on the site about the election procedure.

GRUNDTVIG success – new opportunities for volunteer and managers within the “Volunteers in Parks” project

EUROPARC has successfully bid for some funding from Grundtvig, the European programme for training and lifelong learning opportunities. Our two-year joint partnership involves the UK, Iceland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Latvia, Romania and Lithuania. We will be looking for up to twelve volunteers or volunteer managers who would be interested in traveling to other parks within these countries to learn about how volunteering is managed elsewhere. There will also be opportunities to host individuals in return. We’ve only just been told we have the money, so once the initial planning meeting has been held later this month we will be back in touch with more information. Please make sure your volunteer managers know about this upcoming project; they will certainly want to know about it as it progresses. In the meantime, it would be enormously helpful if any indications from members about how many volunteers they have, what experience they have of hosting foreign volunteers and whether they are interested in joining in – please drop an e-mail to the Development Officer, Dan Bloomfield, at the address below as soon as you can.



Seminar report – towards a new vision

The report of our most recent, and very successful, seminar in Cardiff has now been published. Entitled “protected areas in the 21st century – what does the future hold?”, the report outlines the need for a new vision for protected landscapes that can bring the entire system together through:

- new branding initiatives
- greater engagement
- justification via economic value-added tools
- use of the ecosystems services approach
- learning more from Europe
- making more of the opportunities for collaboration
- communicating more

EAI, as the only body with the geographical reach to look comprehensively at a new vision for protected areas, is developing a programme of work to take this vision forwards.

The report can be downloaded from www.europarc-ai.org

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Jobs for Nature: the European Forum for managers of natural areas. Lyon, 12-14 November 2008

“Jobs for nature” or “La nature pour metier” is the first European forum for managers of natural areas dedicated to their line of work and competencies. It has been organised within the framework of events linked to the French presidency of the European Union. Participants are invited to share their views about the day-to-day reality of doing their jobs and the changing nature of their skills base; administrators, employers and employees alike can seize this opportunity to create professional alliances and to initiate or expand their current networking activities.

The forum aims to promote the status of jobs relating to natural areas by enhancing their profile among public policy-makers the media and the general public, as well as to optimise the professionalism of those involved in the management of natural areas via an assessment of the skills required, work situations and initial and vocational training.

To find out more visit <http://jobsfornature.espaces-naturels.fr> (NB no ‘www’).

IEEM Autumn Conference: Mitigation - Smoke and Mirrors or Biodiversity Enhancement? Glasgow, 18 - 20 November 2008



Mitigation is defined as ‘any deliberate action taken to alleviate adverse effects, whether by controlling the sources of impacts or the exposure of ecological receptors to them’. The statistics record declining habitats and reduced species diversity. Are we fiddling while Rome burns? Is mitigation of the quality needed to restore and enhance biodiversity? Or, does it only avoid, reduce, moderate, minimise or repair, thereby becoming a lost opportunity?

More information on a two-day conference to tackle key issues in this area can be found at <http://www.ieem.net/confieemautumn2008.asp>

New Views: Junior Ranger Camp 2009. Mendip Hills, 26 July to 1 August 2009

Junior Rangers from Europe’s most precious landscapes will come together to share their views at a special event hosted by Mendip Hills AONB Young Rangers next summer. The week-long camp will involve many activities and act as a springboard for the rangers to share views on the future of their landscapes. For more information contact Mendip Hills AONB, on 01761 462338, or visit www.mendiphills.org.uk



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Connecting land and sea: how to improve the management of coastal protected landscapes - report and seminar



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The draft report setting out the advice for coastal protected landscapes on making the connection between land and sea has been received. A PDF version is now on the EAI website. The report will be the focal point of a seminar to be held in Bristol on 15 October 2008. It will include presentations / discussions on the "Route Map" set out in the report, the management of European Marine Sites alongside coastal protected landscapes, Historic Seascape Assessment and physical adaptation to climate change on the coast, as well as an update on the European context.

Full details are available from Edward Holdaway -
edward.holdaway@btinternet.com

INTERREG IVC Proposal for the European Sustainable Tourism Charter Network



CharterNet are leading the development of a Europe-wide bid to develop and expand the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism via more learning outputs, exchanges, new topics and issues and many more protected areas being involved. A first outline for a project proposal which includes suggestions and comments from representatives across the European Charter Network is now in circulation – please let Dan Bloomfield know if you haven't seen it yet but would like to.

The key issue at this stage is to identify a Lead Partner – either a regional or local authority, or a protected area authorities belonging to the Charter Network. The EUROPARC Federation will contribute to the project as a project partner but because of the way it is constituted cannot be the Lead Partner.

This is a great opportunity to realise considerable sustainable tourism benefits in your area, so if you think you'd like to know more please get in contact! There is a side-meeting on the topic planned for the Brasov General Assembly – more details will follow in due course.

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