

## The EUROPARC Federation

The umbrella organisation of Europe's protected



## E-News August 2008

### Meet Diane Gallrapp — the newest member of the Directorate staff.

In the first edition of the EUROPARC E-News we are pleased to be able to introduce our members EUROPARC's newest team member, Diana Gallrapp, who started work for the Federation at the beginning of this week. Diana will be taking over Claudia Martins position as Project Manager whilst Claudia is on pregnancy leave.

Diana, first of all please paint a picture of yourself for our members. Tell us something about the following:

#### Your background

Well I am German (from Bavaria) and I studied Geography and Agroecology. Before EUROPARC I was worked for more than four years in the field of technical cooperation with development aid countries in Latin America and Germany with a focus on natural resource management.

#### Your hobbies

I love outdoor sports especially mountain biking, riding and hiking and a good book on a rainy afternoon.

#### Your outlook on life

The moto 'Live and let live' comes to mind.

#### What made you decide to apply for the position of Project Manager at EUROPARC?

Well my first contact with protected areas and their management was during my studies when I have got a scholarship to do some research work about a transboundary National Park at the southern border of Ecuador. Since then protected areas and their management is a topic that I find fascinating and I wanted to work with. While my previous work was based on countries outside of Europe, I liked the idea of working on a European level with EUROPARC.

#### What are you looking forward to regarding the Project Manager position at EUROPARC?

New tasks, new people, new experiences, to get to know protected areas on a more personal level.

#### What are your expectations at the moment regarding the post?

A lot of interesting activities are waiting to be carried out.

#### In your last position you worked for an international organisation in the field of technical cooperation with development aid countries. What experience/knowledge will you bring with you from this occupation to EUROPARC?

My experience in bringing together people from different cultures, and my awareness of the need for biodiversity protection as well as the important role that protected areas play in this.

### New signs for the EUROPARC Headquarters!!

On Wednesday 6th August the headquarters of the EUROPARC Federation in Grafenau recieved new wooden door signs for the office: a present from the Bavarian National Park.

The signs were a token of the continuous cooperation between the park and the Federation and were officially presented to Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Director, by Mr Barthmann, the National Parks Vice-Director. standing in for Mr Karl Friedrich Sinner, the National Park Director, yesterday morning.

Carol Ritchie said "The signs are a great symbol of our friendship with the Bavarian National Park and also another indication of the fact that the Federation is looking and moving towards the future".



New signs for EUROPARC



### What's new on

The News and Events sections of the EUROPARC Website have just been updated. Visit the website to read news about the European Charter; from the German and Atlantic Isle Sections; about the newly designated World Heritage Sites; e-news from CIPRA, DNR, Nea Say, the IUCN, PAN Parks and Fact.s; and much more!

### EUROPARC Newsletter No 14.

The next EUROPARC Newsletter, No 14, will be available before the EUROPARC Conference 2008 in September.

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### 7th international EUROPARC Junior Ranger Camp – a big success!!



Junior Rangers at the International Junior Ranger Camp 2008. Photo: CGNP

The EUROPARC Federation would like to thank the Cairngorms National Park Authority very much for the great week which they organised for the 31 junior rangers and their mentors from 8 countries from 26th July to the 2nd August. After a week of fun, discovery and adventure, everyone went home with a smile on their face and took some brilliant memories with them!

The camp, around 50 tents, was situated in the very east of the Cairngorms National Park. Participants enjoyed swimming in the river, good food and gathering around the camp fire in the evening and all Junior Rangers had prepared excellent presentations of their home protected areas. The highlights of the week were: amusing canoeing on the River Dee, interesting conservation work with the Ranger Services, visiting the Balpuppet theatre "The men who planted trees" by the Puppet State Theatre

and the Highland Games in Aboyne.

This wonderful programme was rounded off by the presentations of both the John Muir Award and the Junior Ranger certificate by Eric Baird, Vice-Convener of the CNPA, and Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC Director. Afterwards youngsters and adults alike all partied together at a fabulous ceilidh and tried their luck at Scottish dancing.

This fantastic experience in Scotland yet again highlights how enjoyable and useful Junior Ranger Camps are and the EUROPARC Federation is now very much looking forward to the next camp in summer 2009!

More pictures of the camp can be seen soon on [www.europarc.org/juniorranger/](http://www.europarc.org/juniorranger/). For questions or comments, please contact Damien de Chantérac at [d.dechanterac@europarc.org](mailto:d.dechanterac@europarc.org).

### DVDs of Protected Areas required!

EUROPARC member Planète insolite ([www.planete-insolite.org](http://www.planete-insolite.org)) promotes eco-tourism across France by organising and selling eco-tourism packages (9% of the price goes towards local environmental activities) and via their popular free WebTV 'Biosphere', which brings films and features in French and English on environmental issues. Biosphere has 2000 viewers per day and it is available on over 200 websites.

Planet Insolite are currently looking for promotional DVDs of protected areas across Europe to air in connection with their new feature: 'Interviews with Planet Insolite'. If you are interested in airing a film of your park for free on 'Biosphere' please get in touch with Stephen Rimorini at [stephen.rimorini@planete-insolite.org](mailto:stephen.rimorini@planete-insolite.org).

### Questions for EUROPARC members about the contradiction of EU development programmes .

In June, Natural England (the UK government nature conservation agency) organised a study tour of protected areas in Poland. We had a chance to talk to senior park officials and it was during those talks that it became clear that there was a shared conviction amongst the managers to whom we spoke that European Union development programmes are bad for nature conservation and protected area management due to the contradictory nature of some of the policies.

In particular, the development programmes seem to be raising the expectations and ambitions of local government and community groups who have been pressing for inappropriate developments such as road building, river canalisation etc. This puts the protected areas in the position where they are constantly saying 'no' to economic development in communities which desperately want to catch up with their western European partners - a terrible position to be in. In addition, EU policy seems to in some cases affect others leading to dysfunction in areas such as transport and agriculture.

Is this an issue across Europe? Is there already action being taken by the Commission to integrate nature conservation into economic development policy? Is there anything that we could do that would help our colleagues new European states to address these issues?

Please get in touch with David Blake from the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at [DavidBlake@cranbornechase.org.uk](mailto:DavidBlake@cranbornechase.org.uk) if you can/want to help him to answer these questions.

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