

4 May 2015

WORKSHOP “Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years”
on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the
European Diploma for Protected Areas

Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli, Italy

21-22 May 2015

Organised by the Council of Europe and
the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli
with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment of Italy and of the Tuscany Region

Partner of the event: EUROPARC Federation

Aim of the workshop

The aim of the workshop is to bring together managers of Protected Areas and experts and to discuss the challenges that Protected Areas face in an interconnected world where technology and globalisation are changing people’s perception of the natural environment and the role of Protected Areas.

The workshop should serve to exchange experiences and ideas on issues such as:

- how to better use new information technologies and citizen science for sustainable conservation of areas of importance for biodiversity;
- how climate change, globalisation and invasive alien species will change the way in which conservation is practiced;
- what are the new roles of Protected Areas managers, how they are innovating, how they want to connect with each other and with society (in particular the young people).

Target groups

The workshop targets Protected Areas’ managers, in particular managers of European Diploma areas, conservationists and experts

Date and Place

The workshop will be held on 21 and 22 May 2015, at the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli (close to Pisa, Italy).

Working languages

English and French (interpretation provided)

Inscriptions fees

None

Inscriptions

Please contact Ms Tatiana State Masson, Biodiversity Unit, Council of Europe (email: Tatiana.state-masson@coe.int)

Fifty years ago we experienced a Copernican revolution in Protected Areas. During the first six decades of the XXth century, there were just a few dozen of Protected Areas in most European States: some natural parks, a few reserves, and some protected landscapes. In the sixties and seventies, pushed by a society worried by environmental degradation, hundreds, thousands of Protected Areas were created.

The Council of Europe contributed to engage governments in that conservation wave, with the creation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 1965 and, especially, the organisation of the 1970 Europe Nature Conservation year whose main message was: Europe Needs Protected Areas!

Fifty years later, after the great success of the Habitats Directive and the Emerald Network set up under the Bern Convention, we have managed to build a solid, coherent, and more or less well managed network of Protected Areas in the whole continent, and the challenges have changed.

A new information society, globalisation and climate change - as part of global change - bring new problems and a lot of uncertainty as to the future of protected areas and the services they provide to societies. We know we have to link them in ecological networks so ecosystem dynamics is maintained. We know we have to link them with people so that the ecosystem services provided by protected areas are better understood and valued. We know we need to better use information technology, improve communication and image. We know that we have to look closer to species and habitats that will be threatened by climate change. We know all these but still need to change the way in which we work, be more creative, more innovative. All this because otherwise we shall not succeed in transmitting to future generations the natural heritage we received from our ancestors. It is a real challenge and we have to prove we are up to it.

Eladio Fernández-Galiano

Council of Europe

Draft programme

Wednesday 20 May 2015

Arrival of participants

8.00 pm

Welcoming dinner at the restaurant of the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli

Thursday 21 May 2015

9 am – 10 am

Opening of the workshop and key note speech

Official opening of the workshop by Mr. Felice Cappelluti, on behalf of Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea, Mr. Eladio Fernández-Galiano, on behalf of Council of Europe, Mr. Fabrizio Manfredi, President of the hosting Park, and Mrs. Ylenia Zambito, vice Major of Pisa municipality (*20 minutes*)

Introduction of the workshop by the key speaker, Mr Michael Usher, ecologist: Protected Areas: the last 50 years and challenges for the next 50 years (*25 minutes*)

Presentation of the working methods by the Rapporteur general, Mr Hervé Lethier, expert (*10 minutes*)

Official launching of the video of the 50th Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas (*5 minutes*)

Coffee break

10.15 am – 12.30 am

Session 1: Applying new technologies and communication challenges to Protected Areas (Citizen Science communication, Networking Protected Areas, Networking knowledge)

Introduction of the theme by the moderator, Ms Carol Ritchie, Executive Director, EUROPARC Federation (*15 minutes*)

Presentation of case studies/experiences by managers and other participants (*5 interventions of 15 minutes*)

Case study/experience 1: Ms Jane Chapman, Assistant director, Peak District National Park, and Ms Sarah Proctor, Project Manager, Community Science Project, Moors for the Future Partnership, United Kingdom

Case study/experience 2: Mr Valery Iukovich, Deputy Director for scientific and research work, Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve, Belarus

Case study/experience 3: Mr Szarvas Imre, Manager, Ipolytarnóc Protected Area, Hungary

Case study/experience 4: Mr Harry Koenders, Public affairs officer, Staatsbosbeheer, The Netherlands

Case study/experience 5: Mr Marc Roekaerts, Expert, Belgium

Discussion (*40 minutes*)

Conclusions of the session by the moderator (*5 minutes*)

12.30 am – 2 pm

Buffet-lunch

2 pm – 4 pm

Session 2: Management of Protected Areas and climate change: new challenges

Introduction of the theme by the moderator, Mr Øystein Størksen (Norway), Chairperson of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention (*15 minutes*)

Presentation of case studies/experiences by managers and other participants (*4 interventions of 15 minutes*)

Case study/experience 1: Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department, Council of Europe

Case study/experience 2: Mr Robert Brunner, Expert, Austria

Case study/experience 3: Mr Frederik Zwart, District officer, Staatsbosbeheer Frisian Wadden Islands, Boschplaat Nature Reserve, The Netherlands

Case study/experience 4: Mr Olivier Biber, Expert, Switzerland

Discussion (*40 minutes*)

Conclusions of the session by the moderator (*5 minutes*)

Coffee break

4.15 pm – 6.15 pm

Session 3: Management of Protected Areas and invasive alien species: new challenges

Introduction of the theme by the moderator, Mr. Andrea Monaco, researcher, Regional Parks Agency - Lazio (*15 minutes*)

Presentation of case studies/experiences by managers and other participants (*4 interventions of 15 minutes*)

Case study/experience 1: Mr Joe Sultana, Expert, Malta

Case study/experience 2: Mr Antonio Perfetti, Head of Management of Natural Resources Department, Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli, Italy

Case study/experience 3: Mr Pál Kézdy, Deputy Director, Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, and Mr József Vers, Head ranger, Tihany Peninsula, Hungary

Case study/experience 4: Mr Robert Tanner, Scientific Officer - Invasive Alien Plants, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), France

Discussion (*40 minutes*)

Conclusions of the session by the moderator (*5 minutes*)

7.30 pm

Dinner

Friday 22 May 2015

9 am – 11.15 am

Session 4: Innovative management

Introduction of the theme by the moderator, Dr. Jo Gilbert, Head of Reserves Ecology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (*15 minutes*)

Presentation of case studies/experiences by managers and other participants (*5 interventions of 15 minutes*)

Case study/experience 1: Ms Lucia Venturi, President, Maremma Regional Park, Italy

Case study/experience 2: Ms Nihan Yenilmez Arpa, Division Director, General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks, Turkey

Case study/experience 3: Ms Maria Husslein, Head of visitors' management, Bayerischer Wald National Park, Germany

Case study/experience 4: Ms Roberta Latini, Biologist, Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park, Italy

Case study/experience 5: Mr Michael Schimek, Manager, Wachau Protected Landscape, Austria

Discussion (*40 minutes*)

Conclusions of the session by the moderator (*5 minutes*)

Coffee break

11.30 am – 12.30 am

Summary of the seminar and presentation of the conclusions

A few personal thoughts on the future of Protected Areas, by Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Biologist, Council of Europe

Summary of the workshop and presentation of the conclusions by the General rapporteur, Mr Hervé Lethier

Discussion and adoption of final declaration

12.30 am – 2 pm

Buffet-lunch / picnic

2 pm – 6 pm

Visit of the park

8.00 pm

Official ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

Dinner with musical arrangement

Saturday 23 May 2015

Departure of participants