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Friends of National Parks and Protected Areas

Network Seminar in Koli National Park in Finland 16.-17.11.2015

Agenda updated 14.11.2015

Theme: Development of Networks for the Friends of National Parks in Europe; history, best practises, lessons learned and ways to strengthen the partnership network with park managers

The national parks and other protected areas are members of the EUROPARC Federation. In Finland the networks for the partners of the parks have been developed during last 20 years with joint commitments. The networks consist of different administrative authorities, businesses, third sector associations as legal bodies and occasional active volunteers. Currently six (6) registered associations act as friends of the parks in Finland.

In some European countries the partners of the parks were active already about 100 years ago. There is a lot of valuable experience on successful projects, but also on bottlenecks and conflicts.

Public participation and partnerships have raised the environmental awareness of park visitors and local societies. A large number of environmental education programmes and innovative learning opportunities have been developed in connection with protected areas. Volunteering actions have increased the biodiversity in the protected areas and sustained the cultural heritage values. Also the democratic and participatory planning processes have been developed in positive partnerships. The partners of the parks increase the visibility of parks and disseminate the information on the parks as sustainable tourism destinations. Also the supportive actions organised by the partners and friends of the parks have been a critical help for park managers when the management resources are vulnerable in the budgets.

Venue: The Koli National Park in Finland, Visitor Centre Ukko <http://www.outdoors.fi/en/kolinp>

Time: 16.-17.11.2015



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Responsible organizer: The Friends of Ukko-Koli Association in co-operation with the Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland and other Finnish Friends of the Parks Associations

Target group: Representatives of Friends of the Parks Associations, other partners of the parks and park managers in Finland and Europe.

Invited experts: Several representatives of Finnish (6) and European (6) friends of the parks associations. Representative of EUROPARC Federation. Scientific expert on the innovative partnership models from the University of Eastern Finland.

Languages: English and Finnish (interpretation provided, when necessary).

Supported by: The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) in Central Finland and Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland.

Agenda:

16.11.2015 Monday

- 9.00 Opening
- 9.15-12.30 Development of the Finnish Friends of the Parks Associations, 30 min each
 - The Friends of Ukko-Koli in Koli NP, presentation by Lasse Lovén, chairperson
 - The Nuuka Society in Nuuksio NP, presentation by Minttu Perttula, senior adviser in Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife, and Hilikka Laitinen, chairperson of the society
 - The Friends of Leivonmäki NP, presentation by Janika Tanni, expert
 - The Friends of Bothnian Sea NP, presentation by Heini Watia, expert
 - The Arkipelagia Society in Archipelago NP, presentation by Jouko Lehtonen, chairperson
 - The Friends of Liminka Bay in Liminka Bay Wetland PA, presentation by Kaisa Korhonen, nature tourism expert
- Lunch (own costs)
- 13.30-14.30 Administration and Partnerships in Parks, 30 min each
 - Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, presentation by senior advisor Eveliina Nygren
 - The EUROPARC Federation, presentation by director Carol Ritchie
- 15-17 Walk to the Artist's Point of Ukko-Koli; sunset in the Koli National Landscape
- 19.00 Dinner (own costs)



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17.11.2015 Tuesday

- 9.00 Stories of European Friends of the Parks, 6 presentations, 30 min each
 - Friends of Hohe Tauern NP, Austria, presentation by director Mag. Peter Rupitsch
 - Friends of Lake District NP, UK, presentation by director Douglas Chalmers
 - Friends of Parks in Italy, presented by senior advisor Giagomo Benelli
 - Friends of Parks in Germany, presentation by Dr Friedhart Knolle, Harz NP, Germany
 - Friends of Brecon Beacons NP, Wales-UK, presentation by Jim Wilson, Chair of Brecon Beacons Park Society and Douglas Chalmers
 - Friends of Parks in the Black Forest NP, Germany, presentation by Hubertus Welt, Freundeskreis Nationalpark Schwarzwald e.V.
- 12.00 Lunch (own costs)
- 13.00 Innovative Partnerships in Research, 30 min; presentation by Dr. Juha Hiedanpää, Research Professor in Natural Resource Policy, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Economics and Society
 - Partnership models, networks, social capital, participation, ownership, innovativeness
- 13.30-14.30 Discussion on the development needs for the European network for the friends and partners of the parks
- 14.30-15.00 Summary and Conclusions

Publication: Online publication collecting the development stories of 12 European friends of the parks associations, in Finnish and English. Written development stories outside the above presentations can also be offered to the seminar organizer. The seminar proceedings are to be published on the home pages of the organizer (www.ukko-kolinystavat.fi).

Registering: By email to ukkokolin.ystavat@gmail.com. Latest day for registering is 10.11.2015.

Fees: Seminar is free of charge for all participants. Each participant pays his/her own expenses on travel, accommodation and meals. The organisers of the seminar cover the costs of the invited speakers according special rules.



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Accommodation:

- Hotel Koli <https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/koli/sokos-hotel-koli/>
 - €92/night in double bed room for two persons, where each person 46€/night. If accepting 2 persons in one room, who could be your room mate? Please give this info to seminar office via email ukkokolin.ystavat@gmail.com
 - €72/night in single bed room for one person.
 - Prize includes breakfast buffet, free WiFi and sauna.
 - Reservation directly to Hotel Koli, tel. +358 (0)10 7623 626 or email sales.koli@sokoshotels.fi. Use seminar code BNETWORK
 - Latest day for reservations is 10.11.2015
- Kolin Rynnänen <http://www.outdoors.fi/en/kolirynnänenluhtiaitatgranariesrentalhut>
 - 6 rooms available, each for 2-4 persons €40/per day/per person, plus bedsheets €8/per person breakfast €9/per person.
 - Special offer for the seminar €50/per room/per person, when 2 persons in one room (€25/per person), plus bedsheets €8/per person, breakfast €9/per person.
 - Reservation via Seminar organisation; send us your choice, if accepting 2-4 persons in one room, who could be your room mate?
- Paimentupa <http://en.paimentupa.fi/>
 - Cottage "Majavaranta" by small lake with 3 bedrooms each with 2 beds €85/per cottage/per day
 - 2 apartments (room, kitchen, wc/shower) with 2 beds €60/per room/per day
 - Bedsheets €10/per person
 - Breakfast €10/per person. Min 4 persons in breakfast.

Meals: Seminar meal package is sold in the seminar office

- Hotel Koli and other meal services at Koli. <http://www.outdoors.fi/en/kolinp/services>
 - Hotel Koli Lunch €20 (3 dishes), dinner €30,
 - seminar package (2 lunches and 1 dinner) €70

Travel:

- Flights: Helsinki–Joensuu www.finnair.fi
- Train: <https://www.vr.fi/cs/vr/en/frontpage>
- Shuttle Taxi: Joensuu–Koli–Joensuu and in Koli Resort Koli <http://www.taksikoli.fi/shuttle-taxi>