



## **“International exchange of competences of players in protected areas” (ANNIKA)**

### Project term:

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 to June, 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

### Sponsors:

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

### Key objectives of the project:

- Further development of the management of volunteers in protected areas.
- Strengthening the co-operation between the participating European parks.
- Enhancing the competency and the motivation of park staff regarding the establishment of long-term international cooperation.
- Increasing the expertise of German and European park staff and volunteers in the fields of park management and nature conservation through the exchange of expertise, experiences and insights into best practice examples.
- Dissemination of international expertise to a broad audience in Germany and the participating countries.

### Participants:

25 park staff and volunteers from German parks and 25 participants from European parks, corresponding sending and host parks (a minimum of 16 different destinations).

### Measures:

The project is divided into three stages: preparation, study trips, and post processing.

#### *Preparation*

During the preparation phase suitable partner parks in Germany and abroad are being identified and selected, the study trips are getting planned and prepared, participants are being selected and prepared, as well as the communication measures are getting developed.

#### *Study trips*

The study trips are the key element of the project. The main measures are:

- Introductory workshops in Berlin for German participants of the study trips (one workshop in 2016 and one in 2017) focusing on the main topics of the study trips.
- One-week study trips of German participants to European protected areas and study trips of European participants to German Protected areas (eight groups overall, four from Germany, four from abroad, each consisting of approximately six to seven participants). Each study trip is focused on one main topic and accompanied by a thematic expert of EUROPARC Germany.

The program of the study trips consists of lectures, workshops and field trips. It also gives the opportunity to gain insights into best practice examples of the parks visited and the possibility to work together on new strategies and ideas with international park staff.



### *Post processing*

At the end of the project the outcomes, experiences and lessons learned are summarized by the participants and experts of EUROPARC Germany who are accompanying the study trips. The main activities are:

- Experiences and lessons learned are presented by the participants in public or semi-public (e.g. workshops, lectures or seminars in their protected areas).
- Final conference for German participants and people interested in the topic.
- Summary of the lessons learned in form of a final paper and a brochure (in German and English, available in digital and printed version) including the statements of the participants and the experts of EUROPARC Germany with focus on the lessons learned and main differences in the management and nature conservation of protected areas.

### Learning topics:

The overall topic of the study trips is the involvement of volunteers in the activities of protected areas. Each study trip is also focused on one of the following main topics:

- Education for sustainable development in protected areas
- Regional development and sustainable tourism in protected areas
- Accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in protected areas
- Alternative funding strategies for protected areas

### Personnel responsibilities:

- Project management: Dr. Elke Baranek
- Project coordination: Anne Schierenberg
- Project assistant: Sonja Miller
- Four professional experts from EUROPARC Germany, who take part in the preparation, on-trip support, and post processing of one study trip within Germany and one abroad, and also in the preparation and implementation of the introductory workshops.

