

EUROPARC Federation

**Memorandum of Understanding
with the United States National Parks Service North East Region**

EUROPARC Members' Questionnaire

Name: Hartmut Escher
Position: Managing Director
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Yes, we are interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

No, we are not interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

Please state reason:

1. If yes, on which topics would you be interested in pursuing cooperation?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> organisational development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ecotourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sustainability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> transboundary management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> financing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please state): special experience in dealing with the geological heritage |

2. If yes, what type of exchange would you be interested in ?

- at staff level (professional development)
 at political level (Presidents, Board Members)
 other stakeholders (e.g. farmers, tourism businesses)

continued

3. If yes, please give a short description of the features of your park and main areas of current work:

On one hand our park is representing the northernmost mountains in Germany's Northwest. On the other hand we represent a typical part of northern Germany's ice-age-formed landscapes.

Our park is Germany's first park which identifies itself by a special issue. Our topics are "geology and earth's history". In our park visitors can "experience 300 million years of earth's history in only one day".

We developed and implemented a marketing strategy, supported by a professional marketing specialist.

Since 2001 we are certified as a European Geopark. The European Geopark Network was established in June 2000 with the financial support of the European Commission both to protect the geological heritage of Europe and to support regional sustainable development. Meanwhile there are 15 member parks in 8 different European countries. The Geoparks are making significant social and economic contributions to rural areas by creating major opportunities for geotourism and environmental education. All of these benefits have been achieved through the imaginative interpretation of geology, which provides the building blocks for the scenic landscapes of Europe.

Importantly, the value of our work is fully recognised and supported by UNESCO who view the European Geopark Network as a model for a potential global network of Geoparks. UNESCO is a full member of our network, with the same voting rights as other members, and are represented by an official from their Division of Earth Sciences. The European Geopark network is also recognised by the National Geological survey departments of most European nations and by international organisations such as the International Union for Geological Sciences.

We as Naturpark **TERRA.vita** are very much interested in an exchange of experience with parks in the United States with a special geological heritage, who are interested in exploiting this heritage in an environmentally friendly way.

Signed:

Date:

Please return by 20 March 2003 to:

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