
CEETO Conference on Protected Areas and Sustainable Tourism

22 - 24 October 2018, Opatija, Croatia

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS



Carol Ritchie

Ms Carol Ritchie is the Executive Director of the EUROPARC Federation, where she leads a multi-disciplined team. The portfolio of European projects undertaken by EUROPARC is diverse and the Director has the overseeing project management as well as developmental role for all projects.

Ms Ritchie has worked as a Teacher, Ranger and Park Manager in Scotland with frontline practical conservation and visitor management experience in a range of parks and protected areas. With her teaching background, Ms Ritchie has a particular focus on communications, interpretation and environmental education. She has further utilised these teaching skills in the delivery of training workshops for many years.

She is an alumni of the University of Strathclyde (B.Sc. joint honours Biology and Geography) and University of Aberdeen (Msc Ecology). She also has a Postgraduate Certificate of Secondary Education in Geography.



Igor Kreitmeyer

Mr. Igor Kreitmeyer, Assistant Minister for Nature Protection in the Ministry of Environment and Energy, has been actively working in the nature protection sector since 2009. Starting as the manager of the World Bank financed strategic project, he has been dealing with the transition of protected areas and nature protection sector traditional financing to project based financing and the preparation of numerous EU funded projects, currently in implementation.

As Assistant Minister he is actively working on mainstreaming of nature conservation throughout all sectors emphasizing the benefits of nature and services it provides as one of the pillars of Croatian long term development. This includes working on applicable solutions for mitigation of tourism pressure, ensuring the balance of protected areas' conservation objectives, visitor education and economic incentive provided to protected areas.



Paolo Angelini

Mr. Paolo Angelini, chemist and biologist, has been working for the Ministry of Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea, Italy, since 1991. Since 2001 he has been following activities of the Alpine Convention - an international treaty aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine area - initially as Secretary of the Italian Presidency 2001-2002 and later as the Head of Delegation for Italy.

Mr. Angelini has a long experience in international negotiations and cooperation, representing the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea, in the highest international contexts both at European level and at the United Nations. Among the activities carried out in the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, those relating to the management of water resources and natural hazards, the governance of protected areas, the assessment of the impacts of climate change and the related adaptation strategies stand out. From 2015 he coordinates the bilateral cooperation activities in the environmental field with the Balkan countries.



Peter Prokosch

Dr. Peter Prokosch is Founder and Chairman of Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C), Norway.

In the 1970s and '80s Peter played a pioneering role in the conservation development of the International Wadden Sea and became the Head of the WWF Wadden Sea office in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. As a researcher at the University of Kiel, Dr. Prokosch studied biology and marine sciences. His PhD thesis focused on the ecology of arctic shore birds. From 1992 until 2002 he served as director of the Arctic Programme of WWF International in Oslo, and from 2002 until 2006 as CEO of WWF-Germany in Frankfurt. Until 2014 Dr. Prokosch was the managing director of GRID-Arendal, a centre collaborating with UN-Environment, located in Arendal, Norway. He has extensive experience working with the establishment and development of national parks in the Wadden Sea, the Baltic coast of Germany, Svalbard and Iceland as well as in nature reserves in Siberia and other parts of the circumpolar Arctic, often in close cooperation with tourism.



Olaf Ostermann

Mr. Olaf Ostermann has been actively involved in nature conservation through all his life, starting as a member of the German Youth Organisation for Nature Conservation (DJN), Council Member of the Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) and NGO for Nature Conservation in the German Waddensea (Schutzstation Wattenmeer). He studied land-care, with special emphasis on nature conservation, at the University of Hannover. Since 1987 he has been working in the state administration with responsibilities for large protected areas, and from 2013 he heads the Unit for Large Protected Areas in the Ministry for Agriculture and Environment of the German State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

From 2003 to 2004 he was a stagiaire at the European Commission, GD Environment, unit „Nature and Biodiversity, and in the period 2005 - 2008 and 2014-2017 Council Member of EUROPARC Federation. From 2008 to 2012 he was a lead partner of the Interreg-Project “PARKS&BENEFITS” (Baltic Sea Region). Since 1998 he acts as a member of IUCN / WCPA.



Idis Turato

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb, and much more....

Topic covered: “The re/buffing effects of tourism on landscape”



Saša Košuta, BIRO Architects' Collective

Ms Saša Košuta graduated from the Faculty of Architecture in Zagreb in 2016 with the work "Landscape Scales - National Park Risnjak", under the mentorship of Dr. Idis Turato. At the end of the study, together with her colleagues Dora Lončarić and Mario Kralj, she formed the BIRO Architects' Collective. The BIRO builds up its architectural practice in a wide spectrum of projects, ranging from interior design to private facilities development, as well as public tenders for public space design.



Deni Porej

Mr. Deni Porej holds a Ph.D. in Evolution and Ecology from The Ohio State University. He started his career as a Director of Conservation Science at The Nature Conservancy OHFO. In 2007 he returned to Europe, working as a Conservation Programmes Director at WWF Mediterranean Programme, where he led a team of over 40 staff working across the Mediterranean basin. He continued serving at this position until April 2018, when he was appointed as director of WWF Adria.

"Our organization works to make better and more meaningful involvement of local communities in decisions about the use of natural resources - fish, rivers, wildlife, protected areas... I believe that in this aspect all the countries we work in want to make rapid progress. We are here to help grow our civil sector, help business partners engage and support state institutions in improving efficiency in policy development." says Mr. Porej.
