

Labour of Love – Volunteering for Parks
October 5-7, 2011

Tikkurila (City of Vantaa), Finland

Volunteering in Italian National Parks: Inachis experience

"Beats of Wings for Nature"



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Inachis is born...

..in October 2008 as a **great diary on-line** with the intent to collect **emotions, experiences, feelings**, of people who have lived or intend to live the adventure of Volunteering for Nature.

*"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the rest of the world calls butterfly."*

Lao Tse



Inachis become,
on December 2008,
a volunteering for Nature
association

Inachis

Inachis is..

🌿 an independent, non-profit, apolitical and democratic association with the aim of protecting word's environment

Our goals are:

- 🌿 the protection and enhancement of nature, environment and biodiversity;
- 🌿 the spread of forms of active citizenship and volunteering, also understood as model of civil commitment, based on a participatory vision of life, solidarity and non-utilitarian;
- 🌿 the formation of groups of people who become volunteers for nature;
- 🌿 promote environmental sustainability;
- 🌿 coordinate the training and education on environmental issues

Inachis



Inachis is involved in..

- 🌱 volunteering in parks and PAs
- 🌱 Nature in general
- 🌱 environmental education
- 🌱 education to traditions
- 🌱 research, information and training

It operates on the whole italian territory, also through its local sections of members

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Volunteering for Nature: Inachis vision

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Environmental education

Environmental protection

Help instrument for PAs

Preservation of local traditions

Meeting and heading for local communities' needs

Flywheel for local communities

How volunteers are recruited by the association

🍷 web

🍷 diary on line

🍷 photos and videos

🍷 pass the word

🍷 local sections of Inachis members

Volunteering In Italy in general:

not only voluntary practical work based on real needs but also taking part to researches and studies

In this way can be easier to recruit volunteers
but...

...Sostitution to work??

And where is environmental education??

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Inachis Volunteering Camps

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Protected Area

Volunteers

Will to collaborate to a common goal

Local communities

Park Authority

**Everyone of them can receive a
benefit from volunteering**

Italian National Parks where Inachis is operating

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**Val Grande
National Park**



**Abruzzo Lazio and
Molise National
Park**

All over Italy, local
sections of Inachis
members operate
in their own
territory,
collaborating with
local authorities

Can I volunteer?

- ☪ everyone who wants to do this kind of experience can volunteer
- ☪ there aren't limits of age: there are different options
- ☪ no particular skills are required
- ☪ volunteers from abroad are warmly welcome
- ☪ contact the association

Already planned camps (period, area...)

Camp to arrange together

Binaclis

Inachis volunteering camps

- ❖ there are always Inachis coordinators at the camp
- ❖ the fee for each participant covers housing, food, insurance (also for foreigner participants)

Housing: depends on the kind of camp.

Usually a house or a shelter of the park with multiple bedrooms and common toilets

Food: participants are usually asked to provide for food (shopping and cooking)



Inachis volunteering camps

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Inachis volunteering camp is seen like a **walk** the participants start alone and continue as a **group**: usually, the acquaintance between volunteers starts during the camp and doesn't stop at its end!



Which are volunteers weapons?

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Smile



Gloves



Will to do



Respect

Which are the tasks for the volunteers during a camp?

We don't really know each task before arriving on the place

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They depend on the needs of the moment

Park authority

Local communities

**DO WHAT THERE IS
THE NEED TO DO**

Examples of activities

Supervising an area



Bianchis

Examples of activities

**Paths:
opening, maintenance**



Bianchis

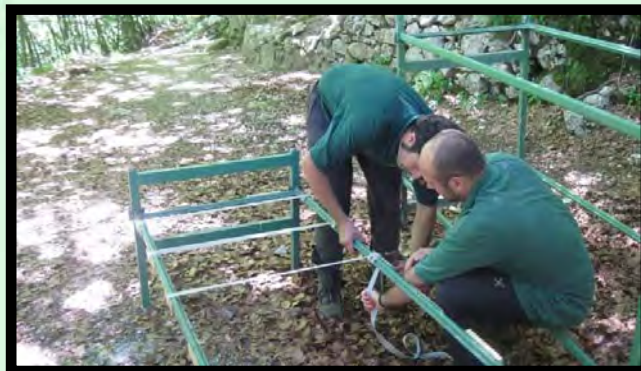
Examples of activities

Bianchis



Examples of activities

Tiding up shelters



Bianchis

Examples of activities

Environmental education activities for children

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Examples of activities

**Inachis volunteers helping during
Europarc Conference 2010 (PNALM)**

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CONCLUSIONS – Volunteering for Inachis volunteers means...

Meeting: doing, living, getting excited



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CONCLUSIONS - Volunteering can mean for PAs and local communities...

A form of sustainable tourism at 100%

A concrete help to do certain tasks

Giving and receiving

A way to do environmental education

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Thank you!

www.inachis.org