

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Network (TransParcNet)**

Nationalpark Neusiedler See - Seewinkel / Fertő-Hanság Nemzeti Park, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April –  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010



## Opening of Meeting

Arnold Boer (Chair, Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee -STEC) opened the meeting, introduced the STEC and was pleased to announce that all certified parks were represented and two additional invited Transboundary Protected Area complexes (TBPA) were present. In total the participants represented 10 countries. He thanked the hosts Kurt Kirchberger and Attila Fersch for arranging the meeting.

He then asked everyone to stand up to spend a minute's silence in commemoration of Aitken Clark, Jordi Falgarona and Geraint George.

Arnold Boer then looked ahead to the agenda of the meeting.

## Introductory Remarks

In his introductory remarks Arnold Boer announced that two further TBPA complexes had been certified since the last meeting: The Prealpi Giulie Natural Park (IT) and Triglav National Park/ Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (SL) as well as the Bavarian Forest National Park (DE) and Sumava National Park (CZ) .

The network now consist of 8 Transboundary complexes, representing 17 protected areas in 11 countries.

Two guests with interest in the certification process were present at the meeting:

Kosterhavet (SE) - Ytre Hvaler (NO) and

Saxon Switzerland (DE) – Bohemian Switzerland (CZ)

Arnold Boer announced that the host of the meeting Neusiedler See (AT) and Fertő-Hansag (HU) had been reevaluated prior to the meeting and that the result was positive. The TBPAs will be handed the renewed certificate during the EUROPARC annual conference in Italy.

Two further TB complexes are due for re-evaluation this year and will be sent a letter with a self-assessment form.

Arnold Boer then continued to announce that the STEC had during their meeting the previous day been reassured that the Transboundary work remains being seen as a core work of the Federation and that the STEC has been named a standing committee of the Federation. He also noted that no extra financial support can be given from the Federation for the moment, which does for the moment not endanger the TB work, but remains a challenge in the long run for the TB work.

He concluded that TransParcNet needs to strengthen its position within the Federation. Especially since IUCN/WCPA has reactivated its Transboundary activities on a global scale and expects EUROPARC to take a lead for Transboundary topics in Europe. He encouraged the network to think ahead on how it can contribute to the IUCN initiatives in Europe.

### **Report on further steps from last TransParcNet meeting in 2009 (Lassi Karivallo)**

Lassi Karivallo then continued to present the results from the 6 steps that had been agreed at the end of the last meeting to further develop the network and was able to show that they had been met a 100%.

You can find the presentation of Lassi Karivallo on our website:

<http://www.europarc.org/uploaded/documents/394.pdf>

### **Vision and Mission (Martin Šolar)**

Martin Šolar announced that Protected area Managers of TBPA's recognize the importance of a Network like the TransParcNet and the importance to exchange expertise and best case practices amongst the staff working in TBPA's. This was shown in the presence of all transboundary certified parks being present at the meeting.

He then went on to present the first draft of the Vision, Mission and Goals of TransParcNet, which was sent out prior to the meeting. The final version can be found on the EUROPARC Federations Website.

You can find the final vision for TransParcNet on our website:

<http://www.europarc.org/uploaded/documents/393.pdf>

### **Project Development (Richard Blackman)**

Richard Blackman welcomed everybody on behalf of the EUROPARC Federation Directorate and thanked Lassi Karivallo, Kurt Kirchberger and Attila Fersch for all their work in making the meeting possible.

He reminded the audience that project development for TB was the third part of the objectives laid out by the EUROPARC strategy 2008-2012.

The discussion focused on the question into which direction project development should go. The two central aspects discussed were:

- Projects to expand the network
- Project that relate to solving challenges TransParcNet members face in TB cooperation

The following suggestions were made:

- To carry out a pre-study to identify the challenges TBPA's stated in their evaluation reports to identify key problems of the network members
- One topic stated was the challenge that legal instruments for TBPA's should be harmonized. As a pre-study every certified TBPA could provide a paper on the legal steps involved for TBPA in their countries
- To create working groups within the TBPA network by topics (environmental education,

visitor management, rural development, etc.)

On the Interreg Vic application idea it was mentioned that this was too ambitious, since costs are involved to write the project and it should rather be looked into other funding options.

It was concluded that projects should focus on:

- Success factors for TB cooperation
- Encouraging EU legislation harmonization
- Communication – raising the profile of TBPA's

You can find Richard Blackmans presentation on our website:

<http://www.euoparc.org/uploaded/documents/396.pdf>

### **Presentation of guest TBPA's**

The Kosterhavet (SE) – Ytre Hvaler (NO) TBPA's were given an opportunity to present their TBPA's and their current status of the TB cooperation. On the previous day Saxon Switzerland (DE) – Bohemian Switzerland (CZ) had already presented their cooperation.

<http://www.euoparc.org/uploaded/documents/397.pdf>

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### **Presentation of the European Green Belt Initiative (Alois Lang)**

Alois Lang went on to present the audience the European Green Belt Initiative of the IUCN and its current status and challenges.

In the network a new idea was forming: Germany wants to realize a bike road along the former Iron Curtain.

Alois Lang stated that currently incentives for the Central and Southern European PAs are missing to join the initiative. They are not very likely to join at this moment of time.

He explained the background of the project which started with the idea of establishing a network of separate protected areas on either side of the border, forming the Green Belt of Fennoscandia in the early 90s. There are three regional coordinators (Fennoscandia and Baltic, Central Europe – led

by the BUND Germany and South Eastern Europe, led by EURONATUR.

Along the former Iron Curtain about 1400 PAs exist, 393 were mapped by the GIS mapping project. And it was realized that there exists not symmetry in the Nature conservation regimes. The Initiative has recently reactivated its Website and has had an immense media response.

Possibilities for joint projects of the TransParcNet and the Green Belt exist.

More and detailed information can be found at: [www.europeangreenbelt.org](http://www.europeangreenbelt.org)

Lee Dudley, Greenbelt Coordinator, IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe, [lee.dudley@iucn.org](mailto:lee.dudley@iucn.org)

Alois Lang, Green Belt Coordinator, c/o Fertő-Hanság Nemzeti Park, HU-9435 Sarród  
[alois.lang@iucn.org](mailto:alois.lang@iucn.org)

The next Pan European GREEN Belt meeting will be held in Kuhmo, Finland from October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Workshop Session: Challenges in Transboundary Cooperation (Sigrun Lange)**

Sigrun Lange led the participants through an output oriented workshop session focusing on transboundary cooperation challenges and best case practices how they can be overcome.

A separate report on this was produced by Sigrun Lange and can be found at:

<http://www.europarc.org/uploaded/documents/395.pdf>

### **Excursion**

The Thursday was spent at an excursion learning from the two hosts about the best case examples of Transboundary cooperation, Visitors Management and other Protected Area Management related topics.

### **Conclusions of the meeting**

On Friday morning Sigrun Lange presented a summary of the results of the workshop which identified the most relevant topics for expertise exchange between the TransParcNet members as:

- Sustainable Finance and Funding of Transboundary Cooperation in PAs
- Communication Strategies (Barriers in peoples minds)

Richard Blackman then continued to present the output related to project development of the TransParcNet. He noted that the focus for all members was wanted to be on networking and the expertise exchange provided by the meeting.

The suggestion was made to produce in the future a book or brochure presenting the TB certified parks with the aim to communicate the value of TB cooperation better to local stakeholders and to

encourage other PAs to join the network. The book could present best case practices in TB cooperation.

### **Next Steps**

Martin Šolar then continued to present the next Steps after this meeting:

1. To communicate the Vision and Mission which were approved to the wider network
2. To produce two reports of the meeting (1 Workshops output/ 1 Meeting)
3. To produce a questionnaire and collect data on externally funded projects of TB cooperation projects in TBPAs
4. To produce a brochure on the EUROPARC TB certification process and the TransParcNet members
5. The next meeting will be hosted in the end of June 2011 Krkonoše National Park, Czech Republic and Karkonosze National Park, Poland

### **Concluding remarks**

The conclusions of the meeting were approved anomalously.

Arnold Boer concluded the meeting with honoring two of the Network members Lassi Karivallo and Richard Blackman who are leaving the network within 2010.

He then announced that the STEC will be awaiting the application from the Kosterhavet (S) – Ytre Vhaler TBPA (N).

## **Annex 1 News and Information**

### **Verifications in 2010**

No verifications were done in 2010.

### **Re-evaluations**

Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park were successfully re-evaluated in 2010. Papers for re-evaluation were sent in 2010 to the Krkonose / Karkonose and Oulanka / Panajarvi and this two pairs of TB parks will be reevaluated in 2010.

### **IUCN GREEN Belt**

The next Pan European GREEN Belt meeting will be held in Kuhmo, Finland from October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 2010. Information can be obtained from Kari Lathi.

## Annex 2 List of Participants and Protected Areas

Name	Organisation	Website
1. Abildsnes, Johannes Mr	County Governor of Finnmark (Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park)	www.fmfi.no www.pasvik-inari.net
2. Ahokumpu, Arto Mr	Metsähallitus, Ostrobothnia Natural Heritage Services (Oulanka NP)	www.metsa.fi, www.outdoors.fi www.excursionmap.fi
3. Bizhon, Aleksandr Mr	Paanajärvi National Park	http://parks.karelia.ru/paanajarvi/
4. Blackman, Richard Mr	EUROPARC Federation	www.europarc.org
5. Boer, Arnold Mr	EUROPARC Federation/STEC	-----
6. Brunner, Robert Mr	National Park Thayatal	www.np-thayatal.at
7. Chinese, Sergio Mr	Parco naturale regionale delle Prealpi Giulie	www.parcoprealpigiulie.it
8. Ehlers, Cornelia Ms	EUROPARC Federation	www.europarc.org
9. Fersch, Attila Mr	Fertő Hanság Nemzeti Park	http://www.ferto-hansag.hu/
10. Forsberg, Charlotte Ms	County Governor of Östfold (Ytre Vhaler NP)	<a href="http://www.kosterhavet.se">www.kosterhavet.se</a> <a href="http://www.ytrevaler.no">www.ytrevaler.no</a>
11. Haider, Franz Mr	Neusiedler See Nationalpark	www.nationalpark-neusiedlersee-seewinkel.at
12. Härtel, Handrij Mr	Bohemian Switzerland National Park Administration	-----
13. Karivalo, Lassi Mr	Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, EUROPARC Federation/STEC	www.metsa.fi, www.outdoors.fi www.excursionmap.fi
14. Kašpar, Jakub Mr	Krkonoše National Park Authority	www.krnap.cz
15. Kiener, Hans Mr	Bavarian Forest National Park	www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de

16. Kirchberger, Kurt Mr	Neusiedler See Nationalpark	www.nationalpark-neusiedlersee-seewinkel.at
17. Knapik, Roksana Ms	Karkonosze National Park	-----
18. Lange, Sigrun Ms	E.C.O. Deutschland	www.e-c-o-deutschland.de
19. Larsen, Bernt-Erik Mr	Hvaler municipality (Ytre Vhaler NP)	<a href="http://www.kosterhavet.se">www.kosterhavet.se</a> <a href="http://www.ytrehvaler.no">www.ytrehvaler.no</a>
20. Materna, Jan Mr	Krkonoše National Park Authority	www.krnap.cz
21. Palka, Michal Mr	Šumava National Park Administration	www.npsumava.cz
22. Phoenix, Jürgen Mr	Nationalparkverwaltung Sächsische Schweiz	www.nationalpark-saechsische-schweiz.de
23. Raj, Andrzej Mr	Karkonosze National Park	www.kpnmap.pl
24. Reishl, Gábor	Fertő Hanság Nemzeti Park	http://www.ferto-hansag.hu/
25. Reiterová, Lenka Ms	Podyjí National Park Administration	http://www.nppodyji.cz/
26. Reylink, Leo Mr	German-Dutch Nature Park Maas-Swalm-Nette	www.grenspark-msn.nl www.naturpark-msn.de
27. Santi, Stefano Mr	Parco naturale regionale delle Prealpi Giulie	www.parcoprealpigiulie.it
28. Smolej, Mojca Ms	Triglav National Park	www.tnp.si
29. Šolar, Martin Mr	Triglav National Park, EUROPARC Federation/STEC	www.tnp.si
30. Tervo, Riina Ms	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services (Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park)	www.pasvik-inari.net, www.metsa.fi, www.outdoors.fi www.excursionmap.fi

31. Valenta, Michal Mr	Šumava National Park Administration	<a href="http://www.npsumava.cz">www.npsumava.cz</a>
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## Annex 3 Meeting Programme

### EUROPARC TransParcNet Meeting 27 to 30 April, 2010

#### Venue

Hotel Johanneszeche, Florianigasse 10, A-7142 Illmitz, Austria



#### Programme

<b>Tuesday, April 27</b>	
12:30	Bus transfer from Wien-Westbahnhof Railway Station to Hotel Johanneszeche
13:30	Bus transfer from Vienna Airport to Hotel Johanneszeche
14:15	Arrival and registration at Hotel Johanneszeche
15:30	Bus transfer from Wien-Westbahnhof Railway Station to Hotel Johanneszeche
16:30	Bus transfer from Vienna Airport to Hotel Johanneszeche
17:15	Arrival and registration at Hotel Johanneszeche
18:00	Welcome, tour de table and short presentations by potential TransParcNet candidates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kosterhavet (S) – Ytre Vhaler TBPA (N)</li> <li>- Bohemian Switzerland (CZ) - Sächsische Schweiz (D) TBPA</li> </ul>
20:00	<b>Dinner at Hotel Johanneszeche</b>
	Accommodation at Hotel Johanneszeche
<b>Wednesday, April 28</b>	
	<b>Breakfast at Hotel Johanneszeche</b>
	<b>EUROPARC TransParcNet Meeting, National Parc Information Centre</b>
08:30	Opening of the meeting and information on present status of TB-issues in EUROPARC: Arnold Boer

09.00	Progress in the development of TransParcNet
	-Report on the further steps set by the first meeting: Lassi Karivalo
	-Fundraising project TransParcNet: Richard Blackman
	-Vision, mission, goals and work programme of TransParcNet: Martin Solar
10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00	Presentation of the European Green Belt: Alois Lang
11:45	Collecting examples for major challenges and related practised solutions in TB cooperation (each participants is asked to provide one example by briefly completing a questionnaire): Lead by Sigrun Lange
12.30	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30	Participants briefly present their examples written down before lunch (only a few minutes each); based on all examples presented, specific thematic groups will be distinguished. Lead by Sigrun Lange
14.30	Workshop (including coffee break): After a short coffee break, the work in thematic groups will start - based on the examples given before and the lessons learned from those examples (e.g. comparison of those lessons learned; Can the individual lessons learned be transferred to other situations? Can they be generalised? Are they good enough to prevent others from making the same mistakes or facing the same problems etc.)Lead by Sigrun Lange
17.00	Presentation of results by each thematic group. Lead by Sigrun Lange
18.00	End of the day
20.00	<b>Dinner - official invitation by Hans Niessl, governor of Burgenland</b>
<b>Thursday, April 29</b>	
	<b>Breakfast at Hotel Johanneszeche</b>
08.30	Excursion to the National Park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel (Austria)
12.30	Lunch at the "Nationalpark-Boathouse", Fertörakos (Hungary)
13.30	Excursion to the Fertő Hanság Nemzeti Park by boat and by car (Hungary)

19.30	Dinner and winetasting at the “Esterházy Winery”, Trausdorf (Austria)
<b>Friday, April 30</b>	
	<b>Breakfast at Hotel Johanneszeche</b>
08.30-10.00	<b>EUROPARC TransParcNet meeting, National Park Information Centre</b>
	Conclusions of the meeting: Chair Arnold Boer (decisions, further steps, next meeting)
10.00	Check-out at the hotel and bus transfer to Vienna
11.00	Arrival at Vienna Airport