



EUROPARC
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ALFRED
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EUROPARC Siggen Seminar – Report 2010

Gut Siggen, 17th – 24th July 2010



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The EUROPARC Federation is the largest non-governmental organisation representing national parks and other protected areas across Europe. Together, the members of the EUROPARC Federation are committed to the protection and sustainable management of Europe's natural heritage. Nature knows no boundaries and EUROPARC facilitates international co-operation to further improve and conserve our shared natural heritage and to ensure the values and benefits of protected areas are at the heart of Europe.

The Alfred Toepfer Foundation FVS is a private non-profit foundation established in 1931 by Alfred C. Toepfer. The Foundation is committed to promoting European unification as well as ensuring cultural diversity and understanding between the countries of Europe. It is mainly active in the domains of European integration, international understanding, art and culture, science, nature conservation, and youth work.

The Foundation and the EUROPARC Federation have worked closely together for a large number of years. The Foundation has charitably donated money for three Alfred Toepfer Scholarships awarded by the Federation to young conservationists each year. They have been a member of the Federation for 14 years.

From 17th – 24th July 2010 the EUROPARC Federation took up the generous offer of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation to host the first series of Siggen Seminars. EUROPARC were given free use of the Foundation's seminar centre, the Siggen Estate, on the German coast of the Baltic Sea. The seminar was a pilot for a series which will should benefit the EUROPARC Federation and its members and help to take the organisation's mission forward.



The week was split into two halves, with the first two days being dedicated to the newly reformed EUROPARC working groups and the second half to a seminar on the topic of economics and ecosystems.

1. Working groups sessions - new delivery mechanisms for the EUROPARC strategy

Following the adoption of the guidelines for working groups by the EUROPARC council in Sept 2009 the Federation collected interest from members for new groups. From Sunday to Wednesday 19 people from the following groups met at the Siggen Estate: Health and Protected Areas, Transboundary Protected Areas, Sustainable Tourism and the Economics of Ecosystems. The Wilderness working group had met previously and so did not join the seminar.

The Siggen week was the first opportunity for many of these groups to meet and discuss how to carry their work forward. With the help of the EUROPARC President, Erika Stanciu, Director, Carol Ritchie, EUROPARC staff, professional facilitator Janice Burley and some creative exercises all five groups worked incredibly hard and by the end of the seminar had produced rough action plans for development. These are available from the EUROPARC Federation and summarised below:



Working Group	Chair	Outputs for EUROPARC members
Health and Protected areas	Matti Tapaninen, Metsahallitus(Finland) or Lyn Crowe, Sheffield Hallam University (UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to an increased collected body of knowledge on health and protected areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Desktop study of existing work and good practical examples. ◦ Communication through eg. Workshops at conference 2010. • One post-2012 goal is to make a toolkit/guidelines to be used by protected area managers, practitioners. Show how Healthy Parks Healthy People concepts can be integrated into Protected Area management. • Access to a network – extending beyond the protected area sector. • Contacts with health sector. Communication of collated existing work to health sector. • Increase awareness of protected area's contribution to health – within the health sector, among the general public, etc – increasing the interest in protected areas.
Sustainable Tourism	To be agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing, evaluating and piloting the methodology of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas especially in Charter Part 1 and 2; • Designing a Capacity Building program for members and partners on Charter; • Updating and stabilizing the EUROPARC organisation on communication and networking the Charter; • Designing the lobbying & marketing methods and schedules for events and actions with/about the Charter; • European level coordination of quality development for ecotourism/sustainable nature tourism together with valid partners; • Designing on EU level Project development including external fund raising.
Transboundary	Martin Solar (To be agreed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Transboundary projects • Identifying funding sources for the Transboundary work of the Federation • Producing promotional material for certification and TransParcNet • Coordination with other Working Groups • Lobbying for cross border funding • Capacity building across Europe • Expertise exchange
Economics of Ecosystems and Economics	Hans Schiphorst (to be agreed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a LIFE+ bid to support a peatland carbon model that will inform the policy and economics understanding of carbon storage • Share information with Federation members on the economics of ecosystem services • Raising awareness of the value of PAs policy makers and the general public - perhaps through a tool for protected areas • Translating the TEEB for protected areas • This group needs more work before it becomes an official EUROPARC working group. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged and more members recruited at the EUROPARC Conference 2010.

2. Putting a Price on Nature

The second part of the week was dedicated to a seminar with the title 'Putting a Price on Nature'. It examined the questions: Is economics the new tool in the armoury of argument for protected areas in Europe? Should we and how can we value the range of ecosystem services we provide and deliver? 17 people attended from 13 different European countries and we were particularly pleased to have the input of members who we not yet had the opportunity to meet at our conference or other EUROPARC events.

The basis of the Seminar was two presentations on the topic of the economics of ecosystem services. Peter Glaves, from Northumberland University (UK), introduced participants to Ecosystem Services, how to recognise these, and different methods of evaluating them. He used examples from the North East of England to illustrate his points.

Sonia Gantioler from the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) was the second presenter. She took a European perspective and told us more about the recently produced TEEB Report on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity and the tool kit that IEEP have produced on putting a value on Natura 2000 sites.

The rest of the seminar was centred around brainstorming activities to find out 1) what the 10 salient issues of this topic were for protected area practitioners and 2) which of these EUROPARC should take forward and how.

The group came up with the following six important issues:

- 1) The relationship between the economics of ecosystem services and protected areas
 - a. Can ecosystem services bring added value to protected areas, i.e. to their management, funding and governance?
 - b. If they can, how can they bring added value to the protected area?
- 2) The scope of ecosystem services and economics
 - a. What are we measuring and why?
 - b. Who are we measuring it for?
 - c. How do we communicate the benefits?
- 3) Terminology
 - a. How do we put the issue of ecosystem services and economics into terms that practitioners and other users can understand?
- 4) Scale
 - a. On what time and on which geographic scale should the distribution of benefits of ecosystem services be discussed?
- 5) Economics and ecosystem services in relationship to cultural and heritage values
 - a. Should we place a monetary value on the intrinsic/inherent worth of a PA?
 - b. If yes, how do we measure this?
- 6) Urgency of the issue
 - a. Why is this an urgent issue?

They decided that EUROPARC should take these issues forward in the following ways:



- 1) Coordinate the creation of a glossary of terms that can be understood and used by protected area practitioners and is backed up by concrete examples
- 2) The collation of an inventory of case studies and best practice in of projects/studies concerning the economics of ecosystems
- 3) Develop a tool kit:
 - a. To communicate the value of PAs to end users, the theme within protected areas and also to politicians
 - b. That contains the case studies mentioned above
 - c. That provides information on the different methodologies
 - d. That lists the funding streams for protected areas wanting to work on this theme
 - e. That involves: EUROPARC and its members, the economics and ecosystems working group, economists, academics, national agencies, funders

3. Benefits for the EUROPARC Federation

The annual series of Siggen seminars will be beneficial to the EUROPARC Federation and its members in a number of ways. The outcomes from the working groups and from the seminar will feed into the strategic and organisational development of the organisation, allowing us to pursue and take forward important

issues and themes for Europe's protected areas and their practitioners. It will contribute to the strategy of the Federation for beyond 2012 and enable us to support our members in their field of work even more strongly than before.

In addition, EUROPARC's members will benefit directly from the event. The seminar in particular, provides members who attend with new knowledge and ideas, about topics that are important to them. These will feed back into their home regions across Europe. The outputs from both parts of the seminar will be tools that can be used to improve site management. Most importantly the Siggen Seminar brings members together from across Europe to work as an international team, to exchange ideas and input directly into the EUROPARC Federation.

Crucially the benefit of continuing these seminars annually is that it will ensure that members can actively contribute to the ongoing strategic development of the Federation.

The EUROPARC Federation would like to thank all those that attended for their hard work, the staff at Siggen for their help, support and friendly service, Janice Burley for her great facilitating and finally the Alfred Toepfer Foundation for enabling us to provide our members with this great opportunity.



4. Reactions and feedback

The whole week was very successful with a lot of very positive feedback from the participants of both events. A summary of the evaluation can be seen below. The location itself made it an extra special experience and added to the productive atmosphere. Siggen is an oasis of calm, with very attentive staff and beautiful grounds, which made it possible to do a lot of activities outside. The proximity to the sea was a bonus!

	Things you think are good	Things which could be improved
Location	Lots of good food, tranquil, Sole use for EUROPARC seminar, convenient, organised, easy to focus, bikes, great staff, proximity to beach, architecture,	Agricultural practice could be made more environmentally friendly, a map with local paths/walks/rides and information about culture and history of the area could be provided, veggie food could be better, better instructions of how to get there (marker on Google maps?), somewhere closer to the airport
Other	Direct feedback with director and president, participation of EUROPARC staff, mixture of the old and new colleagues with the participants, Informal and no time pressure, clear set of goals outlined from the start	Lighter lunch and a bit longer break after lunch, clearer communications from EUROPARC on who is responsible for what at different levels (headquarters, sections)
Topic	Presentation, good overview, orientation at start, great links to EUROPARC and its strategy	More discussion time, more factual info, more case studies, more info on subject, to send advance information a bit sooner, more at practitioner level, short questionnaire in advance to set the scene, also include cost to maintain service, request expectations in advance, include site visit
Activities	Lectures and participation, creative thinking activities, theory practice and play, these type of seminars are excellent, smooth, efficient, organized, good facilitation	Larger group would be better, information on how we (the protected areas) can take this forward – something practical.
Timing	July is a good month.	Extra day, early leavers/late arrivals make planning difficult, make it clear – need attendance throughout, avoid holiday period and/or give plenty of notice, speakers/site visit/case study on day two and/or round table forum in the evening.



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