

EUROPARC STWG

Informative Side meeting in Killarney Conference

Minutes

Time: Wednesday 1.10.2014 afternoon between 14-16 o'clock.

Venue: Hostel Countess House in Killarney, Ireland

Participants: Joel Erkkonen, Amanda Gutzman, Stefania Petrosillo, Julia Steiner, Brigida Napolitano, Richard Partington and Lasse Lovén chairman,

Objectives for the meeting: Informing each other and planning the final processing of STWG tasks to the end of 2014.

0. Opening

Lasse opened the meeting and welcome all the participants and experts

1. STWG Work plan update

We discussed about the Work Plan updates and accepted the new version for plan.

See Appendix 1: STWG Work Plan 2013-2014 updated.

2. Charter Strategy after the new EUROPARC Strategy

We recognised that General Assembly of EUROPARC Federation has accepted a new general Strategy 2015-2021. It includes also details concerning the Charter. We accepted the need to update the specified Charter Strategy and Action plan on the basis of new EUROPARC Strategy and do it before the end of 2014. This work develops the Recommendations on Charter Strategy, which STWG decided to send to Directorate and Council in June 2014.

See Appendix 2: STWG recommendations for Charter Strategy in 6.2014

3. Charter Finances

We recognized that STWG Task Group is developing the estimation model for Charter finances. Brigida and Paulo have promised to give their contribution to that as soon as possible. Brigida confirmed that aim here. The recommendations of STWG should be given before the end of 2014. Also the others in the meeting promised to give their best contributions for drafting.

See Appendix 3: Excel model for Charter budgeting

4. Comparisons of Charter to other analogous systems

We recognized that STWG Task Group has drafted a comparison of Charter and 5 other certification systems for sustainable tourism. We promised to give our contributions to make the comparisons finished before the end of 2014.

See Appendix 4: Draft report on comparisons from the STWG Task Group

We recognised that Monica Herrera-Pavia is drafting an analyses of Rainforest Alliance to be used in development of Charter. This will include the short description about the work Alliance is doing on sustainable tourism, detailed questions to Alliance about possible co-operation and remarks about the favourable options for contact persons within the Alliance to prepare a draft of MoU.

5. Charter-Transboundary parks comparisons and possible integration

We recognized that STWG Task Group has discussed with representatives of Transboundary parks WG and the STEG. Task Group is developing an analyses about these two sister systems in EUROPARC and drafting some recommendations concerning the possible harmonisation and rationalisation of these systems.

See Appendix 5. Draft Charter-TB comparison from the STWG Task Group

6. Charter official text (PART I) and template development

Brigida told that the work which was done in Vilm in April 2014 has been developed in a Task Group of Directorate forward in two memos: The first one is concerning the Charter official rules and the second is concerning the templates to be used in Charter verifying. We agreed that the first one should come to the consultation of STWG before the end of the year 2014. The second is finished in the Directorate Task Group for practical use also before the end of the year 2014

7. Charter Part III pilot in France

Julia reported on the French Part III pilot. We decided to develop the necessary recommendations of STWG concerning the Part III official text before the end of 2014.

See Appendix 6. Report on the French progress for Charter Part III

8. Official STWG meeting at the end of 2014

We heard proposals from Directorate, Latvia and Finland to host the next STWG meeting before the end of year 2014. We shall continue to prepare the STWG meeting in December 2014 after we know the days for the Charter Awarding ceremony in Brussels. We need 2 days full for the final meeting.+ plus the travel time to be scheduled.

9. Other possible items

Stefania informed about a possible Charter project outside Europa in Mediterranean region. We know now that it is possible if these external parks are members of EUROPARC.

Lasse announced that he is not continuing the STWG chairing after the end of 2014 after 4 years volunteering. STWG is supposed to continue according to the new EUROPARC Strategy.

10. End

Lasse finished the meeting and thank all the participants about their strong commitment and excellent contribution to the STWG work.
