

Transboundary Working Group and STEC

Minutes of the meeting 12th October 2013

Debrecen, Hungary



Attendance: Rolands Auzins, Arnold Boer, Vladimir Chizov, Stefano di Bernardo, Franz Haider, Tiia Kalske (for Riina Tervo), Jakub Kaspar, Juan Lloret-Salvo, Martin Solar, Leo Reyrynk (Chair of Working Group), Stefano Santi, Petra Schultheiss, Tapio Tynys

Apologies: Hans Kiener, Riina Tervo

Minutes: Petra Schultheiss

Time: 2 – 3.15 p.m.

Place: IT building, Debrecen University, Hungary

Before the meeting Leo Reyrynk sent an agenda to the members of the Transboundary Working Group.

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Minutes meeting TBWG of 4th of June in MSN Netherlands (see appendix 1)
3. Actualities last half year
4. Vision and mission TBWG (see appendix 2 and 3) and translations in European languages
5. To do list:
 - a. Elaborate project proposal further even before the Conference (appendix 4)
 - b. New guidelines for re-evaluation with on-site visit needed for verifiers
 - c. Liase Charter and TB (Charter Working Group expressed interest in Siggen to meet with TB and establish possible collaboration) / TB working group should come to Siggen next year
 - d. Paper for the EUROPARC Council with results of the TBWG 2013, budget and workplan for 2014 (should be agreed on until latest end of December)
 - e. Raise importance of TB issues with Council of Europe and/or Committee of the regions
 - f. New material/brochure/flyer etc. collect information from parks
 - g. Encourage parks for support of meetings, eg. Thayatal, Triglav, they all have seminar rooms etc. that could be used, hopefully free of charge for meetings
 - h. Strategy for approaching new members (appendix 5)
 - i. Think about mediator training, maybe not train TB people in mediation but professional mediators in TB
6. TransParcNet meeting 2014 from 3-6th June 2014 in Hainault (France/Belgium)
7. Next meeting
8. Other issues

1. Opening

The chair welcomes the members of the working group, the members of the STEC and other participants of the meeting. Leo apologizes that the agenda was not sent to the STEC Members. **Action: Leo and Petra** will in future send the STEC members a copy of the information and papers sent to the members of the working group.

2. Minutes meeting TBWG of 4th of June in MSN Netherlands (see appendix 1)

The minutes of the last Working Group meeting during TransParcNet 2013 were sent out before EUROPARC 2013. The members of the Working Group didn't have any further questions and approved the minutes.

3. Actualities last half year

- There is a Database with cross-border projects run by EUROPARC's Transboundary Areas (outcome of TPN 2013) with more than **76 projects** listed and a total budget of more than **62 Million Euro**
Action: send us (Petra or Leo) your updates about new projects at the end of the year to keep database updated
- Papers Cost & Conditions and TB in a nutshell are already translated into German, Dutch, and Italian: more European languages are required!
Action: Papers will be sent again to the members of the Working Group and STEC; please send your translations to Petra Schultheiss **until 30th November 2013**
- Article in WCPA TB newsletter published, 2nd will follow in November
- New feature on website: Discover our Transboundary Areas
Action: Please send us your article about your Transboundary cooperation
- Monthly news on Website and facebook
Action: Send us your information and pictures. We are happy to publish info about the work of EUROPARC's Transboundary Areas

4. Vision and Mission TBWG

Vision and Mission of the Transboundary Working Group were drafted and sent to the members of the Working Group together with the already existing Vision and Mission of the TransParcNet. At this meeting the Working Group agreed on the proposed Vision and Mission. Translations into more languages will be undertaken.

Action: Paper with Vision and Mission will be sent again to members of Working Group and STEC; please send **all** your new translations to Petra Schultheiss **until 30th November 2013**

5. To do list

a. Elaborate project proposal (appendix 4)

During the TransParcNet meeting 2013 in Maas-Schwalm-Nette four project ideas were developed in a workshop. The rough drafts would need to be developed further in order for EUROPARC to have project proposals ready when the right funding streams appear.

Members of the Working Group agreed to give more input into the different topics **until the end of the year**

Mind the Gap – Filling the gaps in the network: **Jakub Kaspar**

Two for one – One week package “Discover Transboundary Parks”: put on hold for the time being

Sweaty Ambassadors – Communication and Marketing: **Leo Reyriink**

Grab a granny – Junior and Senior Rangers: **Riina Tervo, Jakub Kaspar, Martin Solar, Stefano Santi**

b. New guidelines for re-evaluation with on-site visit needed for verifiers

With the new regulation of an on-site visit also for re-evaluations (which was approved by STEC end of 2012) some help for documentation for the verifier is required, also to make all re-evaluation visits comparable to each other. **Riina Tervo** (Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Area) and **Rolands Auzins** (Verifier, Council member) recently involved in the re-evaluation of Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Area agreed to make a first draft proposal for re-evaluation procedures since they have the most actual firsthand experience. This draft will then be circulated amongst the verifiers and STEC for consultation and further development and final agreement by STEC
Action: **Riina** and **Rolands** start drafting proposal. Directorate will circulate it amongst verifiers and STEC who then comment and give further input.

c. Liase Charter and TB (Charter Working Group expressed interest in Siggen to meet with TB and establish possible collaboration) / TB working group should come to Siggen next year

Participants were in favour of a closer collaboration of the two working groups. Members of the STWG with a strong Transboundary background and members of the TBWG with a strong touristic interest should be nominated to meet in Siggen 2014.

Action: Think who of Transboundary Working Group could attend meeting (Leo could if dates are suitable). Dates will be circulated as soon as possible.

d. Paper for the EUROPARC Council with results of the TBWG 2013, budget and workplan for 2014 (should be agreed on until latest end of December)

The next Council meeting will take place in January. The Transboundary Working Group together with the EUROPARC Directorate will provide a summary of the activities 2013 to give to Council liason **Rolands Auzins** in order to report to the Council. A workplan and budget for the coming year must be set up until January 2014 for the Working Group to get a new mandate for two years from the Council. A first draft should be ready end of November to further elaborate and agree on the final version before Christmas.

Action: **Leo** and **Petra** write draft summary of activities 2013; draft workplan and budget for 2014. **Rolands Auzins** will make it final for presentation in the board.

e. Raise importance of TB issues with Council of Europe and/or Committee of the regions

Further, more intensified cooperation with WCPA Transboundary Specialist Group is sought to build a strong Transboundary network and have a stronger voice towards political authorities. **Petra Schultheiss** is in contact with **Maja Vasiljevic** establishing ways of cooperation between the two organisations.

f. New material/brochure/flyer etc. collect information from parks

In order to gain new protected areas for the Transboundary Parks Programme information/ promotional material is required. The Transboundary brochure “Following nature’s design” is out of stock. It could be reprinted but certainly would

need some updating. Also a new focus (e.g. green infrastructure, adaption to climate change) could be brought in. The Directorate and the Working Group should join forces for this. **Riina Tervo** would be interested in working on this. More support of other Working Group members would be appreciated.

Action: Create “task force info material” and start elaborating ideas

- g. Encourage parks for support of meetings, eg. Thayatal, Triglav, they all have seminar rooms etc. that could be used, hopefully free of charge for meetings**
Participants thought it was a good idea to use the resources of the network. **Martin Solar** (Triglav National Park) and **Jakub Kaspar** (Krkonosze National Park) can offer accommodation and meeting room on their premises for Transboundary meetings. Food would be needed to be paid for extra.

Action: Directorate creates list of accommodation possibilities within the network.

- h. Strategy for approaching new members (appendix 5)**

An Excel file with potential protected areas to join the Transboundary Parks Programme exists already. All members should help to update it, since there is for sure information missing. Members of the Working Group together with the Directorate should approach those protected areas and speak to them about the Transboundary Parks Programme and invite them to the next TransParcNet meeting in Belgium/France to get to know the network.

Action (all): Update the Excel file with missing information. Put your own name against the names of the parks you will contact and report back to EUROPARC about the outcomes.

- i. Think about mediator training, maybe not train TB people in mediation but professional mediators in TB**

A conversation with Council member Eric Baird in Siggen regarding this topic brought up that it might be easier to train mediators on TB issues than TB people in mediation, since mediation is a very difficult task, not easily to be done and not in a short period of time.

Arnold Boer pointed out, that professional mediators could be very expensive. A solution still needs to be found.

6. TransParcNet meeting 2014

Next year's TransParcNet meeting will be kindly hosted by **Hainaut cross-border Nature Park** (B/F) from **3rd to 6th June**. The two parks Plaines de l'Escaut Nature Park (B) and Scarpe Escaut Regional Nature Park (F) look back to 30 years of cross-border cooperation and rightfully received the EUROPARC Transboundary Award at the EUROPARC Conference 2013. Potential hosts for TPN 2015 and 2016 are Triglav/Prealpi Giulie (SLO/I) and Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland (D/CZ).

7. Next TBWG meeting and others

The next meeting in person of the Working Group will take place at the TransParcNet 2014 in Hainaut cross-border Nature Park (B/F) in early June (3rd to 6th June). A skype/conference call meeting early next year to further coordinate tasks might be recommendable.

There might be the possibility for some members of the Transboundary Working Group to come to Siggen in September to meet with the other Working Groups, especially with members of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group invited. More information on that will be available soon.

8. Other issues

- Regarding a closer cooperation between WCPA Transboundary Specialist Group and EUROPARC: participants wished for both organisations to invite each other mutually to meetings like the TransParcNet or the WCPA TB SG meeting. If it is not possible for the EUROPARC Directorate to attend those meetings a member of STEC or the Working Group should be present to get and give firsthand information. For the last WCPA TB SG meeting (16-18th October 2013) in Thayatal National Park (A) a solution was found, sending Kari Lahti from Metsähallitus. It would be appreciated if funds for covering the costs of one participant from EUROPARC to WCPA TB SG groups would be available. EUROPARC would like to intensify the cooperation with WCPA TB SG but unfortunately the flow of information wasn't so smooth until now. Kari Lahti was asked to speak to WCPA TB SG to put EUROPARC on info list and receive regular updates on their work.
- There is a need for education of further verifiers for the TB certification and evaluation.
- Prealpi Giulie Nature Park (IT) and Triglav National Park/ Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (SL) and the Bavarian Forest National Park (D) and Sumava National Park (CZ) have to be re-evaluated next year.
- Thayatal National Park (A) cancelled its membership with EUROPARC for end of 2013. Until then they are a member of the Federation and form a Transboundary Area with the partner National Park Podyjí (CZ). With the beginning of 2014 the Transboundary Certificate will be withdrawn from both parks. If the new director of Thayatal decides to join the Federation again, a new evaluation of Thayatal and Podyjí to become certified Transboundary Areas again would be necessary.

Regensburg, 22.10.2013



Leo Reyrink, Chair of TBWG



Petra Schultheiss, EUROPARC