
Strategy Consultation

Summary of Section Workshops

Conclusions

Main targets for 2030:

1. **Improve Protected Areas / N2000:** Function, Role, Recognition, Competencies and Management effectiveness.
2. **Further develop EUROPARC:** who we are and how we work. Including communication, networking, role of sections, commissions. Provide learning exchange opportunities (webinars, workshops...), connect members, invest in strategic alliances.
3. **Contribution to development and implementation of EU policies and role of PAs.** Main focus on Green Deal, EU Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Change, urban-periurban, funding for PAs, SDGs.
4. **Ensure policy integration, promote engagement of local communities and stakeholders, raise awareness of wider public.**
5. **Ensure and promote Youth engagement.**

6. **Develop sustainable agriculture processes and practices** in Pas and N2000.
7. **Implement partnerships between health and biodiversity (PAs):** develop Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative.
8. **Support Climate change adaptation:** processes, tools and measures for PAs.
9. Support and strengthen the function of **Periurban PAs, Green Infrastructures, Ecological Corridors, Cultural Values.**
10. **Further progress on Sustainable Tourism agenda and on PA public use/access.**

Main trends and changes to be factored:

1. **SOCIAL CHANGES:** demography, health, culture, behaviors...
2. **Communication** (incl awareness raising) **and technology**
3. **PROTECTED AREAS:** role, values, management, competencies and knowledge gaps.
4. **Political and economic changes**
5. **Climate change:** impact on habitats, species, resources (water) and landscape use (including energy developments in PAs)
6. **Sustainability:** in development, tourism, economy, transports, agriculture
7. **Integration of policies and approaches**

What EF is doing well:

1. **WHO WE ARE:** governance, aims, structure, strategy and vision
2. **Networking and knowledge:** learning exchange, capacity building, technical resources
3. **Youth engagement, Sustainable Tourism, Transboundary, Health Initiative**
4. **Communication**
5. **Policy and advocacy work**

What to improve/strengthen:

1. **Networking, Capacity Building, Knowledge Sharing**
2. **Technical tools for PAs:** including projects, guidelines, programs (charter, health, ...)
3. **Who we are and how we work:** governance, management, monitoring, strategic planning...
4. **Communication and awareness raising**
5. **Build partnerships**

New ideas:

1. Learning exchange, knowledge sharing, networking platforms, twinning...
2. Visibility of EF and PAs, communication and awareness raising
3. Technical support and assistance for PA management

4. **Review/strengthen EF organisation structure:** governance, partnerships, how we work, vision...
5. **Visibility of EF and PAs, communication and awareness raising**
6. **Support and Tools for project development**

Main changes to achieve in 2030:

1. Improve PA's knowledge and promote networking
2. Strengthen EUROPARC voice, visibility, role, position
3. Strengthen PA's visibility, function, role, position
4. Strengthen nature conservation implementation in Europe addressing biodiversity loss, CC, agriculture, sustainable development and health: EU Biodiversity Strategy Implementation.
5. EU policy and advocacy for biodiversity
6. Ensure and support youth engagement
7. Provide benefits to wider society
8. Develop projects – build partnerships
9. Grow the organization: sections, members, subsidiarity, ensure common vision
10. Further develop the Charter for Sustainable Tourism

EUROPARC Strategy 2021 (October 2020)

Council, Sections, Directorate Workshop - summary

A) Aspects we need to factor in when defining priorities and areas of work

- Internal factors: capacities, legal framework, governance...
- External factors: uncertainty, economics, politics, technology.
- Link with members: members support and participation levels, members expectations.
- European context: EU policies, non EU member countries, variation in PA management, languages.
- Global framework: sustainability, cooperation extra-Europe, global trends.
- EUROPARC core values, attitudes, inspiration, approaches, decision making, flexibility.

B) Main criteria for prioritizing

1. We need to use financial sustainable criteria
2. Listening and being relevant to Members
3. Be technically and legally competent
4. To have a positive impact on nature
5. Align with EU policies on Protected Area management and nature conservation

Main ideas emerged for strategic action

1- EUROPARC a strategic and delivering organisation

Strategic approach, working method, attitude

- **Few and clear priorities.** Clear commitment needed for each common action inside EF network we decide to take forward.
- Keep being an **inspiration for the protected area** network

Targets

- Ensure **financial stability**
- Diversify income, increase membership
- Have a sustainable and sustained directorate that has capacity to meet members expectations and build on current strengths
- **Youth** engagement involvement and programs - Youth are integral to our work
- Be well-known as EUROPARC Federation and its members
- Networking integral to work
- Centre of excellence on PA capacity building
- Security of directorate function
- Enhance role of sections

2 - Support PA management

Strategic approach, working method, attitude

- Clearly prioritised goals and clear commitment to them
- Guarantee resources are used to support real needs, networking force, and role in experimenting and disseminating. Promote projects that involve different members
- Keep stressing the importance of ethical management
- Find ways to involve youth in creating and developing new ways of working for EF
- Having fun, making the federation famous for fun meetings and being proud

Targets

- Push for 30% of land and sea being protected and effectively managed by 2030
- Build a common NATURA 2000 management methodology
- Incentivise ethical management in the context of the bigger picture for multiple benefits
- Expand our coverage on **marine** topic

- Demonstrate the role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Linked and upscaled approach to HPHPe, Peri-urban and sustainable tourism work
- Develop projects that support and develop PA work
- Develop experts within EF

3 – Learn together

Strategic approach, working method, attitude

- A thriving, zippy, inclusive, active and growing network with inspirational culture, connecting with others beyond environment sector (health, business, art)

Targets

- All PAs are better managed, have management plans and monitoring tools in place.
- Improve Young people engagement in PA (involvement of youth, incorporated at all levels and supported through various schemes) and offer opportunities for youth professional development (env/PA sector)
- Centre of excellence / parks academy on PA management
- Increase capacity building offers
- Diversify media

4 – Strategic level influence

Strategic approach, working method, attitude

- A well balanced system of PR/influence/lobbying, at the different levels among EUROPARC Directorate/Members/Sections
- Lead by example to achieve good level of ambition
- To have a lobbying strategy and action plan that's been developed with members and sections, and built in has ability to rapidly react when there is a possibility to influence.

Targets

- Contribute to implement EU targets for PAs: effective management, 30% protection, 10% strict protection
- Improve biodiversity and status of protected areas, reverse biodiversity loss
- Increase and improve alliances

5 – Grow EUROPARC

Strategic approach, working method, attitude

- Dialogue - idea of dialogue based on ways of horizon scanning and more active types of information collection
- Horizon Scanning
- It's time to think big for our Federation. Be innovative, bigger in size - "Bigger better stronger bolder"
- Moving towards a carbon zero network - seen as a gap not included in these categories
- Risk and contingency planning enhanced

Targets

- Financial stability allowing to ensure a new stable core of EUROPARC, with growth, and to enlarge the staff in numbers and in countries they are based. Core staff independent of project funds.
- Refined, clear agreed and effective governance system which has streamlined structures within it
- Larger membership: all PA are member of the Federation VS more diverse membership (poss. new categories of membership, should include an active role in PA management). The Umbrella of EF being largest PA membership in Europe

Main ideas emerged for strategic action

1- EUROPARC a strategic and delivering organisation

Tools for implementation and ideas

Ensure networking

- Online forum to facilitate contact among members
- More/better links and communication with EU instances, national governments + general public
- Inclusive relationship with other sectors' organisations
- Strategic cooperation and networking with other protected area networks, including working on tools that erode language barriers
- More networking, project and tools development, exchanges between members/Sections/HQ.

Directorate

- Full time position of fundraiser
- Resources to double the staff of HQ

Sections

- all members part of a section
- give sections bigger role and individuality
- sections are an equal part of the Federations' activities in delivering to members and on wide European projects

2 - Support PA management

Tools for implementation - Ideas

- Expert Groups. Understanding where the competencies lie and define experts within the members

- Develop peer to peer support through the creation of an enriched members directory accessible to members only
- EUROPARC federation certification schemes - Ensure added value of European charter for sustainable tourism and other charters.
- More exchange between people from different countries, direct contact between specialists
- Develop big relevant long term programs. Need to be programs eg ECTS health and youth. from which more specific projects hang
- Support protected areas with capacity building guidelines and schemes to improve management in different areas of work
- Support management monitoring and assessment: promoting evaluation, green list and others. Don't reinvent evaluations, many already exist, harness them to build greater cohesion
- Better involvement of the technical real experts into the work of EUROPARC Federation

Priorities identified:

- 1) Incentivize ethical management
- 2) List of EF experts able to mentor and offer ad hoc support
- 3) EF incentivizes and monitors PA to improve delivering

3 – Learn together

Tools for implementation - ideas

- Regular online events.
- School of parks, EUROPARC PA academy which runs effective learning for a wide range of PA staff. Training centre, school of parks academy. What do we mean by that? A great foundation for coordinating and facilitating learning. Internationally recognised and a valuable income

stream for EUROPARC Federation. Brand of the Federation for capacity building activities.

- Create continuous education program on PA management with different levels, from beginner to expert
- Train and engage new generation of PA managers
- Keep on providing capacity building webinars and extend the topics
- Create an online networking platform for members where they have a profile, can write messages to each other and have a forum, kind of new-stream to share ideas with the overall network (might also grow to an e-learning platform as a part of EUROPARC School)
- Networking and bringing experts together - strengthen exchange by focus on topics, might also be useful for EUROPARC school of parks
- Create a network linking young people to experts
- Contribute to diversify workforce in PA - knowledge, age, ethnicity...
- Webinar will be most relevant way of involving members with a positive impact on our ecological footprint
- Cross-sector platforms
- Develop ERASMUS like exchange and mentoring program
- EUROPARC champions the importance of education for nature and biodiversity, being part of the schooling system.
- Youth involvement, continuation and further development of junior ranger program. learning from each other how to involve youth in the first place
- Further develop webinars and online learning and develop skills/guidelines for the production of high-quality webinars
- International cooperation with Latin America, Africa and Asia

Priorities identified:

1. Establish the European School of Parks (or equivalent)
2. Strengthen the capacity and role of young people
3. Promote informal learning, networking and exchange to speed up the pace of learning

4 – Strategic level influence

Tools for implementation - ideas

- Broaden and strengthen our connection with other sectors and networks; allies for dialogue and change
- EUROPARC acts as facilitator to increase lobbying capacity of sections and members
- Diversify use of media to reach different audiences, eg Netflix
- Local Heroes award scheme for engaged conservationists
- Mechanism in place to disseminate the importance of PA as something relevant for entire society
- Natural and cultural heritage promoted together
- Strategic connections with other networks and sectors
- Work on Agriculture and CAP reform

Consequences/benefits expected

- EUROPARC is recognised as the go-to org for PA management and policy
- EUROPARC is well known respected and bigger, a good trademark for PA
- EUROPARC regularly mentioned in the press
- EUROPARC seen as leaders in adaptation to CC and increasing resilience
- New nature conservation areas of Europe will be members of EUROPARC

Priorities identified:

1. Connect with other sectors and potential allies at strategic level to influence and build dialogue for change
2. Be a reference contact point for the EU and influence EU current environmental policies and direction
3. Champion Protected Areas at highest levels in Europe

5 – Grow EUROPARC

Tools for implementation - ideas

- Agreements and memoranda of understanding with other networks, sections and stakeholders to work together for PAs and nature conservation
- Evaluation and impact assessment
- Giving a 'home kit' to new members and increasing number of younger members.
- Increase role and responsibility of Sections
- When problems occur, rapid alerts will highlight need for response
- Multi-language information services (not only through web)
- The continuous monitoring of the success of EF with indicators
- To be looking for the ability to resource staff in sections, so those with less resources can build and get them
- To get all PAs into membership, before there's an endeavor to go broader
- be innovative, eg organising webinars on topics outside of PA world, involving different orgs
- EF has a close partnership with all sections and tries to coordinate with council and Sections and vice versa
- High quality services to ensure those are valued and successes shared as part of recruitment strategy to enable the growth

Further thoughts:

- Have emergency plans if things go wrong
- While developing the strategy ensure we keep a realistic approach as resources are limited. (Innovative solutions might help).