

EUROPARC Siggen Seminar Report 2013

Gut Siggen, September 2 – 7, 2013

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From 2 – 7 September, the EUROPARC Federation took up the generous offer of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation to host the fourth Siggen Seminar and side meetings week at the beautiful estate of Gut Siggen.

*EUROPARC were given free use of the Foundation's seminar centre, the Siggen Estate on the German coast of the Baltic Sea. This one week in a year greatly benefits the EUROPARC Federation and its members and helps to take the organisation's mission forward. The week was split in three parts: The first two days were dedicated to the seminar on **Purpose and process of Management Planning for protected areas**, the other days EUROPARC working groups and staff meetings took place. In addition, this year EUROPARC Siggen participants got the unique opportunity for a late night talk with **Prof. Dr. Hans Köpp**, listening to his experience with the founder of EUROPARC, Alfred Toepfer himself and the early days of the Federation.*

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Introduction



The EUROPARC Federation is the largest non-governmental organisation representing protected areas of different kind 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 charitably donates money for three Alfred Toepfer Scholarships awarded by the Federation to young conservationists each year.

From 2 –7 September, the EUROPARC Federation took up the generous offer of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation to host the fourth Siggen Seminar and side meetings week at the beautiful estate of Gut Siggen. EUROPARC were given free use of the Foundation's seminar centre, the Siggen Estate on the German coast of the Baltic Sea. The whole seminar week was attended by 34 people. The seminar benefits the EUROPARC Federation and its members and helps to take the organisation's mission forward. The week was split in three parts: The first two days were dedicated to the seminar on **Purpose and process of Management Planning for protected areas**, the other days EUROPARC working groups and staff meetings took place. In addition, this year EUROPARC Siggen participants got the unique opportunity for a late night talk with **Prof. Dr. Hans Köpp**, listening to his experience with the founder of EUROPARC, Alfred Toepfer himself and the early days of the Federation.

I. Siggen Seminar 2013:

The Purpose and process of Management Planning for Protected Areas



The Siggen Seminar is an annual event that EUROPARC has been running for four years thanks to the generous support of the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S., aimed at the mid-level protected area professionals. These seminars aim to convert theory into practice by bringing together individuals with different background and from different parts of Europe to share their knowledge, ideas and experiences. At the end of the two-day seminar, participants take away new perspectives and approaches to help them improve the effectiveness

of their work in their own protected area.

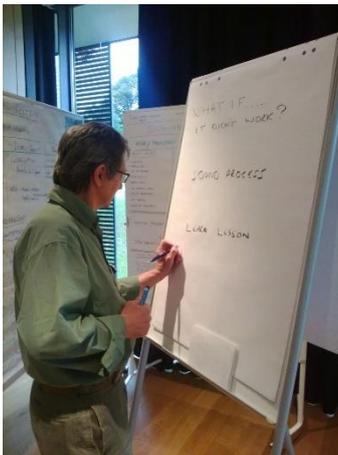
As a part of the 2013 anniversary year theme of EUROPARC's **"40 years Working for Nature"**, the topic for the fourth annual EUROPARC seminar was oriented on: **"The Purpose and process of Management Planning for protected areas."**

As the speed of change increases everywhere in Europe, the natural environment of Europe's protected areas, their landscapes, wildlife and the cultural features within them are increasingly being recognised as not just pleasant places. They have a bigger and more significant role to play in 21st century life. Their wildlife, ecosystems and natural resources act as life support systems for our daily needs, their historic character provides a window into our heritage and their open spaces increasingly offer refreshment and havens from the pressures of urban life. Collectively all these features provide invaluable opportunities to learn, understand and appreciate the importance of these special places.

How we protect these qualities whilst enabling people to enjoy them is the challenge facing those who prepare Management Plans for Europe's most cherished areas. The role of the Plans which guide the management of Europe's Protected Areas is therefore becoming increasingly important. Their effectiveness will be the measure by which future generations judge the success of our collective efforts to safeguard these special areas.

This EUROPARC Seminar explored what makes a Management plan for a Protected Area and N2000 site effective, publicly acceptable and targeted at achieving the right things.

Although, every protected area in Europe is different, a series of common principles apply to the process of management planning, no matter what the size, context or aims of the area. Through a combination of case studies and worked examples, the seminar examined the Process of preparing Plans and the content of a sound Plan.



The seminar was led by **Mike Appleton** who has been involved in protected area management for 25 years in more than 30 countries, both with the international NGO Fauna and Flora International and as an independent consultant for UNDP, the World Bank, GIZ, WWF and IUCN.

Mike has facilitated the participatory development of more than 25 protected area management plans, from Cambodia to St Lucia to Romania training local staff and experts, preparing manuals and guidance materials and working with local teams to undertake the planning process.

The whole seminar was split into several topics, each containing both lecture and interactive sessions, including discussions and tips. A short overview of each theme covered is shown below:

1. [Basic Principles of Management Planning](#)

The seminar began with an evening session, introducing the participants to the plan for the next days, asking them to suggest on topics and certain areas they would like to cover. The seminar's plan was then slightly adjusted to the enquiries on focusing on certain areas a bit more. The topic of the seminar was more detailed introduced.

What and why: Introduction to the terms: “management”, “plan”, “management plan”

Why do we need a management plan?

‘For special areas of conservation, Member States shall establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the natural habitat types in Annex I and the species in Annex II present on the sites.’ **EU Habitats Directive, Article 6(1)**

Additional reading: “Preparing a conservation blueprint”

2. Management Plan as a Product: Basic elements of a management plan

What is a management plan?

This part of the seminar examined the content and format of management plans, looking at a range of widely used formats and approaches and the options for what can be included in a plan.

“If there is no general management plan, preservation, development and use activities in a park will occur in a haphazard basis, often in response to political pressures with little consideration as to the implications for the future? The result is likely to be lost opportunities and irreversible damage to park resources and values” (Young & Young 1993 (IUCN))

Principles of Management Planning. Different Management Approaches.

This part of the Seminar investigated the role and purpose of a management plan. It looked at for whom, what and where a management plan is for, and sought to identify what conditions are required for a plan to be useful and effective; in particular what are the factors that make a management plan succeed or fail.

3. Management planning as a process:

A step by step journey through a participatory process for developing a management plan

This part of the seminar looked at the step by step guide of putting a plan together. It considered the processes and implications of preparing a successful plan, who and how to involve. How to make a plan simpler to understand and more appealing, how to make it more effective in influencing others. “Management planning is a continuous **process** that enables the rational, effective, efficient and adaptive management of a protected area. Resulting from this process, the management plan directs the management of the protected area towards specific objectives for a defined period.” In the end of this session a big focus was put on **what makes a plan successful**. If it is to be implemented and effective the plan must be a part of a planning system, supported, process-oriented, developed with those who will implement it, the right size, accessible, appropriate, adaptive, realistic, official...

4. Making the Management Plan Work

After having a successful plan, the big question arose; **how to make it work?** Management planning does not end with the publication of the plan document. The final part of the seminar focused on putting plans into action; mobilizing resources, building the capacity of protected area staff to use the plan, monitoring implementation and its impacts and adapting and revising plans based on the experience of management. The workshop leader, Mr. Appleton introduced the participants in some **basic approaches and parameters for management plans, management plan formats and a structure for comprehensive management plans.** These were the key points, where the participants could have compared their current plans with the standards and necessary tips to include when creating ones.

In order to understand the range of current approaches, participants brought examples of their own Management Plans and their experiences in preparing, shared them among the group and the facilitators to compare the differences, advantages and disadvantages of their current plans.

5. Communicating the Management Plan

In the last session of the workshop, the focus was put on what actually makes a management plan work, but from the communications point of view. This session was led by EUROPARC's Director, Ms Carol Ritchie with a short input from EUROPARC's Communications officer, Ms Dea Mijakovac. The session included topics on how to create a good publication, a publication that will reach its audience. To do so, a specific design tips on how to create the publication, where to be careful and what kind of writing style to use were introduced. Participants in this interactive morning session had an opportunity to think about all the communication products their protected areas use, and how the management plan can be created as one of them.



Outcomes of the seminar

Drawing on experiences from across Europe, participants explored how a series of essential principles and good practices should be combined to ensure that a Management Plan for a Protected Area makes a real difference. The seminar therefore provided a unique opportunity to share experiences, develop new ways of thinking and learn new skills.

List of Siggen Seminar Participants

Firstname	Surname	Organization	Country
Eevamaria	Harala	Metsähallitus/ Natural Heritage Services	Finland
Katia	Župan	Public Institution of Krka National Park	Croatia
Matthew Richard	Scanlon	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	UK
Albert	Kaminer	Ramat Hanadiv Memorial Gardens & Nature Park	Israel
Roland	Müür	The Environmental Board	Estonia
Taavi	Tattar	The Environmental Board	Estonia
Csaba	Bereczki	Hortobágy National Park Directorate	Hungary
Gyula	Szabó	Hortobágy National Park Directorate	Hungary
Tammy	Adams	Northumberland National Park Authority	UK
Giacomo	Benelli	EUROPARC Verifier for the ECST	Italy
Michael	Pugh	Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	UK
Ivita	Germane Kappel	Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia	Latvia
Signe	Jørgensen	National Park Thy	Denmark
Stefania	Petrosilli	Federparchi	Italia
Facilitators and workshop leader			
Carol	Ritchie	EUROPARC Federation Directorate	Scotland
Dea	Mijakovac	EUROPARC Federation Directorate	Croatia
Mike	Appelton	Workshop Leader	UK
Eric	Baird	EUROPARC Federation Council Member	Scotland

Evaluation of the Siggen Seminar

13 participants of the seminar out of 14 filled in a questionnaire to evaluate the event as a whole. Their responses and input towards the seminar were generally very positive.

Promotion: Participants had learnt about the seminar through the e-News (3), their employer (3), the website (3), Facebook page (1) or colleagues (4). For many of them, the interesting topic of management planning was the main motivation to participate, but also the chance of experiencing an international networking persuaded people to join the seminar.

The attendees were quite satisfied with the general communication concerning the workshop.

Information: For future seminars, it is highly recommended to provide more information on the list of participants so as people can liaise to each other and send out material previous to the seminar.

In general, expectations of participants were met in terms of gaining new knowledge, skills and experience, the information provided, and information around protected areas' situation in Europe. The networking opportunity was also appreciated.

Content and structure: 11 out of 13 respondents were very satisfied with the content of the workshop and the information provided. One of them considers that the knowledge acquired during the seminar would be really useful for LIFE programme proposals. As a suggestion, participants would have preferred to have longer sessions on certain subjects and explanations.

The level of technical equipment was highly appreciated, only one person considering that it was on an average level.

Most of them were satisfied with the level of interacting, but there were some participants who considered that the sessions were too intensive and some outdoor activities would be recommended for the future seminars.

The workshop leader was highly appreciated.

General comments and recommendations: more examples on specific topics, more free time and field trips and as a suggestion – the organization of this annual event during May/June.

*Complete analysis of the survey taken in Siggen is available in the Appendix I.

II. EUROPARC Staff Meeting and Development



Gut Siggen provided a great environment to host, another round of internal meetings for EUROPARC.

It is one of the most important strategic meetings where many of the Federation's key players come together. Siggen offered EUROPARC this unique opportunity to bring together members of the council, working groups and staff to plan and consider the future of the Federation. Brainstorming sessions, revealing ideas, prioritizing and time planning. This year Siggen week was

especially important and unique, as prof.dr. Hans Kopp, who worked side to side with Alfred Toepfer, founder of EUROPARC, shared an evening of talking about the old times in the Federation and how it all started. Having the opportunity to listen to Mr. Kopp, his incredible experiences and how the Federation grew for today's Federation's key people was an extraordinary experience.

In a final session, EUROPARC Federation identified priorities for the federation's work looking at shared benefits, capacity building, training & education, and the development of the federation's protected areas network.

Staff meeting participants:

- Carol Ritchie, Director
- Federico Minozzi, Policy Officer
- Dea Mijakovac, Communications Officer
- Petra Schultheiss, Project Officer
- Meldra Langenfelde, Executive Administrator
- Brigida Napolitano, Senior Admin Assistant

EUROPARC Working Groups Meetings

Meeting of the STWG Task Groups - Strategy, Global and Charter Method

In parallel to the EUROPARC staff meeting, work planning and evaluation, Siggen was a great opportunity to discuss one of the EUROPARC's most developed products, the Charter. Sustainable tourism working group had a couple of intense working days too. The STWG meeting was attended by 9 members; (Lasse Lovén, Paulo Castro, Richard Partington, Mike Pugh, Stefania Petrosillo, Giacomo Benelli, Josep Maria Prats, Julia Steiner and expert consultant Gilles Clemente). All of the sessions were very well structured and all of the participants had the chance to present certain areas from their countries, including examples from Charter part I, II to part III. They discussed and commented on all of the presentations, positive experiences, critical details and certain points of risks. The discussions arose a new decision, on creating the STWG Task Group formed up from: Paulo Castro along with the representatives of three sections (Italy, Spain and France).

Some of the key points that the task group will do are:

- Create a proposal to all the other Sections to be consulted about the possible interest in doing and providing the same Charter management services in all sections.
- Analyse the presented methods in Part I, II and III, also in the terms of cost, practical management and transferability, when the national or regional government are supporting the management structure with funding or not.
- A specific timetable will be created by the end of the year, taking into account the changes of Charter administration.

The group on sustainable tourism continues its work around the European Charter, a most successful program of the EUROPARC Federation. The next STWG meeting will take place in Debrecen Conference as a side meeting on Saturday 12.10.2013.

Meeting of the Health and Protected Areas Working Group

Participated: Richard Blackman, Eric Baird, Bridget Finton, Matti Tapaninen



The 2 day working group meeting was very productive, participants brought in ideas from their own areas, contributed on how to develop them further and what are the next necessary steps. They concluded the meeting with a several points on their "to do" list, from a desk study that will be conducted to best practice examples published and more visibility on the EUROPARC website concerning the topic. The main focus of the meeting was how to provide a better access to each other's knowledge, experiences, good examples, and best practices.

Health and Protected Areas Working Group through their work, greatly formulates the EUROPARC's standpoint on health and brings in ideas to participate in joint projects and develop cross section work.

Benefits for the EUROPARC Federation

The outstanding environment and peacefulness of Gut Siggen encourages the spirit of EUROPARC people. The results gained during this week greatly contribute to unite us as an international federation and provide us with directions for the federation's development.

The sharing of experiences and learning about the expertise within EUROPARC is most beneficial to all members. The time in Siggen does greatly contribute to strengthen the awareness about our "quality marks", and develop our unique and relevant fields of expertise.

Communication is crucial for an international network. At the Siggen seminars people who are working in protected areas get to learn from each other and expand their network across Europe. This by no means a most treasured opportunity. Working with young professionals and connecting them to the core principles and vision of the federation allows us to pursue and take forward our role from a political and socio-economic and conservation perspective. We will incorporate the seminar output into our strategy beyond 2013 supporting our members in their field of work.

Thus, EUROPARC's members directly benefit from the skills participants gained on conflict management as they will work more consciously on conflictive issues. The benefit of continuing these seminars every year is that they will ensure that members can actively contribute to the ongoing development of the Federation. Ideas for future seminars will be taken into account for future planning.

Most importantly, the Siggen Seminars bring people together from across Europe to closely work with each other and share experiences, ideas, and important information. The EUROPARC Federation would like to thank all participants for their contribution; the staff at Gut Siggen for their support, patience, the wonderful food and friendly service; Mike Appelton for his professional input as trainer and moderator of the seminar.

And finally, we thank the Alfred Toepfer Foundation for enabling EUROPARC Federation to provide our members with this seminar and facilitate this year's high level meeting.



Appendix I

Evaluation of the Siggen Seminar September 2013

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The workshop leader was highly appreciated.

General comments and recommendations: more examples on specific topics, more free time and field trips and as a suggestion – the organization of this annual event during May/June.

Responses details per question	
<p>Q1: How did you find out about the workshop and what made you participate?</p> <p>Q1a: How did you find out about the workshop? (Multiple answers possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: 3 • E-news: 3 • Colleague: 4 • Employer: 3 • Other: 2 (facebook + National Agency for Nature Protection) <p>Q1b: What made you participate? Answers given: The topic of the seminar and the international networking.</p>	<p>Q5: What is your opinion on the structure of the workshop and the style of presenting? Recommendations/ suggestions for improvements given by participants (free answers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better time planning; • More insights on the subject; • Presentation of the tools at a more comfortable pace, without a rush; • Longer sessions and explanations; • More time to explore the subject; • More examples; • More field trips;
<p>Q2: How satisfied are you with the general communication concerning the workshop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor: 0; • Below average: 0; • Average: 2 • Above average: 3 • Excellent: 7 <p>Recommendations given by participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More info on the list of participants 	<p>Q6: How satisfied are you with the level and amount of technical equipment available for the workshop? Poor:0; Below average: 0; Average: 1; Above average: 2; Excellent: 9.</p> <p>No recommendation for improvements made by the participants;</p>
<p>Q3: Have your expectations regarding the workshop been met? Yes: 10; No: 0; Q3a: How and why were your expectations met? (Participants could freely answer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge on the theoretical side of management planning • Guidelines and useful information • International exchange of experience in the field of protected areas • Good networking • Excellent workshop leader <p>Q3b: If not, why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of leisure time; • Lack of clarity regarding the steps of the planning guide; • The need for more specific examples; 	<p>Q7: Do you feel you had enough opportunities to network/ interact with other participants and discuss your cases?</p> <p>Yes: 9; No:2;</p> <p>Comments and recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions were too intensive; • Not enough time to interact; • More leisure time;
<p>Q4a: Are you satisfied with the content of the workshop and the information you received? Yes: 11; No: 0</p>	<p>Q8: Are you satisfied with the timing of the workshop (e.g. amount of breaks; length of lectures)?</p>

<p>Q5: What is your opinion on the structure of the workshop and the style of presenting? Recommendations/ suggestions for improvements given by participants (free answers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better time planning; • More insights on the subject; • Presentation of the tools at a more comfortable pace, without a rush; • Longer sessions and explanations; • More time to explore the subject; • More examples; • More field trips; 	<p>Yes: 7; No: 0.</p> <p>Recommendations/ suggestions given by participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More days allocated for this seminar; • The second day was too intense for the participants; • Participants would prefer to attend the seminar in May/June rather than autumn; • Outdoor activities combined with theoretical sessions
	<p>Q9: Do you have any other comments or recommendations for future workshops?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information about the theme provided before the seminar; • Liaise more with the participants to facilitate a good networking.