

## EUROPARC Federation, Section Meeting

<b>Location:</b>	The Sustainable House (EUROPARC Federation office), Brussels, Belgium				
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 22 October 2009	<b>Start :</b>	10:30	<b>End :</b>	16:00
<b>Attendees :</b>	Representatives of Sections present: Stefania Petrosillo (I), Marta Múgica, Dan Bloomfield (EAI), Olaf Holm (F), Lena.Malmstrom (NB), Thomas Hansson (NB), Handrij Hartel (CZ)  Others Present: Martin Lane (Section Representative on Council, UK), from EUROPARC Federation: Carol Ritchie (Director), Richard Blackman (Deputy Director), Federico Minozzi (Project Coordinator), Cornelia Ehlers (Executive Administrator)				
<b>Apologies</b>					

	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
<b>1. Welcome and introductions</b>		<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	ML welcomed the participants and thanked the directorate team for hosting the meeting in Brussels. He officially opened the meeting and introduced the Agenda		
<b>2 Minutes of the last meeting, 10 September 2009</b>		<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	ML went through the minutes of the last meeting. There were no requests for adjustments	The minutes were unanimously agreed.	
<b>3. Agree additional agenda items for this meeting</b>		<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	ML continued to ask whether there were any requests for additional agenda items. No requests for additional agenda items were made.	The agenda was agreed.	
<b>4. Review Federation's draft workplan and funding bid : Input from and identify links to the Section workplans (see papers emailed from Carol on Sunday)</b>		<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
	ML thanked CR for preparing and sending the workplan as well as the previous EU NGO grant application and asked her to explain the input that was needed from the sections for this work plan and why. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU NGO grant and its application process were explained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>it makes up 16% of the Federations budget and amounts to 106.000 Euro.</li> <li>The biggest shares of the grant go to WWF, EEB and Birdlife International.</li> <li>it is an operational grant that is mostly used for travel for council meeting, representation on events, conferences, etc.</li> <li>There is no guarantee for the grant.</li> <li>The regulations for the application are strict – non negotiable (format, etc...).</li> </ul> </li> <li>the importance to show the EU the whole work programme and impact the Federation is making was stressed and that including the Sections work will add value to the Federations work</li> <li>It was stressed that the Federation is not claiming to be doing any of the sections activities; it is to show the EU that the Federation is more than just the Federations activities.</li> <li>CR explained the work plan and stated that in an effort of tidying up the workplan the number of objectives had come down from 30 to 10</li> </ul> <b>Comments and Questions:</b>		The Sections are to send input on the workplan to RB and CR by Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A discussion on the repetition of objectives throughout the document evolved and it was suggested that the objectives and activities of EUROPARC that meet the EU-policy areas should rather be selected and put in the most appropriate policy area.</li> <li>• The need for a strong Federation was expressed and the willingness of the Sections to contribute with documents and information, since the Sections carry out activities that the Federation might not know of but that still fulfil the Federations objectives.</li> <li>• During a discussion on the accuracy of the information, it was clarified that the Federation has to report back to the EU on anything put into the work programme and if projects are not done the Federation needs to justify why they were not done. The EU checks this very thoroughly. Only quite certain activities planned for 2010 should be mentioned.</li> <li>• A question on the budgetary aspects arose, since in the application there is only the EUROPARC budget, but not the salary of the Sections staff and costs. It was clarified that it is not possible to get double funding and that e.g. the Federation is also taking out the finance aspects of the WWF project and Parks&amp;Benefits Project. It was expressed that it is necessary to show the value of the work all do, but at the financial part double funding needs to be avoided. It is necessary to distinguish between content of the work and budgets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Timetable for Section Input to Federation</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Sections Input into the work plan need to be made by <b>November 13<sup>th</sup> 2009</b> to RB since from November 16<sup>th</sup> the Federation team will be putting together all administrative documents in Grafenau.</p> <p>ML then continued to lead into the input session and stressed that especially indicators and targets need to be included in any activity. In the following part the Sections representatives stated some of their planned activities in the policy areas of the EU as following:</p> <p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b></p> <p>EUROPARC Spain (MM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One big line of work is the role of protected areas in a changing world</li> <li>• In 2010 they plan to             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Produce a document on the role of PAs and on land use change</li> <li>◦ have seminar with managers of PAs (national seminar)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• at conferences in Spain in past and future the Section tries to make the Federation visible (capacity building)</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC France (OH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OH explained the situation of the French section that has no separate funding but is included in the Federation of Nature and Regional Parks and the Federation of National parks</li> <li>• The Sections focus in 2010 is the Sustainable Tourism Charter and lobbying</li> <li>• But in 2010 a congress on biodiversity is planned and is seen as a tool to spread out information on the Federations</li> </ul>	<p>Only quite certain activities planned for 2010 should be mentioned.</p>	
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<p>work in France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The French section plans to have at least one European delegate at any French section activity (Networking Point)</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Italy/Federparchi (SP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans an event on reforestation in Parks in Italy and the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It includes a website of good practice in Italy (use of energy, management...)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Plans a 12 day conference on climate change and PAs (Mediterranean) in January, one day will be on climate change</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Nordic Baltic (TH, LM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>climate change is an umbrella topic for their activities</li> <li>Two seminars are planned: one in May Estonia on biodiversity; one in fall in Sweden on forests and woodlands in the Nordic Baltic region – with focus on the limits of the North</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Czech Republic (AH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A National conference on Nature Conservation is planned on the management of Protected Areas; aspects of climate change will be discussed too; European speakers will be invited including speakers from EUROPARC; Climate change is an umbrella topic</li> <li>The topic of climate change in CZ is mainly covered by the Ministry</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Atlantic Isles (DB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>would prefer to send more details by email after having confirmed with the board</li> <li>but can already say that a seminar on jobcreation in Protected Areas is planned and a seminar on marine issues</li> </ul> <p><b>General Discussion/Topics not directly related to Policy area above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a discussion on the individual member organizations involvement on these topics evolved and that this information is not captured well currently. It was mentioned that this could be an aspect of organizational development in the workplan to work towards collecting “magic numbers” in 2010. The Sections could assist this by providing data on members and workshop participants.</li> <li>It was mentioned that EUROPARC has a unique selling point towards the European Commission, since it can be the connection between the EC and the practical aspects of Protected Area management; if EUROPARC is able to capture and present that information it is a valuable organization for the Commission.</li> <li>CR stressed that the Federation does not collect that data to claim to be doing the work of the Sections, but only wish to present it to the EU for the benefit of all. The collective worth of everybody’s work can be shown and the bigger impact as compared to individual organization presenting their work and impact.</li> <li>The importance of indicators for all activities was stressed in order not to undersell the activities every piece of work should be mentioned (information put on website, articles published, etc)</li> </ul>		
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<p><b>BIODIVERSITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CR stated that biodiversity is the biggest topic next year for the Federations work; the Federation will try to brand as many events and activities CBD</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Atlantic Isles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The marine topic will be their focus</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on nature sports events; production of a report, guidelines with two European examples how to evaluate the impact of nature sports on biodiversity will be produced</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Federation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans two seminars itself (BfN (vilm) and/or ATS since their facilities are free of charge for the Federation to use) on TEEB</li> <li>• The question arose whether the German Section with Olaf Ostermann are not working on a similar topic, but it was argued that they are focussed on describing while the Federation will focus on ascribing the values and benefits</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity is a line of work in their work programme</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminars are planned and work laboratories on biodiversity</li> <li>• Exhibition – on biodiversity is planned</li> <li>• Plus several other activities, including working groups as well as concrete projects to protect habitats, finance, funding, for protection of e.g. bears, etc.</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Czech Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to focus on management of biodiversity (which nature do we want to protect)</li> <li>• Plan a conference, on the relation of natural processes and biodiversity,</li> <li>• It was stated that the international day of biodiversity and the European day of the Parks are only two days apart from each other</li> </ul> <p><b>General Discussion/Topics not directly related to Policy area above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spain has a programme on Management of PAs that includes quality standards in 2010 the first award to best managed PA will be given out; the programme includes a WIKI, database of examples (indicators: no. Of website visitors, no. Of applications, award, no. Of workshops, seminars)</li> <li>• NB stated they have a programme on the better management of PAs, to raise the standard continuously through training programmes and evaluation every 5 years. It includes reports, manuals etc.;</li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The idea to include this topic as a workshop at the next conference was mentioned</li> <li>• On the earlier question on whether to merge the two policy areas climate change and biodiversity it was suggested not to do so.</li> <li>• A discussion on whether to include direct member activities in the work programm arose, but it was state dthat it is impossible to capture and to report on it as accurately as needed by the EU</li> </ul> <p><b>HEALTH</b></p> <p>EUROPARC Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities on developing accessibility of PAs,</li> <li>• “nature for all”,</li> <li>• promoting working group on accessibility for 2010</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Atlantic Isles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on health seminar in Strömstad,</li> <li>• it is an ongoing activity,</li> <li>• intention to do a workshop (e.g. at conf.), 2010 –</li> <li>• intention to experiment with online workshops... (could be included in organizational Development)</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on nature sports (event in May)</li> <li>• in 2010 preparation for congress in 2011 where health will be one key issue</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on mobility and accessibility</li> <li>• wildlife without drugs – project with embassy Colombia,</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Nordic Baltic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on looking for new members, foundations that are financed by health systems and create recreational areas – the managers of these institutions are managers of PAs but so far not included in the network</li> <li>• in Sweden prescription to go out to nature exist (green walks, green gyms), PAs provide the ground for this</li> </ul> <p><b>General Discussion/Topics not directly related to Policy area above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a discussion on the various strands of health evolved and the question on which policy areas to put them in (nature sports, accessibility, recreation), since some could fit into sustainable use too.</li> <li>• A discussion on where the agreement with Slow Food would fit into arose (health or sustainable use)</li> <li>• It was mentioned that the Federation has been week on sustainable use in the past and that some of these topics could be fed into that policy area.</li> </ul>		
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<p><b>NATURAL RESSOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that this area includes sustainable access, recreation and sustainable transport</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on sustainable agriculture (e.g NATURA 2000 areas that are important for agriculture)</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sustainable land management is one of key issues, biodiversity and local development (workshops planned)</li> <li>work about Brenne parc</li> <li>working programmes planned on direct consumer (local products sales) topics with a connection to SLOW FOOD</li> <li>activities on nature sports management could also be put to this area</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Atlantic Isles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>work with other associations on joint branding and website about allowing public to find out where nearest protected area is (Public access initiative)</li> <li>work on a vision statement for designated landscapes – hoping to spread to all federation members (might fit more under the area of organizational development)</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Federation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charter is in this field, but it is difficult to put in since it is not clear if the PESTO project will be won</li> <li>It was mentioned that the TEEB reports might fit in here, but since no activity is planned as of yet it would fit more under organizational development for planning TEEB activities</li> </ul> <p>EUROPARC Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on sustainable fishing – marine issues (selffinancing projects)</li> </ul> <p><b>General Discussion/Topics not directly related to Policy area above:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was mentioned that the added value of biodiversity needs to be stressed and that the EC needs to be convinced that PAs bring financial benefits, that sustainable use brings economic benefits</li> <li>Spain mentioned that they plan/run a project on jobcreation that is linked to sustainable development</li> <li>Europatch was mentioned (jobs for nature)</li> <li>It was discussed that jobcreation in PAs could also be mentioned as a crosscutting issue</li> </ul> <p><b>CROSSCUTTING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EAI plan to try at least one online seminars</li> <li>Spain is working transfer of knowledge from research institutions into practical management (collaborations with research institutions)</li> <li>It was mentioned that the Sections are trying to develop more partnerships – the output of which would be</li> </ul>		
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	<p>crosscutting topics, but the developing of the partnerships would be organizational development (Italy offered to send a list of international partnerships)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grundvigt project was mentioned under this heading</li> <li>• Health was mentioned as one big crosscutting issue</li> <li>• Any connections with other networks could be put here</li> <li>• The study tour of Scotland could be mentioned here</li> </ul> <p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A discussion on the meaning of this topic evolved and it was clarified that this is seen more as improvement on the internal functioning and governance of the Federation (to work more efficiently as an organization, to better govern own organization) as compared to helping members to work more efficiently. This would rather be the PAME project.</li> <li>• It was mentioned that one possible activity could be to look at how Sections do fit best into the organization, governance and planning. The idea was proposed to produce a document that covers all section activities</li> <li>• Italy has a project on self financing for parks</li> <li>• Spain also has a project planned on self financing of PAs focussing on payment for environmental services, a seminar and publication is planned (sustainable financing)</li> <li>• France proposed planning an event on financing of PAs and organizations, it was mentioned that this could be done as a workshop at the conference with Italy bringing the expert</li> <li>• EAI and NB proposed to put an activity in here to work towards a health project as a follow up on Strömstad it could include a workshop and a meeting before the next conference</li> <li>• It was noted that the working groups are not captured in the work plan and that one activity could be for 2010 to implement the review of working groups</li> </ul> <p>The input session ended with a plea to the Sections to send more information on the planned activities and information on the member involvement in activities (in 2009 in e.g. workshops etc.) to the Federations HQ.</p>		<p>Sections to send more information on the planned activities and information on the member involvement in activities (in 2009 in e.g. workshops etc.) to the Federations HQ.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Initial ideas for partnerships and projects for the 2011 workplan</b>	<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NB noted they will focus on the ecological footprints of people working in PAs/ members – post-TEEB as well as on marine topics</li> <li>• EAI plans to work on the topic of a European standard/definition of PA or NP as well as on the topic of future forestry, reforestation and deforestation</li> <li>• The Federation will focus on the financial perspective of EU for 2013 and is asking Sections to help find out what is happening on the national level in national agencies and ministries on this.</li> <li>• It was noted that 2011 is the International Year of biodiversity/forest and the European year of volunteering (JR)</li> <li>• It was suggested that by 2012 the network in marine issues should be completed; during 2011 gathering information should be done by federation and sections</li> </ul>		<p>Sections to look for development on national level on EU-finance from 2013</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Preparing for the Europarc 2010 Conference : workshops</b>	<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>

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	<p>It was stated that two suggestions for topics were already made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs and PAs</li> <li>• Present result of Grundvigt project – it was suggested that this could be done shortly in a plenary session and then in a workshop to present experience on volunteering and on projects involving different Sections</li> </ul> <p>Other suggestions made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selffinancing of parks</li> <li>• Valuing biodiversity/ TEEB</li> <li>• Development of Standards (Spain, NB)</li> <li>• Wilderness</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that in December a planning meeting is to take place and that the Federation will be sending out an email with questions for input to the conference.</p> <p>Various suggestions on the set-up and improvement of the conference were made.</p>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Role &amp; Responsibilities of the Sections' representative to Council, including term of office (papers issued at the Sections meeting held in Sweden)</b>	<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<p>ML noted that no feedback on the previously sent out papers had been made and that in order to close the matter comments need to be sent back by</p> <p>It was suggested to send out the agenda of the sections meeting earlier.</p>		Sections to give feedback until Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> on papers.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Progress update on the development of a Federation lobbying strategy</b>	<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OH presented an update on the preparations for the lobbying seminar on January 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 held in Reims.</li> <li>• The key issues and moderation was discussed as well as the support given to the participants by the hosts (see documents sent by email for details)</li> <li>• The discussion focussed on the participation and invitation.</li> </ul>	<p>It was decided to send out an open invitation in the E-news with the note that participation will be limited and selection of participants will be made based on geography, experience and language. Throughout November the sections self generate a list of</p>	<p>Directorate to put out open invitation in E-news.</p> <p>All to generate invitation list until end of November.</p> <p>Directorate to get back to OH to finalize programme.</p>

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		invitees.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Suggested future meetings:</b>	<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	a, Spring 2010 Sections Meeting: Strategy and business planning, developing the future work programme  b, 4 June 2010 Joint meeting with Council in NL  c, 30 September 2010 Sections Meeting: Strategy and business planning, drafting the workplan and funding bid Italy	The next meeting will be held on 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2010 in the new HQ office in Regensburg, Germany	Directorate to prepare meeting logistics.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Agree who should attend future Section meetings</b>	<b>Decisions Taken</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	Previously the question had evolved on who of the sections (president, director, etc.) is to take part in the meetings.  Planned topics of future meetings: - Does work programme have to be revised depending on the receipt of the NGO grant in April - Focus on concrete projects April - fee-topic etc. April or June - plan for 2011 in September	It was agreed that the invitation is an open invitation and that the sections are to decide themselves on whom and how many people to send upon the topics of the agenda.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>		
	The Directorate asked the Sections to help chase up membership fees. It noted that the Czech Republic is the only one with 100% payment.  It was noted that in December those members who had not paid in 2-3 years will be struck off the membership lists and that the Sections will be informed on who those are.  ML closed the meeting.		Directorate to send out list of members that will be struck off the list because of non payment and those that have not paid their fees.  Sections to remind members on filling on of membership questionnaire.