



## **EUROPARC Federation**

### **Report to Council**

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013**

Title:

Directorate Report -

Summary :

Update on activities of the Directorate

Recommendations :

❖ To note the report

## **Director's Report to the Council**

### **Update 2012 since previous meeting in Oct 2013**

I have not provided a detailed review of work undertaken between October 2012 and January 2013, suffice to say all planned activities reported in October have even completed. This will appear in the annual report due in March 2013.

### **Staffing**

No significant change other than to increase the % time of one member of staff. This will reverse if NGO is unsuccessful. It remains my intention to make one post redundant. Funds for legal costs and redundancy payment will need to be identified.

One point I need to indicate to council, that as an employer in Germany EUROPARC council member should be conscious of the need for confidentiality when discussing matters of staff contracts and never with third parties...Confidentiality laws are very strict in Germany, especially as we are not a public institution., and permission from the individuals is required to discuss any individual contractual arrangements. I would ask for council members respect staff issues in any discussions and I can advise when required. .

### **End year Finances 2012**

Following a substantial effort by the Directorate team and excellent support from members managed to raise the payment level to 80% of invoiced.

All costs, except overheads for 2012 were within a 10% margin of planned costs. Overheads excess is mainly accounted for by the VAT bill for the past 3 years, plus corrections of bookings for 2011.

We should now assume we will pay tax on all income, consulting resource recompense, charter and transboundary registration fees etc (other than membership fees and grants) as we have breached the non tax -paying level.

Income was higher than anticipated, due to final payments from prefinanced projects coming in higher than conservative estimates.

Overall had Spanish and Italian membership fees come in at the normal rate we WOULD have finished the year on a cash positive result. As it is we finished on a small negative, but significantly improved from the difficult situation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012.

We must maintain this level of effort for 2013 and continue to increase and diversify our financial basis. This would include ensuring a steady and regular and reasonably predictable income in addition to the membership fee.

A full report of the finance and membership will come from the Treasurer.

### **Representation.**

The Director represented the Federation at a meeting with Global Nature Fund and guest from the Lake Baikal region of Russia at Lake Constance Germany. This was part of an investigative study tour by the Lake Baikal colleagues to examine eco and sustainable tourism. EUROPARC was invited to discuss the Charter.

As a result there has been a call for a „Memorandum of Understanding“ between Baikalsky Zapovednik, GRAN /BETA und EUROPARC, could offer further support and advice to build capacity within the network around Lake Baikal to prepare for future adoption of the Charter. The Director will follow this up and report to the council in May 2013.

The Director attended the kick off meeting of conference 2013 and met the organising team from Hungary. All plans are progressing.

The Director attended the Charter award ceremony for the Junta of Andalucía; this was very well attended by senior official for the Andalucía department of Environment as well as many business entrepreneurs from the region. IT gave an opportunity to learn firsthand of the current economic challenges facing Spanish members, as well as double efforts to profile and communicate the Charter. If NGO funds are available EUROPARC will host a “think tank” meeting in Spain to consider future plans for the charter. Ensuring the participation of Spanish members in the process .It was an inspirational meeting!

The Director attended a meeting with IFPRA. The International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administrations IFPRA. This was a courtesy meeting to advice IFPRA about its upcoming governance review based on the experience of EUROPARC. We had a common connection trough Parks Forum. As a result, further possible networking opportunities were discussed as well as EUROPARC or Consulting being contracted by IFPRA to conduct their review. A call of interest in this contract will be released through our network

The Director met with the EDEN network through contacts made with Hans Schiphorst.. Possibility of some kind of partnership working, agreement or indeed them seeking membership of the Federation. Further they are interested in the Charter for their members. We will continue dialogue

The Director had a fruitful meeting with Andrej Sovinc WCPA Europe and by Skype with Trevor Sandwith IUCN. The MOU with WCPA was agreed to be renewed and ready for signature by the EUROPARC conference. EUROPARC will also seek an active role in the WPC 2014 in Sydney. .

## **Projects**

The Directorate submitted the NGO grant. Result of the application will not be known until late Feb 2013. IT is necessary for us to receive the NGO grant this year if we wish to support the work of the ODC and complete many other actions in 2013.

Without the NGO grant and with sufficient membership fees the Federation will be able to function but will need to reduce significantly its output. The Director will prepare contingency plan with the Treasurer in the event of us not receiving the grant,

Unfortunately neither did we receive the monies from the Bavarian government. They indicated our application for the junior ranger camp was well conceived, they felt the camp “lacked “ environment education content “ !! And that it was not good value for money. This was, we feel because the main cost of the camp is accommodation, which the Bayerischer Wald was not offering therefore we had a significant cost of over 20K to find. We have approached Bayerischer Wald again and hope they may be able to offer some support

We have however secured 10k for the Junior Ranger conference from the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung. We are applying for matching funds from the Heidehofstiftung, Selbach Umweltstiftung and Bosch Stiftung.

We have commenced the Life Communications project we won with Proparks of Romania. The kick off meeting took place in October 2012. The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of the finances for that project were received in December 2012, allowing us to finish 2012 on a cash surplus, and reserves intact. However this allocation was mainly for 2013, so we must ensure sufficient funds remain available for this project work

## **Project development 2013**

Currently we are considering to be a project partner with EUROPARC Spain a Leonardo funded project to review and produce training courses available for protected area staff.

We are also developing project concepts for the training of Charter and Transboundary verifiers as well as possible mediators for conflict resolution particularly in a Transboundary situation.

The Grundtvig project will end this year and we are considering the future development of work with volunteers and see this moving more into a possible life communications project development. .

Assuming working groups are given a mandate by the council we will be working with them to support the development of project application arising for their work.

There is as ever no shortage of ideas but of capacity within the team to prepare applications.

## Workplan 2013

### **“40 years – Working for Nature”.**

The Directorate launched 2013 with the celebration of EUROPARC's 40years. The communication plan for this year long campaign is appended. Highlights will include.

- Monthly special e-cards to members , highlighting a member park or area
- Special themed monthly e-news
- “People's history of EUROPARC” looking at how the organisation developed through the eyes of those involved,
- European day of parks will focus on My Park. My passion. My story. Where we will be encouraging park to share stories from staff and visitors about what is special about their place. We hope to collect these for future publication.
- Our Siggen seminar will look at management planning,
- The youth conference “Now it's our turn – Junior Ranger ambassadors for Parks” running parallel to our main one,
- The 40 years anniversary will culminate in the conference in Debrecen in October where we will share the 40years anniversary with Hortobagy national Park.
- Special Charter networking and awards day in Brussels

Any help or information Council members can give with background information pictures; stories of their experience with EUROPARC would be most welcome.

### Charter

As previously reported, in the hope that then NGO application will be successful, I have increased the Project Development officer's post from 60% to full time. She will concentrate on transboundary work and Charter communications and networking. If funds become available, then a think tank meeting is planned in Spain in April in early May to generate and stimulate ideas on the future of the Charter. This would be further discussed at a charter event in Brussels in September.

### Lobbying

Again dependant on NGO funding, a series of events are planned to further increase our profile and networking opportunities in Brussels. As well as contribute to commission policy.

These will include the following

### Climate change and PA event in BX with Cof R

- A one day event in collaboration with the Committee of the regions on climate change management in PA's - A good practices report across protected areas with showcase of initiatives and practical activities undertaken by protected areas and N2000 sites on climate change adaptation. Contacts will be made with EUROPARC's MOU partners across the globe to gather case studies from their members in protected areas for the above report

- Advocacy and Policy group, EUROPARC will provide inputs and recommendations into the Green Infrastructures EU policy developments, bringing the protected areas and N2000 sites manager perspective, The EUROPARC policy and advocacy group will meet with EU Commission officials in Brussels to provide input and develop a position paper to protected areas on this policy area.
- EUROPARC will also participate and give its contribution in EC events and conferences such as the European day of Tourism. 2013
- EUROPARC will involve our members and experts to contribute to the biogeographic process; we will endeavour to contribute to the process in steering committees, and preparatory workshops not only via the EHF representative but also more directly involving members for the upcoming Alpine Seminar for example
- EUROPARC will seek to contribute the experience of protected areas in nature sports into the Nature Sports conference October 2013 in Slovakia “Outdoor Sports factor for sustainable development and health”, and seek a dialogue to introduce European codes of practise for sporting bodies use of nature areas
- EUROPARC will actively engage with ECOA and provide input and advice where appropriate and disseminate information throughout our membership .Meet with ECOS to define and determine collaboration between EUROPARC and ECOS.
- EUROPARC is also working towards the development of standards in sustainable agriculture in protected areas. With Slow Food International and in consultation with IFOAM and others, EUROPARC will seek the feasibility of developing a Charter for Sustainable Agriculture in Protected Areas.

#### **Work-plan 2013 Indicative budget**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Estimate 2013</b>
Income		
Membership fees	<b>Membership fees</b>	<b>260,000</b>
EU NGO Life + grant	<b>Project grants</b>	<b>18,000 grundtvig 10,000 Life NGO 121,000</b>
Project Grants	<b>Other Funding</b>	<b>17,500 EC 4000 charter reg 1000 ATS Extra ATS 20,500</b>

Consulting	<b>Other income</b>	<b>1000</b>
Appreciation in value, EP Consulting		
Other income	<b>Donations</b>	
<b>Income total</b>		<b>453,000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Rentals</b>	<b>24,000</b>
External Assistance	<b>External Assistance</b>	<b>40,000</b>
Other costs	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>13,000</b>
Overheads	<b>Overheads</b>	<b>24,000</b>
Projects	<b>Projects</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Expenditure total</b>		<b>453000</b>

Carol Ritchie

Director

Jan 2013

