



**EUROPARC Federation
Report to Council
May 2014**

Title:
Directorate Report

Summary :
Update on activities of the Directorate

Recommendations :
❖ To note the report.

Directorate Report Update January - April 2014

This is a brief update of the work of the directorate to April 2014.

Project applications and end year finances

Finances have been audited and the final end year result was -4785 EUR. The previously anticipated positive result was cancelled out because we do not expect to receive any further income from the NGO grant of 2013.

We were successful in being awarded the NGO grant for 2014. Following a revision asked for by the commission we expect a grant of 154.770 EUR. The first tranche deposit should be made by end May

Projects

Work on the EME project, communication for N2000 manager is gathering apace, with the manual, toolkit and workshop programme completed. The 1st workshop will be organised in December 2014, with the 2nd in March 2015. This will be free to members.

We were also successful in obtaining funding from DBU (Germany) for a project with ProParks, "Increasing education opportunities on sustainable development for protected area managers in Romania". This is looking at creating and piloting online training packages for protected area staff, which could be developed across Europe.

EUROPARC is also represented on the advisory board of a BfN supported project with ProParks on assessment of the training needs of PA staff in Eastern Europe. This could have implications for wider Europe and results will be dissemination through the network.

We are also developing further funding applications, including joining with ECNC (the current contract holders) and Eurosite in a bid for the biogeographic seminars, which we have followed since our failed bid with IUCN and Eurosite 3 years ago.

A meeting took place in May as a follow up from the youth conference in Debrecen to develop the Youth + project.

Administration

We have set up a new administration system for charter application, which we processed 18 applications. With just a few problems with some from the Dinaric Arc which were resolved.

Some issues with invoicing members especially Italy and Netherlands. These are in process of being resolved.

Communications

It has been a busy period with the consultation in full swing. Staff were heavily involved in translation and organising/being involved in focus groups meeting. Particular credit is paid to Iulia Baidac our intern who processed all questionnaires and data.

Conference report was produced and distributed, and the annual report was also produced and distributed. I hope council members enjoyed reading!

The final report the CED PPN of Torino University to gather information about N2000 sites for which members have responsibility and analyse the overlap between N2000 sites and protected areas was produced. It is available on the EUROPARC website.

Social media, newsletter and email promotion of all productions and all other news and events has also taken place.

The template and logo for European Day of Parks was designed and promoted. We are gathering event information for the EDOP on 24th May. Press releases will follow.

A redesign of the EUROPARC website is planned and we are currently gathering bids.

A workshop for Charter members took place on Vilm. This excellent event gave all those involved in the charter to revise and renew the material. Information and documentation, as well as consider priorities for the future. A report is in preparation and a task list devolved!

The Siggen seminar – European funding for Protected areas: Successful projects for effective Management – has been planned and registration is open, but as been slow!

Staff have also assisted in the planning and preparation of the transparcnet in France meeting and the Junior Ranger camp in the Czech Republic.

We do note a greater difficulty in identifying hosts for these meetings and events.

Representation and Events

The Brussels office has been particularly busy with numerous meetings across the Commission. Our profile and standing with the commission now is at its highest and we are capacity trying to meet the demands and requests.

We also attend the EHF meeting looking at green infrastructure and submitted the consultation questionnaire.

Also met with the representative of the Hessen region looking for cooperation with EUROPARC, particularly looking at forestry issues and PA's.

Staff have had ongoing discussion with RAMSAR to coordinate joint communications for World Wetland Day.

Conference 2014

A further two meeting of the Organising group of the 2013 conference in Killarney National Park Ireland was held. The programme and workshops have been agreed. Directorate have been fully responsible for putting this together. The website should be live on 14/15th May, and open for registrations.

The workshop programme is attached and Council members are asked to express their preference on workshops they wish to lead.

Conference 2015

The Network of Swiss Nature parks declined to take up the bid for 2015 but are interested in 2016. Others were been approached, and with no take up from council members either, then we expect NOT to have a full conference in 2015. Staff are already working on plan B, which would be a day similar to the charter event held in Brussels last year, a one and half day meeting. Networking opportunities would be severely scaled back. This however also gives us an additional issue of how to fit in the youth conference which was expected in 2015. EUROPARC would have to bear all costs

for any event. Such a smaller scale event could either take place in Regensburg, where we are confident we would get some assistance from the city, or in Brussels, where we may get some support from one of the regions.

World Parks Congress

The Director in capacity of steering group member of WCA attended their meeting in London. It was agreed that a Europe-led event would take place in one of the congress pavilion. The event would be co-orientated by WCPA Europe and EUROPARC, along with others, would have a role in it. The Director also assessed all 300 European submissions to the WPC programme !! making recommendation for acceptance. 4 submission were made by EUROPARC itself. Decision as to what have been accepted to present Sydney will be announced in early June. Who can lead on these presentation needs to be made in light of EUROPARCs decisions as to who is attending on its behalf.

ProParks

NO further details are available and EUROPARC awaits any requests for park members. The situation is described by the representative of PanParks thus:

"I am sorry to inform you that Pan Parks is currently filling for bankruptcy at the Court of Zwolle in the Netherlands.

The Court will take a decision shortly and will most likely appoint a receiver.

In the meantime no actions can be taken from this side.

The Pan Parks brand is indeed registered and owned by the Pan Parks Foundation; only a receiver will be entitled to dispose of assets of the foundation

(S)he would be the person for you to talk to; I will inform you of the contact details as soon as they are available".

Events 2014

I have produced an outline calendar, to indicate the main EUROPARC events for 2014. This includes also the deadlines for the general assembly and elections. There are no significant changes, but this can be updated at the council meeting if need be.

Carol Ritchie
EUROPARC Director
April 2014