

EUROPARC Federation

**Report to Council
May 28th 2010**



Title:

Director's Report March- May 2010

Summary :

Activities of the Directorate

Recommendations :

To note

EUROPARC Federation May 2010 Update

Summary table of work undertaken against strategic headlines and objectives of the EUROPARC strategy.

January- February 2010

Overview.

With the creation of a new workplan in November 2009 for the 2010, this report corresponds to the objectives and activities agreed for 2010.

With only 2 months since the last council meeting this workplan update is therefore rather brief.

The following summaries the activities undertaken:

Internal Issues:

- The bookkeeping situation has now been resolved, with the contracting of this to Nicole Haider . She will undertake all bookkeeping and produce the financial statements for the federation. She will work in German and English was outsourced . The legal challenge has now been resolved, and Sabine Schloegal will leave our employ in September, this has resulted in a substantial cost to the Federation in 2010.
- With the resignation of Richard Blackman as deputy Director, the office in Brussels will remain with one member of staff until further notice. To accelerate cost saving an agreement has been reached with the IUCN office AS such we will close the current office in the Mundo building and move to a new office within the IUCN building. This will result in savings for the Federation as well as enhance the working relations between our two organisations . The move will take place in the Summer.
- Office move to Regensburg has been greatly successful with official opening by the Mayor Hr Walberg, and excellent press coverage. We have also made some good contacts with local environmental organisations.
- Diana Gallrapp will take over the parks and benefits from Richard Blackman, Corneila Ehlers will take over the Transboundary remit. We re discussing with EC how the charter administration can be eased and simplified. NO decision as yet of how the work of the BfN or STEPPA projects will be shared amongst staff..

Representation

- Director attended meetings in Brussels, with Eurosite to plan further co-operation at Green week and beyond.
- Attend in Brussels with Richard Blackman meeting the European Landowners Organisation to discuss further cooperation.
- Director attended meeting with EUROPARC Germany in Berlin to agree the early plans for conference 2011.
- Morwenna Parkyn attended the press contacts seminar in Nuremberg

- Dan Bloomfield attended the HPHP conference in Melbourne Australia and represented EUROPARC Federation. A report and recommendations of the conference are attached
- Director met with BTCV, IRF and North Pennines AONB representatives in the UK to discuss various project developments
- Policy Officer (Federico Minozzi) attended EHF meeting and follow up meeting with DG Environment
- Federico Minozzi attended Grundtvig planning meeting in London.
- Richard Blackman and Corneila Ehlers attend the TranParcNet meeting in Neuseidler See NP , Austria. Report is attached.
- Richard Blackman attended meeting with Marie Guitton, Euromontana, re MountainTRIP project
- Federico Minozzi met with Saxony-Anhalt and Valencia, Gaston Franco MEP to pan eth seminar for May 31st
- Richard met with the IEEP and participated at a Euroidentities workshop
- Diana Gallrapp and Richard Blackman will attend the Parks and Benefits workshop in Norway.

Project development;

Following the planning session, the following project areas are under development

GRUNDTVIG - project application submitted

Youth in Action –a Junior Ranger/Volunteering project is being finalised with IRF. Possibly hosted by Scotland or Denmark. This will be submitted by June 2010

Sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastline through community involvement – this would be a focus on marine and marine junior ranger.

Seeking partners and meeting with WWF mediterranean. – application to MAVA foundation by will be submitted in July or August.

Agreement from BfN to find a charter related project. Discussing with EUROPARC consulting how we might deliver that as staff resources with the Directorate team are limited.

Considering submitting a LIFE + communication project. Staff time and resource becoming critical in preparation.

Summary of activities undertaken are shown in the table below.

	EUROPARC Strategy Objectives	Progress to mid May 2010
Support the management of Europe's protected areas		
Indicate and share the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas		
1.	To communicate the importance of protected areas in the adaption to and mitigation of climate change and biodiversity loss, and facilitate the sharing of best practise and expertise the management of protected areas in climate change and biodiversity loss	Press release issued for EdoP information on Conference, EDoP and Year of Biodiversity in E-News, office opening, exhibition has been to Latvia and Serbia, publications sent to all sections and EUROPARC Consulting for them to promote protected areas, conference report 2009

2.	To improve the management of biodiversity management in Europe's Natura 2000 and protected areas network, and Enhance knowledge of EU policies among EUROPARC members	<u>Updates on website</u>
3.	To demonstrate the values and wider benefits of protected areas to their surrounding landscapes, regions and communities to increase knowledge and information about sustainable development.	Articles in E-news February, March , April, Ongoing work of parks and benefits project, EDoP advertisements, exhibition has been to Latvia and Serbia, conference report 2009, annual report.
4.	.Raise awareness of the role that Natura 2000 sites and Europe's protected areas play as providers of opportunities for the promotion of public health and well-being	Workshops planned in Conference 2010, Dan Bloomfield represented EUROPARC at HPHP conference
5.	Illustrate the contribution of Europe's protected areas to the sustainable use of natural resources and their links to a range of other policy areas.	No activity as yet
Develop the European Protected Area network		
Capacity building, training and education of staff and stakeholders of Europe's protected areas		
6.	To build capacity in and provide training for managers of Europe's protected areas on relevant aspects of EU policy, and	Sliggen seminar planned.
7.	To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output	Made further contact with Redparques regarding future funding possibilities and projects. Discussed YiA project partnerships with IRF.(will be submitted on June 1 st)Developing MOU with national Parks Service of USA.. Developing MAVA foundation project proposal
Organisational Development and Capacity Building		
8.	To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC Federation	Section meeting took place in April. Minutes attached.
9.	To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation	Bookkeeper made redundant . These service outsourced. Cancelled contract in Mundo building in Brussels and staff member will move into the IUCN building.

Colour code		Some progress, ongoing work		No/little activity or change in activity		Achieved
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Membership Update

Update on Members of the EUROPARC Federation May 10th 2010:

Total number of members: 431
Number of countries represented: 36

Fee payment percentage (May 10th 2010): 55,74 % (sum outstanding: 151.503 €)

New members since last council meeting March 5th 2010 (to be formally approved):

Germany	Biosphärenzweckverband Bliesgau
Italy	VOLONTARI D'EUROPA O.n.l.u.s./ EUROPE'S VOLUNTEERS Non-Profit Organization
France	PNR Scarpe Escaut
France	Regional Nature Park of the "Grands Causses"

Represented PAs through higher authorities: 69

Certified Charter Parks: 73 in 8 countries
Certified Transboundary PAs: 8 complexes representing 17 PAs in 11 countries

Resignations in 2010:

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (incl. Mourne Heritage Trust and Antrim Coast and Glens AONB)
- Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA)
- Großglockner Hochalpenstraßen AG as from 31st of December 2010

Suborganisations taken off the membership list after last council decision:

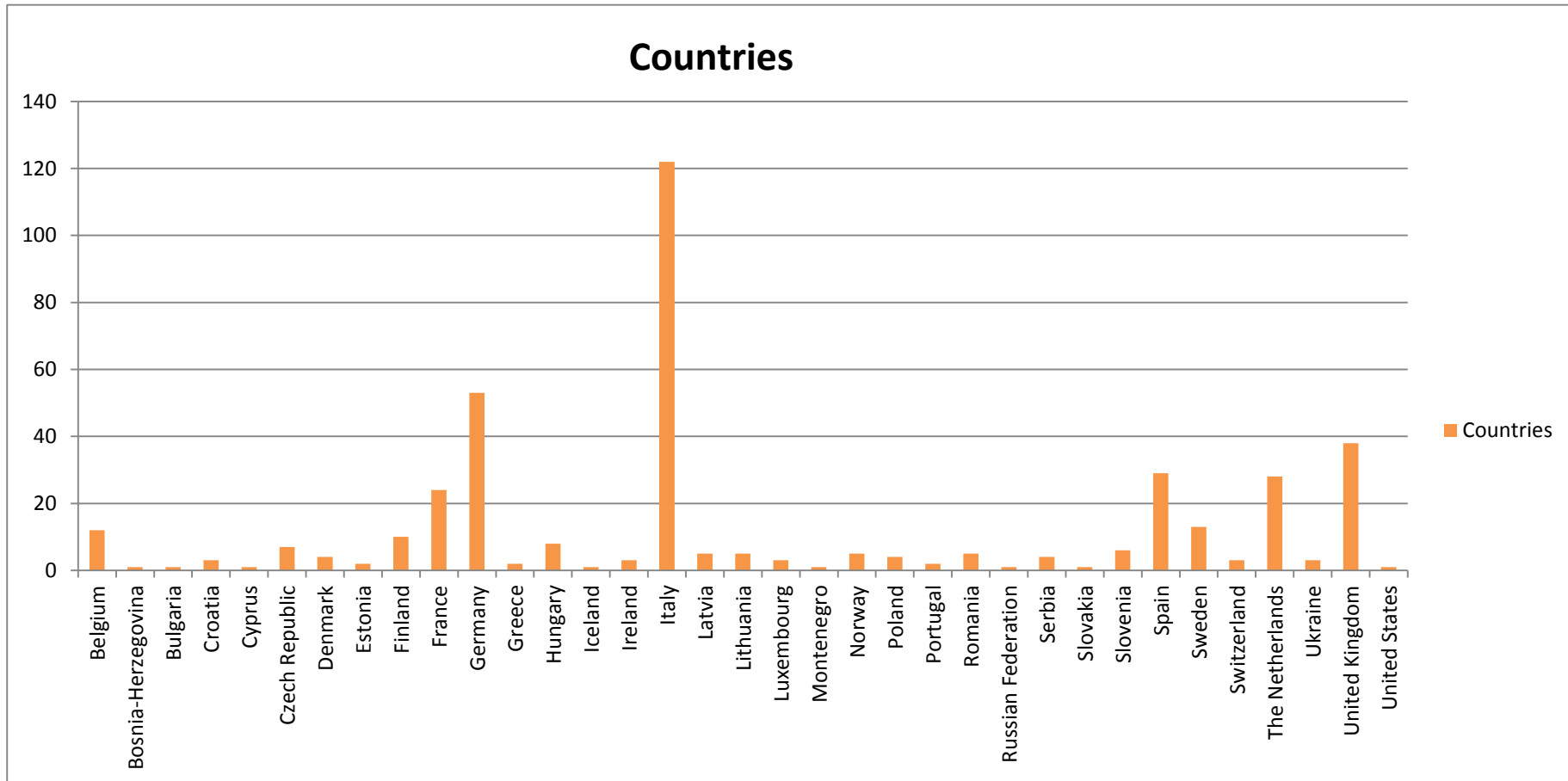
Spain	Albufera Nature Park
Slovakia	Tatra National Park Administration
Slovakia	Low Tatras National Park Authority (NAPANT)
Austria	Hohe Tauern National Park Salzburg

Total loss in members: 10 (incl. honorary member Aitken Clark)

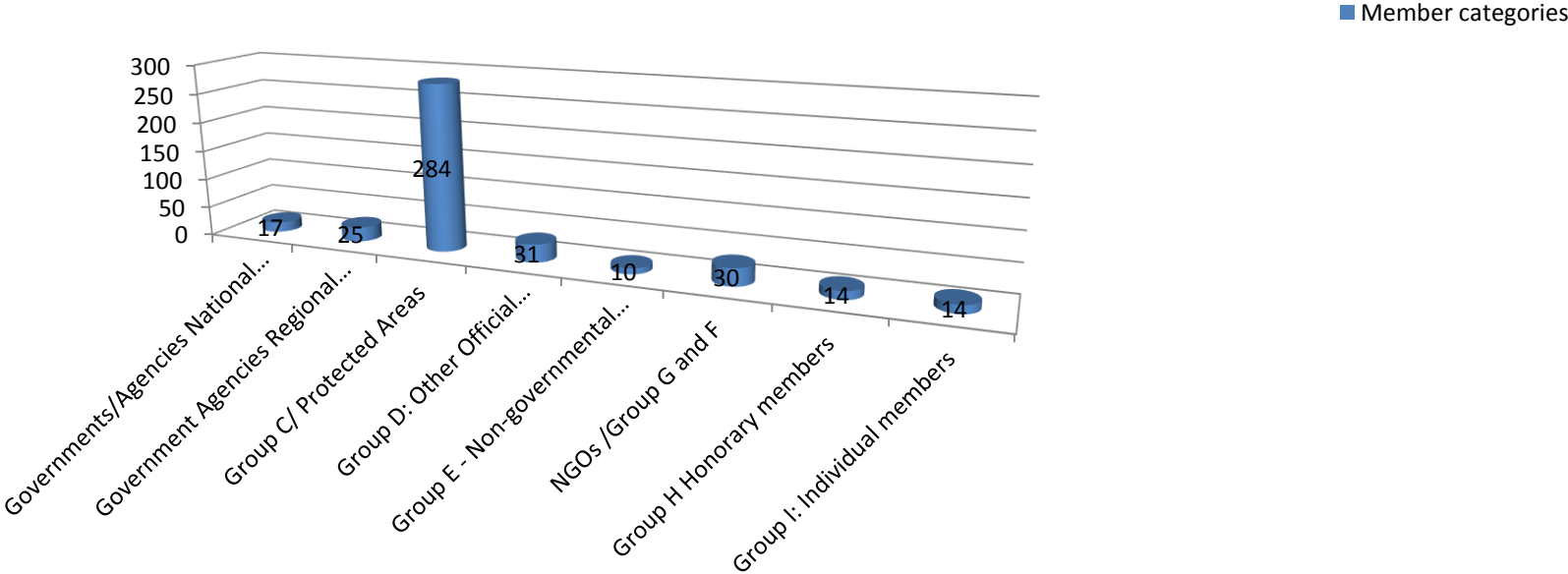
Unclear membership and unclear fees:

- Serbian members (4)
- AONBs (32)

Charts:



Member categories



Finance Update

With the new bookkeeper in place, financial information is now readily available. Please see attached sheet.

This shows the income and expenditure for 2010 spread over 12 months. Costs are clearly not as uniform, but it can act as an early warning signal to identify ahead of time where there may be a cash shortfall.

The first column shows the full budget, the yellow 2nd column, with a 10% reduction in income the “working budget”

As indicated last year we are originally predicting a 54,000 € shortfall. Looking at the working budget this rises to 78,425 €, indicating a drop in membership fees of 10% and additional expenses incurred in the payment to Sabine Schloegal, the additional costs of the office move to Regensburg and costs of auditing.

However even with the saving from the deputy Director's salary and other cost saving measures, I am still predicting in the range of a 70K overspend.

This can be absorbed by the current reserves but will deplete them significantly...from 145K – 70K.

2011 however does look better. If current income levels can be sustained, we could be looking at a 70K positive result! Which SHOULD return the reserves to about their current value.

This also does not take into consideration any new income from project etc...

The priority for the Federation must be in achieving new, substantial projects!

Summary over 2 years	2010	Predicted 2011
Total Income at stand still level	447,930.10 €	442,555.10 €
Expenditure		
Personnel costs	335,176.47 €	231,486.56 €
Travel	53,756.00 €	49,050.00 €
Rentals	31,067.00 €	17,175.00 €
External Assistance	35,322.00 €	29,822.00 €
Other costs	22,000.00 €	8,000.00 €
Overheads	49,034.00 €	33,956.00 €
Total	526,355.47 €	371,500.00 €
Result	-78425	71055

Working Groups.

No further working groups have responded to the call from council. All who expressed an interest have been invited to participate in the workshop in Siggen. So far the health working group and economics have confirmed, NO other have indicated. So we have not fully formed workshops on wilderness, Natura 2000, climate change and biodiversity, sustainable tourism,.

Section meeting.

Representatives from EUROPARC France, Nordic Baltic , Atlantic Isles Czech Republic, and Germany met in Regensburg in April. The meeting was useful to agree the planning structure for the year and identify deficiencies in the workplanning process. Minutes are attached
Directorate has circulated the project development plan but no feedback to date . Some feedback on workplan update has been received and directorate will amend accordingly

EUROPARC conference 2010 and 2011 update

Directorate has been working closely with the conference host and the workshop co-ordinator, appointed by the park, Giacomo Benelli., to define the programme for the conference in September,

An excellent programme of speaker and workshop has been agreed. Please check out the website for information
<http://www.parcoabruzzo.it/page.php?id=9>

Following last year's successful input from council members I would encourage council member to check out the workshops listed and identify which you would be willing to lead in September, If not you will be volunteered on your behalf!

Await further information from the hosts to advise you of the registration process for you! Please be patient and I will let you know when that becomes available!

. Keynote speaker will be

Session Chair - Dr Hans Freiderich - IUCN Regional Director for PAN Europe

- **Sarrat Gidda** - *Convention for Biological Diversity*
- **Harvey Locke** - *Vice President of Wild Foundation*

- **Carlo Petrini** - *President, Slow Food International*
- **Jon Jarvis** - *Director, National Park Service, USA*
- **Ladislav Miko** - *Director, Nature Directorate. DG Environment. European Commission*

Panel discussion *With Keynote speakers*

Conference 2011.

The Director had an early meeting in Berlin with Land Baden-Württemberg/ Ministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Verkehr (UVM-BW), Biosphärenreservat Schwäbische Alb (BR Alb), EUROPARC Germany. The agreement to host the conference has been forwarded to Baden Wurttemberg . The conference will be held in Bad Urach, Baden Wurttemberg, and we believe it to be the first ever in a biosphere reserve. The theme is likely to be around Quality standards/ management effectiveness .

Carol Ritchie

Director EUROPARC Federation

May 14th 2010