

# **EUROPARC Federation**

## **Report to Council**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012**



Title:

Director's Report

Summary :

Update on activities of the Directorate, summary workplan for 2012, financial update for 2011/12.

Recommendations :

- ❖ To note the report

## Director's Report - January 2012

### Staffing - For Information

It has been a tumultuous time in the Federation directorate with multiple and sudden staff changes. This invariably has a disruptive effect on the remaining staff and the capacity to operate.

There will need to be a period of consideration and planning new staffing structures. This could be an excellent and positive opportunity to refresh skill and structures, however, the time lag involved to achieve this will place an additional strain on the current staff.

- Dea Mijakovacs joined the staff in October 2011 and is already making an excellent contribution. She leads on the BfN project and assists with communication work.
- Diana Gallrapp is now on maternity leave for at least one year.
- Both Regina Schöfer and Morwenna Parkyn resigned from the Federation in January 2012; they will leave in March. On behalf of the EUROPARC Federation we wish them well in their future plans.

These changes amount to a 50% reduction in staffing capacity. Recruitment is underway but a significant time lag and capacity lag will have to be endured.

### Finance Update

Item	Final Estimate 2011	Estimate 2012, as per report to GA	Updated estimate 2012
Membership	272.000,00 €	261.031,00 €	264.000,00 €
EU NGO Life+ Grant	0,00€	95.000,00 €	0,00 €
EUROPARC Consulting	20.000,00 €	0,00 €	15.000,00 €
Other income	86.713,00 €	50.000,00 €	37.000,00 €
<b>INCOME Total</b>	<b>378.713,00 €</b>	<b>406.031,00 €</b>	<b>316.000,00 €</b>
Personnel costs	256.296,00 €	254.000,00 €	246.000,00 €
Travel	59.601,00 €	25.000,00 €	25.000,00 €
Rentals	28.298,00 €	25.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
External Assistance	44.068,00 €	45.000,00 €	7.000,00 €
Other costs	14.980,00 €	11.500,00 €	46.000,00 €
Overheads	31.157,00 €	35.000,00 €	23.000,00 €
Projects	13.560,00 €	19.000,00 €	20.000,00 €
<b>EXPENDITURE Total</b>	<b>447.960,00 €</b>	<b>414.500,00 €</b>	<b>387.000,00 €</b>
Result	<b>-69.247,00 €</b>	<b>-8.469,00 €</b>	<b>-71.000,00 €</b>

## Council Induction.

New council members came to Regensburg in November 2011 for the planned induction session. It was a useful introduction to the Federation. All council members will receive the new induction packs.

## EUROPARC/Eurosite Joint Committee

This is reported elsewhere on the agenda; suffice it to say the Director is grateful for the collaboration and support of Neil Macintosh from Eurosite in the preparation of the papers.

## Project development

### **To summarise:**

- The Parks & Benefits project will conclude in January 2012, with final payments coming some time later.
- The STEPPA project will end in November 2011 again with final payments later in the year.
- Youth in Action – the Partnership Building activity “Action for youth in Parks” took place in Denmark in November with 26 rangers attending from XX countries. New project ideas were generated and a further project application will be submitted in June.
- The only two projects ongoing into 2012 will be the Sustainable tourism destinations project funded by BfN, and the Grundtvig project.

The following applications have been submitted with partners and we eagerly await results:

- New Bio-geographic Process-Technical and scientific support in relation to the Natura 2000 Seminars Process, in collaboration with IUCN, Eurosite, Alterra and CEEweb. Commencing Jan 2012.
- Europe Goes Wild: Wilderness restoration in Europe in collaboration with WWF DCP and Pan Parks. Commencing Sept 2012.
- EME Natura 2000: Efficient Managers for Efficient Natura2000 Network in association with Pro Parks. Commencing Sept 2012.
- BEST - Biodiversity and Sustainability in Macronesia, the Fortunate Islands, with partners in the Macronesian region. Commencing Jan 2012.
- Cross-border Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro with COSV in Italy.
- Junior Rangers, “Ambassador” for promoting sustainable development with COSV Italy.
- Environmentally sustainable camps in Tourism, with Viaggi dell’Elefante s.p.a., a means to protect Protected Areas, contribute to the Climate Change and boost the stagnant tourism economy.
- Central Europe (CE) programme lead by Delta de Po in Italy, entitled FORCE, Fostering of healthy food productions in European protected areas with Slow Food International.

Due to an administrative error made between the Federation and our Accountant, an important document was omitted, making our NGO grant application, non-compliant and therefore rejected by the Commission. We will therefore not be in receipt of NGO grant in 2012.

## Work-plan Overview

The following summarises the activities to December 2011. The shaded column indicates the activities that will continue in 2012.

The summary table below shows activities that have been started in all areas of the work-plan. The activities only show the operation of the directorate team and do not include the work undertaken by sections.

**Table 1: Summary table of work undertaken against strategic headlines and objectives of the EUROPARC strategy.**

	EUROPARC Strategy Objectives	Summary of progress to 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2011	Projected work plan for 2012
<b>Support the management of Europe's protected areas</b>			
<b>Indicate and share the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas</b>			
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 practice and expertise the management of protected areas in climate change and biodiversity loss	<p><b>Lobbying</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison with other NGOs (ELO-IFOAM-IUCN, WWF, Bird Life). EU consultation responses on DG enterprise on sustainable tourism, CAP reform financing N2000, Future of Life programme all submitted.</li> <li>Collaborated with EHF on position paper to DG environment on Financing N2000</li> <li>Produced article with birdlife on CAP in European Voice</li> </ul> <p><b>Meetings with commission and other bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting of NGO in relation to CAP reform, meeting with DG Environment re biogeographical seminars</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications , Enews , articles, publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight e-news published with many more texts and emails in French, Spanish and Italian and including updates from Brussels</li> <li>Updated the distribution lists for mailings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison with other NGOs (ELO-IFOAM-IUCN, WWF, Bird Life). EU consultation responses on DG enterprise on sustainable tourism, CAP reform financing N2000, will continue.</li> <li>EUROPARC will continue to play a role in the European Habitats Forum, subject to discussions with Eurosite.</li> <li>Gabor Szilagy will continue to represent EUROPARC on the N2000 expert working group.</li> <li>EUROPARC will be working with IUCN to seek to establish a protected areas working group within the European parliament's Intergroup on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meetings with commission and other bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting s with DG Director Falkenberg and Commissioner Potocnik took place in January, with Eurosite. The commission have agreed following lobbying from Ignace</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA insight is due imminently and will be available at conference.</li> <li>• The E-News is currently distributed to 1856 email addresses and the PA In-Sight to 1391 addresses including officials and international press.</li> </ul> <p><b>Press</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five emails were sent out to press contacts across Europe. These were about: the Alfred Toepfer Scholarship; the European Day of Parks; the EUROPARC Conference 2011 and the Charter networking conference. The European Parks release was also sent to members to adapt and use on a local level</li> <li>• An interview was given for the European Day of Parks in Bulgaria and Carol Ritchie gave a radio and television interview regarding the Charter networking event in Serbia</li> <li>• A local newspaper article was released in Altmühltal Nature Park regarding the staff day volunteering in the protected area</li> <li>• Ten information emails were sent to members so far regarding various internal matters</li> <li>• Two articles were published with contributions from the EUROPARC Federation</li> </ul> <p><b>International work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Parks Forum has concluded and we will</li> </ul>	<p>to host the 20years celebration of N2000 within the EUROPARC conference. These and other contacts will be followed up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EUROPARC will be following closely the compilation of the biogeographical seminars process and will seek member input where possible</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications , Enews , articles, publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 e-news are planed going to a bi -monthly distribution</li> <li>• The annual report will be produced with a limited print run</li> <li>• The protected area insight will be produced if funds permit</li> </ul> <p><b>Press</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press releases will continue to be sent by the EUROPARC Federation, in particular for the European Day of Parks, and conference.</li> <li>• The Living parks exhibition will be hosted in Regensburg with local , national and European press targeted. Sponsorship is being pursued to support the costs of the exhibition.</li> </ul> <p><b>International work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The international staff exchange programme</li> </ul>
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		<p>launch the draft of staff exchange scheme at the conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A generous invitation from Redparques to WCPA world leadership forum in Columbia in September will give EUROPARC the opportunity to discuss further future project work , particularly in staff exchanges and sustainable tourism. A Redarques representative will be present at our conference.</li> <li>• An approach was made to EURAOPC by the US NPS to formalise our interaction with a MoU. EUROPARC gladly agreed and this will be signed by Director and Director of NPS, Jon Jarvis in Columbia. A representative of NPS will attend the conference.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transboundary update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The directorate supported the Preparation of TransParcNet meeting with Krkonoše National Park (CZ) and Karkonosze National Park (PL), in June 2011 56 attendees from 16 different countries.</li> <li>• An intern has updated the list of transboundary areas in Europe and the working group will use this to promote the scheme more widely next year</li> <li>• Work of Transboundary Evaluation Committee and Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently the committee and working group are operating together, but they will split with separate roles in 2012.</li> <li>○ In addition to executing the 3rd TransParcNet</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>with Parks forum has been launched and EUROPARC will coordinate enquiries from our members and endeavour to match with enquires from Australia and new Zealand. .</p> <p><b>Transboundary update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A TransParcNet meeting is planned for June 2012. Unfortunately Directorate will be unable to provide with secretariat for this group during 2012. Background support is off course available.</li> <li>• We have updated the list of transboundary areas in Europe and the working group will use this to promote the scheme more widely next year</li> <li>• Work of Transboundary Evaluation Committee and Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently the committee and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>meeting in June in Krkonoše five new transboundary verifiers were trained on the island of Vilm in July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The STEC recommended the re-awarding of two pairs of TB parks - Krkonose and Karkonose and Oulanka - Panajaervi . These will be awarded at the annual conference.</li> </ul>	<p>working group are operating together, but they will split with separate roles in 2012.</p>
2.	<p>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</p>	<p><b>Communications articles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were articles in Brussels news updates, in the news section on the website and information on the new EUROPARC Facebook page.</li> <li>• Regular promotion of Natura 2000 and of EU policies in all EUROPARC publications, Brussels News updates and new Europe section in the E-News</li> </ul> <p><b>Lobbying work in Brussels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended green week and life conference.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communications articles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular promotion of Natura 2000 and of EU policies in all EUROPARC publications will continue,, Brussels News updates and new Europe section in the E-News will be maintained.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lobbying work in Brussels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint application with Eurosite will be submitted for attendance the Commissions green week. The theme is water resource and we will be seeking member input into the programme.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>To demonstrate the values and wider benefits of protected areas to their surrounding landscapes, regions and communities to increase knowledge and information about sustainable</p>	<p><b>Charter for Sustainable Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 Charter applications were approved by council by for 2011. 7 new verifiers were trained on the Island of Vilm, led by EUROPARC consulting and Directorate courtesy of support from BfN and TUI.</li> <li>• The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism</li> </ul>	<p><b>Charter for Sustainable Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest and application for The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism remain high, indeed we have a record year if applications.Which is a challenge for Evaluation Committee who meets annually</li> </ul>



development.

Evaluation Committee meets annually in June to assess the verification reports completed for Charter applicants. This year's meeting was in Djerdap National Park, Serbia. Over the last few years, the meetings have taken place over two days in order to deal with the many Charter applications received.

- Each report is carefully scrutinized by every member before they come to the Committee meeting. During the meeting all the pros and cons, the strengths and weaknesses of each Charter candidate, are carefully assessed before the Evaluation Committee makes its decision.
- The Committee is also responsible for the technical appraisal of the Charter Part II methodology which each EUROPARC Section submits to the EUROPARC Federation. After the appraisal, the Committee sends its recommendation to the EUROPARC Federation Council that then decides whether or not to approve it for use in that part of Europe.
- In the course of the year the Committee is also available for advice and consultation on all matters concerning the Charter. Because of its expertise and objectivity, the Evaluation Committee has greatly contributed to the success of the Charter. In working closely with the EUROPARC Federation Council and Directorate the joint work ensures that the Charter will continue to be the number-one quality label for sustainable tourism in European protected areas.
- The 7th Charter network meeting "Building Bridges -

in June to assess the verification reports .

- The recommendation arising from the STEPPA project and the current BfN project will be considered by the STWG working closely with the EUROPARC Directorate. A review of the charter process should be completed by the end of 2012
- There are no definite plans for a Charter network meeting in 2012 .
- 2 Charter News will be sent in 2012 .

Seeking solutions”, EUROPARC’s seventh Charter Network Meeting, took place in Djerdap national Park, Serbia. Over 200 participants attended, many from Eastern European countries newly exploring sustainable tourism issues.

- STWG: The work of the sustainable Tourism working group has been storming ahead. The first STWG meeting in Olot, Catalonia, Spain took place on 23.-25.5.2011 and with STWG Task Force meetings on Skype 5 times, STWG Task Force meeting in Serbia 29.-30.6.2011, and STWG Task Force meeting in Siggen 11.-13.7.2011, with input into Thematic Charter development side meeting in EUROPARC Conference 2011. The Directorate has contributed with financial support for Paulo Castro to attend meetings.
- 2 Charter News were sent around to the Charter contact list.
- **Sustainable Tourism Destinations**
  - Due to some excellent work by our intern Alex Crineanu, and supported by Paulo Castro, the data gathering work for sustainable tourism criteria and magic numbers have been completed. Charter park verification reports have been analysed and examples of best practice collated. These will be analysed by the next meeting of the project team in October 2011.

#### **Sustainable Tourism Destinations project**

- This will continue into 2013 and will undertake the gathering of the magic number data for all charter areas. Further an analysis of best practise examples in charter areas will be done and a publication produced. Additionally further analysis of the charter revaluation process including any updating of

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Steppa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting took place in Adamello Brenta, business and customer surveys have been completed and all work is being finalised and translated. The final meeting will be in Finland in October 2011.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	the charter application process itself will also be undertaken.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health working group met twice, at their own costs, following the 2010 annual conference. Discussions however took place by e-mails and phone calls. After that discussions about roadmap and common project planning. Planning in Scotland in March 2011.</li> <li>• The discussions have concentrated on common project planning (not yet successful), developing situation analysis on national level, examining benchmarking between EAI and EUROPARC NB members, cooperation with Scandinavian project 'frisk i naturen', input into workshop in annual conference. Unfortunately we have not been able yet to find a funding instrument to support the work.</li> </ul>	It is anticipated that the Health Working Group will meet during 2012, looking at developing project concepts. Directorate will support where possible.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>work of the Ecosystems and Economics working group</b> convened in 2010, saw meetings taking place in November 2010 in Northern-Ireland (Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust) and in May 2011 in England (North-Pennines AONB). In both cases, cost have been met by participants.</li> <li>• Main result of those two meetings was a Life</li> </ul>	<p>The work of the Ecosystems and Economics working group will continue in 2012 with development of the Peatlands life application. Directorate will support where possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilderness Working group are continuing to</li> </ul>

		<p>application on a project dealing with peatland economics and carbon storage. In short the project deals with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ developing a model to calculate the carbon storage capacity in a peatland habitat</li> <li>○ calculating the difference in storage capacity in a degenerated system compared with a habitat in good condition</li> <li>○ calculating the economics involved in this</li> <li>○ showcasing the possibility of the economics involved in carbon storage as a way to contribute to peatland management</li> </ul> <p>Unfortunately the completely finished application could not be rendered to the national authority due to a last minute flaw in co-funding. The Life application will be rendered in 2012 now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A third short meeting took place in Serbia as a side-meeting during the sustainable tourism conference in order to set the scene again for late 2011 and onwards. This will result in a side-meeting during the Europarc conference in Bad Urach in September 2011 were (among other issues) the Life application will be presented.</li> <li>● No report from the <b>Wilderness Working group</b> has been submitted. However the Wild Europe project</li> </ul>	<p>develop the Wilderness register , ensuring the presence of wilderness in the EU Biodiversity Strategy and producing a standardized definition of wilderness and wild areas. A high level round table meeting is planned for January with EUROPARC will attend.</p>
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		<p>final report was completed and submitted . The project is summarised as achieving the following work during this period has focused mainly on securing the key 'building blocks' for wilderness: development of a contract for the Register (a cornerstone for future protection policies), ensuring the presence of wilderness in the EU Biodiversity Strategy and producing a standardized definition of wilderness and wild areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress with representation of wilderness and development of a Restoration Strategy was somewhat disrupted by uncertainties over the future of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and thereby the 'formal' status of wilderness within the EC agenda. This was resolved in June at the Council of Ministers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Develop the European Protected Area network</b>			EUROPARC 40 <sup>th</sup> year anniversary is in 2013, a plan of how that will be celebrated should be developed with input for council, sections and members. .
<b>Capacity building, training and education of staff and stakeholders of Europe's protected areas</b>			
6.	To build capacity in and provide training for managers of Europe's protected areas on relevant aspects of EU policy, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An excellent Communication workshop took place as part of the Siggen series in July, with support from the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung.</li> <li>• Verifiers training on Island of Vilm in July thanks to TUI and the BfN.</li> <li>• Transpncnet and Charter networking meeting also took place in June.</li> </ul>	<p>The Siggen seminar in 2012 will focus on conflict resolution techniques for protected area managers</p> <p>The Grundtvig project continues, where we will continue to disseminate the communication in enews (in different languages), prepare a Workshop at the Conference and cooperate with EUROPARC Consulting on the research on</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first training for volunteers occurred in the GRUNDTVIG project</li> </ul>	<p>volunteering</p> <p>The International Junior ranger camp will be held in Triglav National park, Slovenia with cross border involvement from PreAlpi Guilia Italy.</p>
7.	<p>To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output</p>	<p><b>Joint work with Eurosite –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting of joint committee in Netherlands, worked with Eurosite on production of joint paper and joint meeting in Schwerin in June 2011.</li> </ul> <p><b>Project development</b> The following projects have been submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Biogeographic Process-Technical and scientific support in relation to the Natura 2000 Seminars Process, in collaboration with IUCN, Eurosite, Alterra and CEEweb. Commencing Jan 2012. <b>Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful</b></li> <li>BEST - Biodiversity and Sustainability in Macronesia, the Fortunate Islands, with partners in the Macronesian region. Commencing Jan 2012. <b>Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The following are pending decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europe Goes Wild : Wilderness restoration in Europe in collaboration with WWF DCP and Pan Parks. Commencing Sept 2012</li> <li>EME Natura 2000: Efficient Managers for Efficient</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joint work with Eurosite –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the GA decision of last September - To build on the collaboration with Eurosite and for one organisation. a joint committee has been formed to take forward the merger proposals. Having met in January 2012, further meetings are planned for March and May in order to progress actions expediently as possible.</li> <li>Meetings between the respective directors will take place on a regular basis to exchange information to forward to the joint committee, as well as plan any joint project proposals</li> <li>A joint communications plan will be produced</li> </ul> <p><b>Project development</b></p> <p>We await news on projects submitted. Clearly as the success or otherwise of project applications is known the workplan will be amended accordingly.</p> <p>Further project proposals will be developed once</p>

		<p>Natura2000 Network in association with Pro Parks. Commencing Sept 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro with COSV in Italy</li> <li>• Environmentally sustainable camps in Tourism , a means to protect Protected Areas, contribute to the Climate Change and boost the stagnant European Tourism Industry. (TO be Confirmed) with Viaggi dell’Elefante s.p.a.</li> <li>• An application under the Central Europe (CE) programme lead by Delta de Po in Italy, entitled FORCE, Fostering of healthy food productions in European protected areas was submitted.</li> <li>• Junior Rangers as Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, with COSV Italy</li> <li>• Several other projects are in development such as Marine project work with WWF MedPo and others , for which meeting will take place in October EUROPARC is also building a partnership for Life applications in 2012 for work commencing 2013.</li> </ul>	<p>staff are in place.</p>
<b>Organisational Development and Capacity Building</b>			
8.	<p>To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC Federation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular calls to members realising excellent results in database being completed. The number of members who have filled in their information has risen by roughly 30%.</li> <li>• Translating e-mails into Fr, Sp, It and also send the e-mails to the members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular calls to members will continue and data gathered in the members databases collated and produced. Which will add significantly to the lobbying information we produce.</li> <li>• Translating e-mails into Fr, Sp, It and also</li> </ul>

			send the e-mails to the members will also continue.
9.	To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management analysis undertaken for directorate.</li> <li>• Increase of internal efficiency of administrative processes and communication (general , project management).</li> <li>• Policy statement on financial reserves adopted.</li> <li>• Work of joint committee to look at collaboration with Eurosite completed. Awaiting decision by general assembly to take actions further.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the significant staff changes, a new staff structure and distribution of tasks will be put in place.</li> <li>• An urgent review of funding for the work of EUROPARC will be undertaken.</li> <li>• It is recommend by the directorate, that the strategy consultation be postponed until 2013, with a draft to be produced through the work of the joint committee in light of the merger with Eurosite. This strategy would then be consulted upon during 2013. To be adopted at the 2013 conference.</li> </ul>

Colour code:



Some progress, ongoing work



No/little activity or change in activity



Achieved



## Work-plan 2012 Summary

We are operating in a time of difficult financial conditions . With public institutions across Europe reducing budgets these are having a knock-on effect on member organisations such as EUROPARC. With several outstanding project applications pending, it remains difficult to predict the details of the work-plan for 2012. Further our exclusion from the NGO grant process in 2012 will impact both our financial capacity and outputs. With reduced staff and financial capacity EUROPARC will need to operate strategically and with clear priorities. Much can still be done and delivered with a committed and dedicated team, and with the great support and input from sections, working groups and indeed members. With the changes that have arisen since the last Director's report I have amended the priorities . Much will be dependent on the financial capacity of the Federation during 2012, which will be constantly under review.

- The new EUROPARC strategy cannot be delivered by September 2012. A draft form should be produced internally with input from the joint committee, as the base line for the new merged organisation. This could be drafted during session in Siggen. This draft could be released for consultation following the General Assembly in October, with full consultation during 2013. The final strategy should then be adopted by 2013.
- The Sustainable Tourism Destination project will continue bringing to a conclusion the studies and issue recommendations. These will be in line with results of the STEPPA project, taking into account considerations from the STWG and changes to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.
- The Grundtvig project will continue to deliver best practice guidelines on the management of volunteering in protected areas.
- An update of the Transboundary manual and guidelines, discussed at the verifiers training session in July 2011. This matter will be postponed until the staff complement of the directorate is settled.
- The third in the Siggen series of seminars will take place in May 2012, providing opportunity for members to analyse current aspects of protected area management. The theme for 2013 will be conflict resolution but only a limited budget will be available for speakers.
- Preparations for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUROPARC in 2013 will need to be planned.
- Communications with members and on the members' behalf will continue with quality continually under review and improvements made.
- Lobbying work will continue with partners in Brussels, with a focus on the CAP reform and the contribution of protected areas, protected areas contribution to N2000 network and EU biodiversity strategy, sustainable development through the Tourism Sustainability Group of DG Enterprise, amongst other issues that are relevant and pertinent to raise the status of protected areas in Europe.
- Working through our working groups we will continue to develop agenda on health, protected areas ecosystems, economics and wilderness. Funding opportunities will be sought to develop these areas of work further.
- Continual efficiencies and savings will be sought throughout EUROPARC operations with new funding stream and membership recruitment being a priority.

Carol Ritchie, Director

January 2012