



# **EUROPARC Federation**

## **Report to Council**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Title:

Director's Report

Summary :

Update on activities of the Directorate, summary workplan for 2011, financial update for 2010/11.

Recommendations :

- ❖ To note the report
- ❖ To adopt the change to quarterly reports from the Directorate

# EUROPARC Federation March 2011 Update

## Overview

The following summarises the activities undertaken since the last report in September 2010

### Staffing - For information

- Cornelia Ehlers left on maternity leave at Christmas and subsequently gave birth to Magdalena on 15<sup>th</sup> February. Congratulations have been sent on behalf of the Federation. Cornelia is due to return in September 2011.
- Regina Schöfer joined us on 3<sup>rd</sup> January as the Executive Administrator/Project Officer and has ably taken up the reins.
- Diana Gallrap has announced her pregnancy and it is anticipated she will commence her maternity leave in August.
- Elena Osipova joins us on a work placement from March until end of July.

These changes will invariably mean some level of disruption within the office, but these will be kept to a minimum.

### Financial update.

Due to a shortfall in income a request in November 2010 was made and agreed by council for €50,000 to be moved from the savings account to the giro account in order that financial commitments could be met. €40,000 has now been returned to the savings account.

The NGO grant application and workplan was submitted in November 2010, with an anticipated income of €94,000. Results of the application will be known in March. If the application is unsuccessful this will result in significant financial hardship for the Federation in 2011.

Payments were received from Federparchi at the end of December 2010 for Italian members. This, however, was a significant shortfall in membership subscriptions. None of the anticipated income from EUROPARC consulting was received at the year end due to downturn in their business. This combination in loss of income resulted in the EUROPARC Federation registering a negative result at the year end.

The accounts are currently being audited with final result to be available at the end of March. A summary statement is contained in this report.

### EUROPARC/Eurosite Joint Committee

The committee met in November 2010 and agreed a course of action to examine the options for collaboration between the two organisations. Specifically the requirements for setting up a new third organisation, through which the existing two organisations could operate, was to be examined. Input from Roger De Freitas on governance issues was obtained and the two Directors met to flesh out some aspects of the work. Details are contained in a separate report.

## **Risk Management**

The full Directorate team met in December 2010 to examine aspects of their work indicated in the risk management register prepared by the internal auditor. Areas of internal communications, performance evaluation and financing were particularly considered, with mitigation, and contingencies proposed. The risk management register has been updated accordingly.

Internal auditing of finance and administrative procedures has not yet been undertaken due to the unavailability of the Internal Auditor.

## **Representation:**

Since Sept 2010

Ignace Schops, Director of Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Hoge Kempen National Park, Belgium, kindly agreed to represent the Federation at the CBD event in Nagoya Japan.

Cornelia Ehlers attended the finance conference in Lauren Germany organised by the Bayerische Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege and presented on behalf of the federation at the invitation of IUCN.

Cornelia Ehlers attended the Transboundary conference in Giesen transboundary protected areas on Europe and Southern Africa and presented about EUROPARC's Transboundary programme

Carol Ritchie and Federico Minozzi attended the sections meeting in the Brussels office. The workplan and structure for the coming year (2010) was agreed and some useful feedback regarding the conference 2010, particularly workshops was received. This was provided to the organisers of conference 2011.

Federico Minozzi and Regina Schöfer attended the kick off meeting of the Grundtvig project in Berlin. The project has now officially started and Directorate will be leading on communication of the project and have subcontracted a research on the benefits of volunteering to EUROPARC consulting.

Federico Minozzi attended the European Habitats Forum meeting in Brussels. New governance structure for the forum and working groups were agreed. Federation is seeking representation and input into these working groups.

Carol Ritchie and Regina Schöfer attended the kick off meeting of the Sustainable Tourism Destinations project in the Sierra Nevada Nature and National Parks in Spain. This meeting identified the clear objectives for the project which will enable data and evidence regarding the benefits of the charter to protected areas to be gathered and improvements and modifications to the charter to be initiated.

Federico Minozzi attended a Life + communication seminar in Brussels. This event was initiated by EUROARC and will enable us to better inform and advise members about Life funding.

Carol Ritchie and Federico Minozzi attended a meeting with DG Enterprise, Sustainable Tourism section. This enabled us to introduce the Charter to them and to clarify our role on the Tourism Sustainability group.

Morwenna Parkyn met with IEEP and Life + communication and IUCN staff in Brussels. This will result in better shared communications and raising the profile of the Federation work amongst strategic partners.

Carol Ritchie attended the Charter Awards ceremony and meeting at the Forest of Bowland and presented them with their charter award.

### **Communications:**

Monthly E-news has continued with a new format introduced in January 2011. Two Charter network newsletters have also been produced. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Protected Areas Insight was produced immediately following the conference and was well received by members. A new Transboundary leaflet was also published.

Sales of our book “Living Parks” continue.

The EUROPARC exhibition, 100 years of National Parks in Europe, has travelled from France and ended its tour in Italy before returning to Regensburg for some light repairs and updates indicating the parks and benefits project. It is now in Lithuania before heading to Estonia. The exhibition has now been seen by over 10,000 people in 9 countries.

The Federation website has been continuously updated, particularly the news pages with information from the field of nature protection across Europe.

Press coverage: Pescasseroli declaration: The declaration was sent to national and regional governments and newspapers across Europe to obtain maximum publicity.

The Alfred Toepfer Scholarships award was launched for 2011 with a press release going out from directorate and through all Sections.

Communication with members continued with 11 emails sent since September 2010.

The PARKS & BENEFITS brochure was produced through the project and distributed to members.

The EUROPARC Federation gratefully received new Charter documentation produced by EUROPARC Federation with generous sponsorship from TUI.

A new facebook page was launched in January 2011 with which we hope to communicate on a more informal basis with members and EUROPARC supporters.

### **Project development:**

The following projects areas are ongoing or under development:

- The WWF Danube Carpathian project training of environmental professionals in the Danube Carpathian region has now been concluded. A small spin -off project is underway led by the

NNA. EUROPARC was not invited to participate but will meet trainees at a meeting in Regensburg in May.


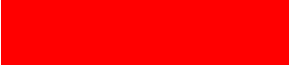

- Youth in Action –An application for a Partnership Building activity “Action for youth in Parks” has been submitted in February, in partnership with IRF, and Ranger associations from Romania, Denmark, and Scotland.
- The PARKS & BENEFITS project is continuing in the Baltic region and resulted in the first Norwegian Charter Park being established.
- STEPPA - Sustainable Tourism in Enterprises, Parks and Protected Areas project has begun with the kick off meeting in Leeds, UK.
- Sustainable Tourism Destinations project has commenced with the study analysis of Charter and Sustainable Tourism Destination criteria already produced by EUROARC consulting.
- 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 Med Po and Med Pan. – Application to MAVA foundation pending feasibility study by WWF to which EUROPARC has been invited on the advisory panel.
- Summary of activities undertaken are shown in the table below.
- GRUNDTVIG – the first Grundtvig project ‘European Volunteers in Parks’ came to an end. However a follow up project application was successful and the new project commenced in January 2011.

### **Workplan 2011 Summary**

The summary table below shows activity begun in all areas of the workplan. The activities only show the operation of the directorate team and do not include the work undertaken by sections and working groups. It would be too onerous to gather this information at this stage.

I would recommend however that small quarterly reports are produced to council commencing 2011 rather than wait for council meetings. Given the time between meetings, this report in particular straddles 2 financial years and two workplans. This would minimise time spent on detail during council meetings, where the Director could only deal with questions or updates from the reports submitted.

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

**Colour code:**  Some progress, ongoing work  No/little activity or change in activity  Achieved

|   | EUROPARC Strategy Objectives  | Summary of progress to mid July 2010  |
|---|---|---|
| <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> <p>Liaison with other NGOs (ELO-IFOAM-IUCN)</p> <p>Attended and contributed to International Conferences (Biodiversity post 2010, Green infrastructures, ELO biodiversity conference...)</p> <p><b>Meetings with commission and other bodies</b></p> <p>CAP meeting: attended EEB seminar (reforming the CAP)</p> <p>Networking with IUCN, IEEP and LIFE +</p> <p><b>Communications , Enews , articles, publications</b></p> <p>At least 6 articles on different values and benefits over the course of 2010</p> <p>Translated texts and email in French, Spanish and Italian texts, updating the distribution lists for mailings</p> <p><b>Project development</b></p> <p>Work with slow food: defined project concept on Agriculture and Biodiversity conservation within protected areas, liaise with other potential partners (IFOAM, ELO and some PAs); overview of potential funds sources</p> |

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
|    |   | <p><b>International work</b></p> <p>One article on the protected areas in South America, plus the promotion of the Healthy Parks, Healthy People Network, the IYB, IUCN and LIFE+ information on protected areas.</p>  |
| 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 | <p><b>Joint work with Eurosite</b> – two workshops planned for 2011 (open to Eurosite members). Work of joint committee on future collaboration ongoing</p> <p><b>CAP meeting:</b> Organised Seminar on CAP reform and implication for PAs with members and other European NGO (Birdlife, WWF, ELO), set actions and discussed EUROPARC position</p> <p><b>CBD :</b> feedback discussion on post Nagoya conference from Ignance Schops.</p> <p><b>Wilderness:</b> attended and contributed to Wilderness Conference in Brussels and to Wild 10 conference planning meeting</p> <p><b>Communications</b> articles: Brussels news updates. News and information on Facebook pages</p> <p>Regular promotion of Natura 2000 and of EU policies in all EUROPARC publications, Brussels News updates and new Europe section in the E-News</p> <p><b>Charter</b><br/>17 Charter application are in for 2011</p> <p><b>Transboundary update</b></p> <p>Article written for IUCN Transboundary publication.</p> |

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
|    |   | <p><b>Commission consultations and papers responded to</b></p> <p>Answered to EU Public consultation on Financing N2000, on future of LIFE+</p> <p>Attended N2000 expert working group, EHF meeting and meeting with DG Env, LIFE+ consultation meeting and meeting with LIFE unit on the new LIFE+ call</p> <p>Distribution of info among the network</p> <p>EHF position paper on financing N2000 sent to Commission Nature Unit.</p> <p><b>Wilderness</b> –. Wilderness restoration conference held in Brussels. Wilderness working group work ongoing. EUROPARC represented by Erika. Directorate managing Wild Europe project.</p> <p><b>Green week</b> application submitted</p> <p>Attended TSG working group (DG Enterprise) and meeting with sustainable tourism unit (DG Enterprise)</p> |
| 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. | <p><b>Parks and Benefits</b></p> <p>Monitoring report sent in to project managers</p> <p>Parks and &amp;Benefits preparing best practices about Charter implementation and PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) in Protected areas</p> <p>Exhibition “Living Parks” going Baltic; fostering experience exchange, Presentation about Charter Part I+II, Development of Charter Part II; promotion material: Flyer, film, brochure, calendar (2012)</p>  |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p><b>Sustainable Tourism Destinations</b></p> <p>kick off meeting took place in Sierra Nevada NP</p> <p>Designing flowchart for the assessment of the TSG indicators and designing table for the assessment of the magic numbers</p> <p>Gathering the Charter Areas that can be examples of best practice</p> <p>Sorting out what magic numbers we have and what magic numbers we still need to collect from the Charter Areas.</p> <p><b>Steppa</b> – Interim report sent in Jan 2011, next project meeting at the end of this month</p> <p>Translations undertaken for questionnaires, Charter 2 accreditation manual is out for consultation with the STWG</p> <p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Two press releases passed down to protected areas to adapt and send to regional and national press</p> |
| 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 | No update from health working group   |
| 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.                | Meetings with other NGOs (IUCN, IFOAM, ELO, EUROMONTANA, BirdLife)  |
| <b>Develop the European Protected Area network</b> |  |   |

| 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    |  |
| 7.  | To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output      | <p>Meetings with NNA, IEEP, IUCN, LIFE + and FACE on communications and other topics. Current discussions with SAP regarding European Day of Parks. Discussions with the World Database of Protected Areas and Google. Cooperation with Futerra under discussion.</p> <p>Closer work with the IUCN on transboundary protected areas.</p>   |
| Organisational Development and Capacity Building  |   |  |
| 8.  | To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC Federation   | <p>E-Mail out to all members reminding them to fill in their data online and reminders in E-News since then. Making calls to collect information we are yet to receive.</p> <p>Continuous maintenance of our distribution databases including the increase of contacts within these.</p> <p>Calling members reminding them about the membership fees, about filling in our online database.</p> <p>Translating e-mails into Fr, Sp, It and also send the e-mails to the members.</p> |
| 9.  | To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation | <p>Risk Management analysis undertaken</p> <p>Increase of internal efficiency of administrative processes and communication (general , project management)</p>   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | Work of joint committee to look a collaboration with Eurosite on going |
|--|--|--|

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

**Table 2. Finance Update 2010 and projections for 2011**

| Item                | Anticipated 2010    | Actual December 2010   | Estimated 2011  |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>       |                     |  |                 |
| Membership          | 346,569.00 €        | 294,428.12 €   | 292,933€        |
| EU NGO Life + grant | 95,402.00 €         | 57,241.20 €<br>Remainder paid on completion of NGO grant report submitted March 2010 | 95,402€         |
| EUROPARC consulting | 30,000.00 €         | 0€   | 0€              |
| Other income        | 107,935€            | 97,840*€   | 99,458€         |
| <b>INCOME Total</b> | <b>579,906.00 €</b> | <b>449,509.68 €</b>  | <b>487,779€</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  |                     |  |                 |
| Personnel costs     | 356,999.00 €        | 323,527.20 €   | 230,368€        |
| Travel              | 53,756.00 €         | 44,667.82 €  | 85,753€         |
| Rentals             | 31,067.00 €         | 40,868.54 €  | 25,072€         |
| External Assistance | 35,322.00 €         | 49,205.34 €  | 56,430€         |
| Other costs         | 22,000.00 €         | 22,866.06 €  | 11,500€         |
| Overheads           | 48,334.00 €         | 47,160.27 €  | 41,220€         |

|                          |                     |                                   |                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Projects                 | 95,270€             | 79,771.84 €                       | 66,334€          |
| <b>EXPENDITURE Total</b> | <b>642,748.00 €</b> | <b>563,398€</b>                   | <b>516,676€</b>  |
| <b>Result</b>            | <b>-62,842.00 €</b> | <b>- 113,889.57 €<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>-28, 897€</b> |

<sup>1</sup> this is the picture at 31<sup>st</sup> December. There is still income FOR 2010 due in 2011 from Parks and Benefits , and other projects as well as the remainder of the NGO grant 38,161€. Some 2010 membership income may still come in. The final audited account will be available at end of March. The result is only the year end figure, finances roll over from one finance year to the next and the negative result often a factor of the timing of payments. Plus we are pre-financing in some cases for projects (especially parks and benefits) for which we only receive a 50% payment and with a considerable timelag.

### Other income

|                              |       |   |
|------------------------------|-------|---|
| Income ATS                   | 5000  |   |
| Income PAME                  | 3000  | . |
| Income Naturegio             | 2375  |   |
| Income Booksales             | 228   |   |
| Income WWF                   | 41700 |   |
| Income WildEuropelInitiative | 24750 |   |
| Income Steppa                | 9617  |   |
| Income Parks&Benefits        | 1519  |   |
| Income Office Sales          | 1251  |   |
| Income Reg Euro Charter      | 4000  |   |
| Income BfN                   | 3758  |   |
| Income Grundtvig Volunteer   |       |   |
| Income Interest of deposit   | 361   |   |
| Income Europarc Consulting   |       |   |
| Income Other Revenues        | 278   |   |

## **Looking ahead to 2011**

With the significant drop in membership payments in 2010, particularly for Italy, I have to assume a much lower income for 2011.

The significant rise in travel cost is due to anticipated support for working groups and joint meetings. This budget remains under review and clearly will need to be scaled back if income targets are not met.

If we were not to receive the NGO Life + Grant this year a new budget will have to be created.

Reserves remain vulnerable, and membership income is being received for 2011 in amounts which so far enable us to meet our monthly outrun. This is expected to tail off in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year.

The focus of the team is on project development as new income will need to be found urgently for 2012. Currently we continue to develop the mediterranean project with WWF, are seeking a partnership with IUCN for an EU bid and are considering other Life applications.

Meanwhile with a committed and dedicated team we continue to perform above what could be anticipated with our current resource base.

Carol Ritchie

Director EUROPARC Federation

March 2011