

EUROPARC Federation, Section Meeting

Location:	The Sustainable House (EUROPARC Federation office), Brussels, Belgium			
Date:	Thursday 15 th April 2010	Start :	10:00	End : 16:35
Attendees :	Representatives of Sections present: Martin Lane (EAI), Olaf Holm (F), Lena.Malmstrom (NB), Thomas Hansson (NB), Handrij Hartel (CZ), Zdeňka Křenová (CZ), Holger Wesemüller (D)			
	Others Present: Gábor Szilagyi (HU) (until 12 p.m.), Carol Ritchie (Director EUROPARC Federation), Cornelia Ehlers (Executive Administrator)			
Apologies	Stefania Petrosillo (I), Marta Múgica (ES), Dan Bloomfield (EAI)			

	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
1.	Welcome and introductions	Decisions Taken	Actions
	ML welcomed the participants and thanked the directorate team for hosting the meeting in Regensburg. The first minutes of the meeting were spent with a minute's silence in commemoration of Aitken Clark, Jordi Falgarona and Geraint George.		
2	Minutes of the last meeting, October 22nd 2009	Decisions Taken	Actions
	ML apologized for not passing the minutes around after the last meeting and the discussion was therefore postponed to the next meeting.	Minutes of October 2009 to be discussed in next meeting.	CE to pass around minutes of last meeting.
3.	Re-establishing of the Federation's Natura 2000 Working Group using the Federations new guidelines	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Gábor Szilagyi (GS) (Council member) joined the Section meeting to discuss the re-establishment of the Natura 2000 working group, which has already been approved by Council in March 2010. GS represents EUROPARC at the Natura 2000 expert group in Brussels.</p> <p>He explained briefly the need for the working group and its history in the Federation with a powerpoint presentation (ppt will be sent around) and called for cooperation with the sections on the establishment of the working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposals for working group members should be made by Sections to Gabor with the double coverage approach (persons, who can represent a biogeographical region (alpine, atlantic, boreal, continental, mediterranean, pannonian, etc.) and section and also have a field of expertise (admin, communication, habitat restoration, species protection, contractual and admin matters etc.) in Natura 2000 site management - Host for meetings are needed (for max. 6 persons – since there is no funds for working groups currently) - GS pointed out that the Federation has limited resources and therefore no operational costs of the working groups can be covered in 2010 <p>Timeframe for selection of group members and operation of working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than one suggestion can be made since a selection will be done - May 14th proposal should be sent by Section to Gabor, incl. CV of nominated persons - May 27th-30th discussion during joined Council and Section meeting and selection 	<p>For the selection of the WG members it was decided that it is important to also include non Section members, since many members are not represented in Sections. But the most important criteria is to the suitability and expertise to become a member to the WG.</p>	<p>CE to send around ppt. of Gábor Szilagyi.</p> <p>Sections to propose members to the Natura 2000 WG until May 14th to Gabor. Proposals should include CVs of the proposed members.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sept. First meeting at conference in Italy - Second meeting: February. 2011 – hosts welcome (EUROPARC Germany offered to host in Berlin, but concerns about the costs of such a meeting in Germany were voiced) - Sept. 2011 meeting in Germany at conference <p>GS pointed out that in 2014 the financing of the Natura 2000 sites will completely change. Currently it seems there might be direct funding for Natura 2000 site management from 2014.</p> <p>Questions: Olaf pointed out that immediate action might be needed for in terms of Natura 2000 funding and lobbying for it, since some important decisions will be made on EU level already this year.</p> <p>Carol (Directorate) informed the Sections about the possibility for working groups to meet in Siggen in the week of July 17th-24th during the first half of that week. The second half of the week will be a EUROPARC Federation seminar. Attendees only have to cover their transport costs. Board and Lodging is provided by Alfred Toepfer foundation (http://toepfer-fvs.de/index.php?id=35&L=1).</p>	<p>Natura 2000 working group can meet first time in July 2010 in Siggen.</p>	
<p>4. Wilderness working group / Working groups 2010</p>	<p>Decisions Taken</p>	<p>Actions required</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Zdeňka explained the idea about the working group that was established in March through Council decision. Their first meeting will take place in early May. Currently the group has 8 interested persons to join the group. External partners like PAN Parks are included. Contact persons for Wilderness are: Zdeňka Křenová (CZ) and Erika Stanciu (RO) o The EUROPARC conference in Italy will possibly include a keynote speaker on wilderness <p>The Directorate gave the following information about all working groups, after Council decision in March 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Standing committees <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verification committee for the Charter of Sustainable Tourism 2. Verification committee for Transboundary Certification (STEC) o Working groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Contact person: Lena Malmström and Dan Bloomfield Council member contact: Rolands Auzins <p>The following groups are still subject to final decision in May, since they had to resubmit their proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2. Sustainable Development and Economics (contact: Paul Leadbitter) - 3. Charter for Sustainable Development/Sustainable Tourism (EUROPARC Italy and EUROPARC Spain) - 4. Natura 2000 (Council contact: Gabor) - 5. Biodiversity and Climate Change (Kalkalpen and Tara NP) 		

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<p>6. Wilderness (Erika and Zdenka)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online Forum Lobbying Online Forum (which may become a working group) <p>Council is still to decide which Council member will be the contact person for which group.</p>		
<p>5. Feedback from Lobbying workshop and to agree next steps</p> <p>Olaf gave a short feedback on the Seminar and added that the minutes will be sent around shortly. A real potential was discovered for the parks to give input for 2014. After the seminar an online forum was created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the group is busy to organize the next steps, and to find ways how to link the lobbying group to the working groups and to find a coordinator and contact person. • Goal of group: to produce paper for the General Assembly in September, indicating the goals for lobbying group • Directorate has established an action plan and is implementing it. One of the actions is a profile raising event in the beginning of June at the representation of Saxony-Anhalt. Through Martin Solar EUROPARC is also targeting the commissioner who is Slovenian. <p>It was stated that time is of the essence, since by end of year the regional development policies will be closed.</p>	<p>Decisions Taken</p> <p>Next steps agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structure for group needs to be found - Smaller group to be established - By July: coordinator to be found - Identify ways to link the lobbying group to the other working groups 	<p>Actions</p> <p>Olaf will encourage online group to communicate about a structure of the group and to identify a coordinator by July.</p> <p>Directorate to pass around action plan.</p>
<p>6. Update on 2010 work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federation received the NGO core grant, but 6,2 percent less than requested (a cut was made by the EU across all Core grant receivers, reasons for this cut were not really clear.) - Sections need to review their commitments, because non delivery of actions in the workplan result in financial penalties for the Federation to the EU - Since October 2009 was the first try for the Sections and the Federation to carry forward a planning together the process and information was reviewed. The Directorate was very pleased with the quality of the information and with how well organized and timely the information came in. The matching of the information to the EU priorities was a bit of a task though. In general the process has been a successful attempt to synchronise the work of the Sections and the Federation. <p><u>The following timeframes and challenges were identified:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Midterm reporting from the Sections on their actions is necessary as an early warning system, since the EU needs to be informed when actions are not going to take place. Major changes need to be known by April of each year (an Email is enough!) - October 2010 is the time when Federation needs the information for work planning of 2011 - Improvements for Federation and section can be made on the indicator and number side – it is important to collect that information (no. Of participants etc.). - 	<p>Decisions Taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sections are to communicate to Federation by Email, whenever they change one of their actions/ activities they planned since October 2009. (major changes are needed to be known by April of each year); 	<p>Actions</p> <p>Sections to review their commitments by May 7th. Directorate to circulate workplan to Sections for them to give feedback on their actions (whether they will be delivered or not, if there were changes, whether topics were already (over)achieved and whether new topics were identified since October 2009.</p> <p>Federation needs information about 2011 work plan from Sections by October 2010.</p>

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7. Consideration and preparation of Federations projects	Decisions Taken	Actions
<p>Carol explained that the Federation is going through difficult financial times, since the income keeps decreasing, but not all expenses are decreasing. Therefore it is essential for the Federation to look into project proposals for 2010. In Summer the Federation will be down to running only two minor projects (Parks&Benefits and Steppa).</p> <p>Actions have already been taken and the staff is currently working on the following project proposals:</p> <p>Ideas for new projects that staff is currently working on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth in Action - European training event (idea: to use the event to talk about creating a Junior Ranger network) 2. Central Europe structural fund – project about Green Corridors (interesting for: CZ, Germany, Italy – could join forces) 3. Wilderness 4. MAVA – Swiss alpine or Mediterranean/marine project – (Marine Junior Ranger) focussing on France, Spain, Italy, Serbia <p>Directorate looking for project interests and ideas from Sections</p> <p>Germany:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is doing marine JR at Boddensee - Germany has a project about Green corridors with Friends of the Earth - Germany has a Youth in action project together with Fraunhofer institute – developing new webgames (developed together with partners from the US) - WWF gives money to the Junior Ranger programme in Germany yearly - Holger offered to help with contacts e.g. to MAVA Foundation <p>France:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interest in green corridor - Interest in Wilderness/Reintroduction of the wild to the parks in France - Biodiversity and social integration - Transport – how to get to a protected area <p>The suggestion was made that every working group should develop a major project. The process on how to capture the information was discussed and decided.</p>	<p>Sections can be partner themselves or as a broker to identify partner / member</p>	<p>Directorate to send out plan with project, aims, region, outline and section fills in a box on that</p> <p>Directorate to do research on technical assistance/ international cooperation</p> <p>Directorate will send out bulletin on project ideas and questions to members, specifying what type of partners and input is needed</p> <p>Sections to look at their own workplans for the next months until next meeting and to identify from the Federations proposal the areas they might be interested in.</p>
8. Initial ideas for the 2011 workplan – ideas and proposals from Sections	Decisions Taken	Actions
<p>Nordic Baltic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seminar series will continue – there will be change in presidency 2012-2014, probably Baltic president - Interest in NB is volunteering, (2011 is year of volunteering) - Request from members for projects for visitor monitoring and management 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Organizing Ranger oriented field trips (international guests)- Health – NB and EAI – working group has two years to develop projects- Lobbying work in Federation also targeting health, since in health PAs are not recognized to contribute to health.- One suggestion is to gather models on how PAs contribute to health.- highlighting – ecosystem services provided by PAs <p>France 2009-2012 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lobbying- Charter (Tourism)- Communication about other sections <p>Additional interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Green corridor- Branding- European congress for Nature Sport (France: wants theme of outdoor sports on European level – this links to health) <p>Czech Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Green corridors- Wilderness <p>Federation</p> <p>The second part of Siggen week in July 2010 is likely to be about ecosystem services. During discussion it was identified that no common vocabulary exists about values and benefits of parks or what that means as compared to ecosystem services. A suggestion was made to produce a position paper through the EUROPARC network on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. being concrete: what are the ecosystem services provided and how to – convince the policy makers on values and benefits of PAs2. What are the non monetary values of PAs (intrinsic ethical, spiritual values) <p>EAI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Health- Ecosystem services- Seminars: April 2010: Marine, Link between terrestrial and marine designations- Seminar in autumn: likely: economic benefits and their articulation- CAP reform 2013/14 – request from members for EAI to push that topic <p>Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- EUROPARC 2011 – theme: Management effectiveness		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Junior Ranger - Volunteers - Communications and branding - Fundraising/financing (combined with biodiversity and climate change) - Ecosystem services and their communication - Evaluation of parks <p>Side topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - green corridors (along iron curtain) together with Friends of the Earth - Wilderness - Health 		
9. and 10.	<p>German efforts to influence the CBD process</p> <p>JR in Germany: Earth Day concert</p>	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>EUROPARC Germany successfully brought topics on the European agenda for the CBD process. Three out of four topics EUROPARC Germany identified to the Federal Ministry (BfN) were adopted and are now even European approaches.</p> <p>The JR programme in Germany has also been successful and was with the help of National Geographic now made the recipient of this year's Earth Day concert on April 21st in Berlin.</p>		<p>Holger to circulate the identified and adopted topics for CBD.</p> <p>Sections to inform Directorate on any big and active members of the Federation that will be represented in Nagoya and could represent the Federation there.</p> <p>Plan B: Sections to keep ears open on possibilities to sponsor Federation to take part in Nagoya.</p>
11.	<p>Membership categories</p> <p>The Sections were informed about the current discussion on membership fees amongst the Council members. Papers on this will be sent out by July to all members. A short summary was given to the Sections:</p> <p><i>The EUROPARC Council is likely to recommend to General Assembly (after a final discussion by Council in May):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To remove category F and G</i> • <i>Rename Group I: Supporting individuals and consultancies</i> • <i>Create new category of supporting organisations at a fee level of 250 Euro with limited membership</i> 		

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<p><i>benefits (no access to web area, no voting right, no reductions of conference fees, no lower EUROPARC Consulting fees, etc.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the only benefit this group can access is: application to Charter of Sustainable Tourism, and Transboundary certificate, participation in Junior Ranger programme, participation in working groups, access to information)</i> • <i>An organisation can ONLY apply to this category if it CLEARLY does not belong to any of the other categories</i> • <i>If a member of another category wishes to be placed into the lower fee category it needs to clearly show that the original fee is higher than 1% of its yearly turnover.</i> <p>Decisions/Clarifications that were taken by the EUROPARC Council March 2010 concerning membership fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Voting right relates to the membership fee. Any member paying below 585 Euro is a nonvoting member.</i> • <i>For each vote one person is entitled to membership benefits.</i> • <i>The Federation no longer accept cheques.</i> <p>Concerning the Charter for Sustainable Tourism the following was decided by the EUROPARC Council meeting in March 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>A PA needs to be a FULL member of the Federation to apply for the Charter as long as the PA is its own legal entity and has its own budget. (clarification: also members of the newly to be created category at a fee level of 250 Euro can apply)</i> - <i>A PA that does not have its own legal entity and no own budget can however also apply to the Charter if it is REPRESENTED by its higher authority at the Federation (i.e. the higher authority needs to be a full member to the Federation for a PA to receive the Charter).</i> - <i>Membership benefits related to REPRESENTED PAs: Membership benefits other than Charter application do NOT apply to represented PAs.</i> 		
<p>12 EDoP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A concern by Morwenna Parkyn (Communication Officer, who joined the meeting briefly) was made that participation and events for the European Day of Parks are declining - Views on how to improve the participation and the possibilities of the sections to contribute to make members more active on the European level were exchanged with Federation staff - Views and ideas on how the EDoP concept could be improved were expressed 		<p>Morwenna will send out Email on EDoP and possibilities to improve it: Sections: Please get back to Morwenna on her Email.</p>
<p>13 Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elections for the Section representative at the EUROPARC Council are to be held during the Sections meeting on September 30th 2010. It was proposed to send out a call for nominations in June/July. 	<p>Revolving Scheme will replace Elections for co-opted Council member of Sections at Council.</p>	<p>Sections presidents in May to fix an order for a revolving scheme.</p>

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	During the discussion suggestions for a systematic way to of the Sections to be represented in council were made and adopted. A yearly revolving scheme was agreed.	The representation can be passed onto the next in line, when the representation comes at a inadequate time for a Section.	Paperwork to be reviewed by Thomas and Martin on possibilities for a revolving scheme.
14	Next Section Meeting / Joint Section/Council Meeting		
	<p>The Meeting from May 27th-May 30th was discussed and the Sections informed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sections Presidents are invited to a joint meeting with the Council on Saturday 29th May from 9 a.m. (possibly ending at 13:00) in the Hague - There will be a joint meal on Friday 28th for those arriving early And one on sat 29th if presidents are staying - The Presidents are invited to a site visit after the meeting on Saturday afternoon and if they stay longer also to a dinner on Saturday night. 		
15	Any other urgent business		
	<p>The proposal sent out by Eurosite about merging was shortly discussed, since the letter was distributed by Eurosite to its members, 50 of who are also EUROPARC members. It was mentioned that the sending out of the letter by Eurosite was and an innocent mistake on their side, but has caused some issues for EUROPARC.</p> <p>The Sections were informed that the members will in due course be informed about receiving that letter and about process of discussion/consultation and timeschedule.</p>	<p>Suggestion: an immediate response from Erika will be sent out to the members together with original letter.</p> <p>Sectionpresidents and Council to discuss during meeting in May on how best to consult with members on how to respond to this request. This will be done as quickly as possible.</p>	Sections need to explain to the members how the information about merging got out there.

Section's Representative on Council
Martin Lane
April 2010

Minutes
Cornelia Ehlers
April 2010