



**EUROPARC Federation  
Report to Council  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Title:  
Director's Report

Summary:  
Update on activities of the Directorate

Recommendations:  
❖ To note the report

EUROPARC Council

Directorate Report

October 2014-January 2015

### **Staffing and Communications**

Following the successful EUROPARC conference in Killarney, Ireland, the team headed back to Regensburg to complete and submit the NGO application. All presentations and workshop results were uploaded onto the Federation website and we await the final conference report.

The Protected Area Insight publication was edited and produced. Due to issues over posting at Christmas time, it was decided to leave until January to distribute. All other communications were produced as planned.

The new EUROPARC website design was agreed and new text and material in production. It will be launched in February 2015.

Work performance appraisals were undertaken and new work plans for the team created to follow the new EUROPARC strategy.

Interviews for interns and maternity leave cover for Admin post were also conducted with new personnel starting in January/February.

The end year financial statements have been prepared and all material sent to the financial auditor.

The NGO reports are now in preparation as we await the audit results.

Other input and reports were provided for Treasurer pertaining to the Charter, EUROPARC consulting and analysis of membership.

Planning for all events in 2015 has begun in earnest.

### **Representation**

The Director presented at the conference "nature and culture strategic experiences", giving an overview of governance of nature and regional parks in Europe. The development of new regional parks in Norway was further discussed.

The Federation also attended a meeting with our MOU partner, Slow Food to discuss further project work in biodiversity and agriculture. This is on-going and we hope to be in a position to develop and project to this end.

The Federation were invited to speak at the Austrian National Parks conference in October.

Meeting of the European Habitat forum were attended in November to which EUROPARC contributed to the discussion on N2000 fitness check, green infrastructure and invasive species. This is followed up by a meeting with commission representatives.

The Director and President represented the Federation at the World Parks Congress in Sydney Australia. Reports were posted on the Federation's website, twitter and facebook as well as articles in the Protected Area Insight. Plans are underway for a "Little Sydney" even in Austria in May 2015.

The Charter for Sustainable Tourism Award ceremony took place in the European Parliament in December with 90 people attending.

### **Project work**

The Federation agreed to a partnership with VdN (network of nature parks of Germany) for a project examining regional and nature parks in Europe. This will result in some research analysis of the state of nature and regional parks in Europe, and see to represent a case for their future. EUROPARC will bring in the wider European dimension and advise the project on case studies and study visits.

<http://www.naturparke.de/>

A further meeting of the BioEuparks project took place where the Federation took charge of the communication aspects of this project, looking at the role of biofuels and how they are and could be managed alongside nature parks. <http://www.euoparc.org/what-we-do/biomass-in-eu-nature>  
The first communication seminar for N2000 managers was held in CENEAM Valsain, Spain. <http://www.euoparc.org/what-we-do/efficient-n2000-net>. This was very well received by the 15 participants and the second workshop is planned for March in Romania. The tool kit and manual to accompany this course is also in final preparations and will be available to members when the project is complete.

The DBU funded project. Education opportunities for protected areas managers is ongoing. This will result in online learning material being available on our website for all members.

<http://www.euoparc.org/what-we-do/education-opportunit>

EUROPARC was a member of the consortium with ECNC and others, who won the bid to run the Biogeographical seminars for the European commission. The kick off meeting will be in January. More details will follow.

An Erasmus project application will be submitted in February. Youth Rangers in European protected areas. YOUR.PA: Taking forward the actions that arose for the youth conference of 2013.

A forward plan of current known events of the year is appended to this report.