

EUROPARC Federation
Report to Council
25th March 2011



Title:

Ecosystem Working Group – Road Map

Summary :

An action plan for the Ecosystem Working Group

Recommendations :

- ❖ To adopt the road map

EUROPARC Working Groups – Action plan

Working Group: The value of protected areas

Aim:

- 1) To determine and promote and assess the monetary and intrinsic values and benefits of Europe's protected areas
- 2) To bring together like-minded colleagues of protected areas to share and develop information and potential project ideas that demonstrate the economic value of protected areas through sustainable development principles and ecosystem services delivery and approach.
- 2) To take this topic forward within the EUROPARC Federation for the wider benefit of EUROPARC members
- 3) To recognise and reflect in their policies, programmes and resource allocations the need to ensure biodiversity is maintained and ecosystem services secured for the future natural health and economic wealth of Europe.
- 4) To use the skills and experience built up in Protected Areas to pilot innovative approaches to integrated land use and sustainable rural development;
- 5) To integrate relevant public policies that will enable Protected Areas to better fulfil their role as management models with long established community engagement

Members:

If necessary, to make the management of this large group easier, members will be co-opted into a smaller core to develop outcomes. Remaining member will form a wider circle to input into these first drafts/thoughts.

	Name	Surname	Organisation	Country	E-Mail address	Member
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Working group contact for EUROPARC Federation:

- Working group coordinator: Hans Schiphorst

EUROPARC contact for the working group:

- Morwenna Parkyn
- Council member?

Focus of the working group over the next two years:

1. Coordinate the creation of a glossary of terms that can be understood and used by protected area practitioners and is backed up by concrete examples (communications)
2. The collation of an inventory of case studies and best practice in of projects/studies concerning the economics of ecosystems (capacity building, communications)
3. Develop a tool kit (capacity building, members):
 - a. To communicate the monetary and intrinsic values of PAs to end users, the theme within protected areas and also to politicians
 - b. That contains the case studies mentioned above
 - c. That provides information on the different methodologies
 - d. That lists the funding streams for protected areas wanting to work on this theme
 - e. That involves: EUROPARC and its members, the economics and ecosystems working group, economists, academics, national agencies, funders
4. Share good practice. The working group will collect ideas for study trips for EUROPARC members (communication, capacity building)
5. Communicate the activities and findings of the working group to members of the Federation – e-bulletins, activity reports, networking, etc (communication)
6. Identify funding opportunities
7. Act as a platform to identify key priorities for the Federation to lobby into the European Commission, partners and key stakeholders (lobbying)
8. Influence policy on the economic value of protected areas at a local, regional, national and European level (lobbying)
9. Use of a LIFE+ project for peatland carbon storage developed by part of the group (communication, capacity building) as a model of good practice

Benefits for EUROPARC members in general and those contributing to this working group:

- Better access to information on the subject
- Better knowledge of values and benefits of Pas to the public and tools to promote this to others
- Better promotion of the values and benefits to governments on different levels

- Provision of practical examples on theme
- Added values of PAs as economic tool
- Finances to support the work
- Stronger communications between partners
- Networking the benefits
- Enhance knowledge – best practice examples
- Direct involvement in identifying projects and partners to work together on a tool kit and other activities
- Raising awareness for their protected areas and tool kit
- LIFE +: A better understanding of peatland carbon storage potential

Potential synergies with other working groups/sections or existing Federation programmes:

- Lobbying group could take the findings to the European level and other policy makers
- Natura 2000 group, wilderness group, charter group, transboundary group: information distribution, provision of tools for valuing protected areas and raising awareness for their value, case studies
- All sections: distribution of information and gathering information from members.
- Better wetland/upland policy development through life project

Aspects of the EUROPARC strategy that the group outputs will contribute to:

- Promoting the values and benefits of protected areas
- Capacity building
- Raising the profile of protected areas and increasing support for their protection and management
- Promoting good practice and contributing to the effectiveness of protected area management
- Use the rich and valuable experience of members and collect and provide good practice and develop guidelines for protected area management activities
- Active engagement of members and sections for fundraising and gaining supporters
- EUROPARC will have to actively engage in identifying strategic partners and supporters and in building partnerships to increase its capacity to lobby decision makers and other
- Key stakeholders to contribute to achieving its goals

Finances

To be further discussed but certainly payment in kind from the individuals and probably funding from project development involving the activities above.

Partners

- TEEB scientists and others involved in this area of work
- The EUROPARC Federation
- Protected areas for best practice or trial of guidelines
- The European Union, national and local governments
- National agencies to help with distribution of information
- Other interested parties need to be defined when the working group is set up
- Life +: EUROPARC Consulting, Causeway Coast and Glens AONB, North Pennines AONB

Organisational aspects

- Finalization and prioritization of activities to take forward when group is official
- Identification of chair of group and a main core if many members
- The opportunity to meet twice a year is necessary
- Identification of funding possibilities to take this work forward

Support

- Member of staff to keep things moving if there is a slump in activity and to help direct outcomes (on the side)
- Comments on project application and involvement in project
- Provision of platform for information distribution