



EUROPARC Federation
Report to General Assembly
22nd October 2012
Paper 6

Title:

Directorate Report

Summary :

Update on activities of the Directorate 2011, update on workplan for 2012, outline for work in 2013

Recommendations :

- ❖ To note the report
- ❖ To approve the outline costed workplan for 2013

Director's Report to the General Assembly

Report of 2011 activities

The report of the activities of the EUROPARC Federation for the period January –December 2011 was contained in the annual report issued April 2012. Copies, in English French and German, can be obtained by download from the EUROPARC website <http://www.euoparc.org/library/euoparc-publication/annual-report/>

Update 2012

Activities completed since the annual report was issued , from January 2012 to Sept 2012, are summarised below

Staffing

- Several staff changes took place in 2012, with Morwenna Parkyn and Regina Schöfer leaving, being replaced by Julia Schönhärl and Heike Blankenstein. Elena Osipova left in Summer 2012 replaced by Petra Schultheiss.
- Through a German government employment scheme we were able to take on 2 part time administration assistants who are a considerable assistance with financial management and membership services.

Naturally such change brings a certain amount of disruption to the team and to the continuation of services to members, however these we hope, have been kept to a minimum. Do bear with new staff as they settle into post

Project development 2012

Project works makes up about 20% of EUROPARC's business. It brings in additional income and enables us to develop new and innovative techniques to support the management of Europe 's protected areas.

The EUROPARC Federation undertakes a number of projects, from which we expect the results to derive a benefit for the wider membership. The investment of member's money into some specific project is to realise something that would be useful or important to more than the partners involved. This is the first criteria we apply when agreeing to partner a project.

This criteria was more than met in those projects we successfully completed in 2011/2012.

Although we submitted 7 project applications over 2011/12, only one thus far has been successful, whilst we await news of one other.

The successful project application is a LIFE project EME Natura2000: Efficient Managers for Efficient Natura2000 Network and will commence in late 2012, in association with Pro Parks (Ro). It will look at developing a communication tool - kit for N2000 managers in Romania. EUROPARC will bring international expertise from our European network into that training . Further the communication kit developed will be available at the project completion to be replicated and used across our membership.




We will also prepare a further application for the NGO core grant in 2012 for 2013

Work-plan Overview

The summary table below shows activities that have continued in 2012, since the report of 2011. The activities only show the operation of the directorate team and do not include the work undertaken by sections. That will be reported separately. The director would like to thank the working groups and standing committees, convened in 2010, for their excellent hard work and contribution to the work-plan.

Since no strategy was developed we continue with the strategic headline and objective from the existing strategy.

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
Support the management of Europe's protected areas	
Indicate and share the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas	
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	<p>Lobbying and Representation meetings with European Commission and other institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with other NGOs (ELO, EEB, IFOAM, IUCN, WWF, Bird Life) on recent EU policy developments: EU consultation responses to the EC on sustainable tourism, CAP reform, financing N2000, will continue. • EUROPARC contributed to the Consultations on the two proposals of the EC for a “European Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism” and for a EU tourism Quality Label certification scheme. • EUROPARC will continue to play a role in the European Habitats Forum, subject to discussions with Eurosite. Meetings took place in April

protected areas
in climate change
and biodiversity
loss

- Gabor Szilagy will continue to represent EUROPARC on the EC N2000 expert working group. Two meetings have taken place
- A protected areas working group within the European parliament's Intergroup on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development is under discussion. Other options e.g. to raise profile of the work of Protected Areas is also under consideration
- Contribution to the report made by EEA on Protected areas across Europe
- Contribution to the WWF publication on financing N2000: "Our natural capital: a good investment in times of crisis"
- Director and Federico Minozzi prepared briefing notes for Gaston Franco MEP to represent our concerns about changes in the regulations for LIFE + projects. Mr Franco supported most of our views in his presentation at the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament. Similar briefing was provided to the Committee of the Regions, which shared our views in the Opinion recently approved by the plenary.

Meetings with European Commission and other bodies

- Federico Minozzi with EHF met with representatives of DG Environment: N2000 management and financing, biogeographic seminars and biodiversity strategy were the main topics.
- High level meeting with Eurosite with DG Environment Commissioner Potocnik and Director Falkenberg. Discussed the importance of the PA network with respect to Eurosite and EUROPARC as well as relationship between PA 's and N2000.
- Director and Federico Minozzi met with Senior DG Environment staff to present our concerns about the changes in the LIFE+ regulations.

Communications , Enews , articles, publications

- The E-News is currently distributed to 2215 email addresses, and increase of. 11%
- The annual report has been produced in pdf form in April 2012
- Seven E-news published including updates from members, the network, and EU/Brussels.
- Ten information emails were sent to members so far regarding

various internal matters. Regular contact to sections and members through Email and phone, Facebook and Twitter

- EUROPEAN DAY of PARKS on May 24th, 2012 was celebrated by Parks across Europe under the theme “**See the sky, touch a tree, feel the air and find yourself.** 21 countries participated, with 84 parks hosting 148 events. The day was highlighted on 89 websites and had a social media reach of 3067 (individuals or organisations) .Further for the first time European Day of Parks design templates were sent to members to adapt and use on a local level.

Press

- Updated the distribution lists for mailings and extended the media list
- Since April 1, 2012, 4 emails were sent out to press contacts across Europe. These were about: the European Day of Parks; the Living Parks Exhibition; World Population Day 2012; the EUROPARC Conference 2012;

International work

- The international staff exchange programme 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.

Transboundary update

- A TransParcNet meeting was held in the Pasvik Inari Trilateral park between Norway , Finland and Russia. . 40 participants from 16 countries enjoyed a well organised and informative few days, with 24hours of daylight , the opportunities for networking, sharing and learning were fully utilised!
- The transboundary manual and guidelines are under revision and new documents will be produced for 2013.
- A survey of the work accomplished by the TB partners was completed and the benefits of transboundary cooperation have been produced. This will form the basis of a recruitment drive for new TB partnerships.

Living Parks exhibition:

- Following an extensive tour across Europe, during 2010-12,..... the living parks exhibition came home to Regensburg. To celebrate the end of it current run , the exhibition was hosted for 4 weeks in the Museum of Natural Science of Eastern Bavaria in Regensburg, with generous financial support from the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung.
- Entitled, “Living Parks: dynamic, innovative sites that stimulate your

	<p>imagination” the exhibition was well attended with each week a special presentation by local and regional guests. Martin Solar from Triglav National park, Slovenia, gave the final day , on European day of Parks an international outlook.</p>
<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>N2000 expert working group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gabor Szilagy will continue to represent EUROPARC on the N2000 expert working group. Two meetings have taken place <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were articles in Brussels news updates, in the news section on the website and information on the new EUROPARC Facebook page. A new Junior Ranger Facebook page was also launched which is very active. Regular promotion of Natura 2000 and of EU policies in all EUROPARC publications, Brussels News updates and new Europe section in the E-News An event to raise the awareness of MEP and EU institutions about the importance to finance N2000 has been planned with WWF, EEB, IUCN, BirdLife 25th September at the EU parliament <p>CAP reform</p> <p>The Federation was a signatory to the letter from NGOS to the European Parliament asking for a more open-democratic debate on the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EUROARC answered DG Agri questionnaire concerning functions and role of Advisory Groups Represented EUROPARC at: 2 CAP NGO meetings, Birdlife Conference on Rural Development, meeting with WWF to see opportunities for PAs in the upcoming reform, Conference on CAP reform at EU parliament, ELO CAP conference, Conference on Bees and biodiversity at EU parliament
<p>To demonstrate the values and wider benefits of protected areas to their surrounding landscapes, regions and</p>	<p>Parks and Benefits funded by first round “Baltic Sea Region Programme”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project was successfully completed in January 2012 and will see 8 PA become Charter parks. This superb project led by Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of Mecklenburg Vorpommern (DE) with partners from 6 countries around the Baltic Sea gave a real focus for sustainable tourism in the Baltic Sea Region. The

communities to increase knowledge and information about sustainable development.

publications on public private partnerships, carrying capacity of protected areas and a guide to sustainable tourism arising from this project are of importance and benefits to members across Europe. They can be obtained from the EUROPARC federation in hard copy, and are available to be downloaded from the website

- Communications: Exhibition "Living Parks" going Baltic - was exhibited in Estonia, Latvia and Norway Presentation about Charter Part I+II, promotion material: Flyer, film, brochure, calendar (2012)

Sustainable Tourism in Enterprises, Parks and Protected Areas (STEPPA) funded by **European Commission DG Enterprise. Grant programme 2009: Knowledge networks for the competitiveness and sustainability of European Tourism**

This project ended in November 2011.

- The project was seeking to assess the business case for Sustainable tourism and aims to promote and strengthen the cooperation between small and micro tourism enterprises working with (Charter) protected areas
- The project brought together academic research , Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Eastern Finland, with experienced charter protected areas.
- Following the final project meeting in Savolinna Finland the reports and findings were compiled and published
- Extensive business and visitor surveys in multiple languages were produced and data published. All survey material is available to member to utilise as well as the informative report of the business case for sustainability. All are available to download from the website.

Sustainable Tourism Destinations project funded by BFN , Germany

COLLECTION OF "MAGIC NUMBERS"

- Gathering of the magic number data for all charter areas has been concluded. Report from the numbers, will be presented at the last meeting of the sustainable destination working group in September. In the survey held from February to June this year, we have received in total 53 questionnaires out of 87.
In total, 60 % Charter parks from 6 countries have participated in the research: Germany (2), Italy (4), United Kingdom (6), Finland (2), Spain (31), France (8). In comparison to the research made in 2008, the majority of numbers show a growing trend.

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE IN CHARTER AREAS

- A further analysis of best practise examples in Charter Areas has been done. From 14 elected Charter Areas, 9 have provided more information and additional material, making in total 11 case descriptions. These Protected areas have been contacted to provide more information and inform us of the ongoing status of their work from the field their case has been chosen and a publication is being produced. The chart below shows the list of parks selected for the best practice.

1. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (UK)
2. Clwydian Range AONB (UK)
3. Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (UK)
4. Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership (UK)
5. Parc Naturel Regional du Pilat(FR)
6. Parc Regional du Verdon (FR)
7. Parc of Volcans d'Auvergne (FR)
8. Parc naturel régional de Camargue (ES)
9. Parc Nacional de Garajonay (ES)

- A comparison with the European Commission proposed Charter for sustainable and responsible tourism has been prepared and we await publication the responses to the EU consultation on this issue before completing and publishing the report on the comparison between EUROPARC and Commission Charters.
- The re-evaluation method for charter is also under revision as part of this project, and the recommendations and results from Parks and benefits, Steppa and other reports will inform the final report at the end of 2012.

Lobbying

Sustainable Tourism

- 2 consultations on Tourism answered (DG Enterprise) : Tourism Quality Label proposal, and the one for a European Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism
- attended at EU Parliament the Conference on Sustainable Maritime Tourism
- Comments provided on new ISO tourism regulation proposal

Charter for Sustainable Tourism

- Interest and application for The European Charter for Sustainable

Tourism remain high, indeed we have a record year of applications with 19 first time awards and 15 re-evaluations

- The recommendation arising from the STEPPA project and other recent projects have been considered by the Sustainable Tourism Working Group . these will help EUROPARC revise and take forward European Charter for Sustainable Tourism to ensure it remains relevant and fit for purpose. This first revision will be concluded by the end of 2012.
- 2 Charter News will be sent in 2012 .
- A project application was submitted to the European Commission, DG Environment Preparatory Action "Best" – Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. EUROPARC proposes to show the benefits to biodiversity through working with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in the Island of the Macaronesia. We await a decision .

The Sustainable Tourism Working Group

STWG has worked completely on voluntary basis thanks to the generous support by the background organisations of 10 WG members. Since the 2011 report they have met in the forest of Bowland in March 2012 and remain in touch through skype and email.

STWG and it's members have actively contributed to sustainable tourism development projects as representatives of EUROPARC or as advisory commentators.

STWG has also produced the following Charter oriented outputs

- o Analyses and proposal of the roles and responsibilities of different actors in Charter processes
- o Analyses of different European Charter Partnership methodologies and proposal for harmonisation of the 5 methodologies into one common Part 2 methodology.
- o The communication with Charter Network and EUROPARC Sections on these Charter system proposal drafts will be organised on the autumn 2012

The STWG are seeking a mandate to continue their work for a further 2 years following 2012.

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"> • The Health and Protected Areas working group met in Copenhagen in 2012. They are actively gathering information and evidence on how parks and greenspace contribute to public health and well being. They are also establishing better links with the Healthy Parks - Healthy People programmes. The group is also developing a European wide project to build best practice examples and develop a "Health and Nature Charter" and tool kit to enable parks to develop collaborative programmes with the health sectors. • The Health and Protected Areas working group is seeking a mandate to continue its work for a further 2 years following 2012.
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.	<p>The work of the Ecosystems and Economics working group submitted a LIFE application which was unsuccessful, they are considering to continue in 2012 with development of the Peatlands LIFE application for 2012 (?).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wilderness working group is a collaboration of many organisation working in the wilderness agenda in Europe. EUROPARC is represented by Erika Stanciu. The group is seeking agreement for a definition of European wilderness and they continue to develop the Wilderness register. A meeting took place in EUROPARC Brussels office in April and a further meeting is planned for November 2012.
Develop the European Protected Area network	
Capacity building, training and education of staff and stakeholders of Europe's protected areas	
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"> ○ The Siggen seminar in 2012, kindly hosted by the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung, focused on "Conflict Management in Protected Areas" and was attended by 16 participants from 8 European countries. Resolution techniques for protected area managers were presented by Council member Eric Baird. Each participant had the chance to present a case study of conflict from his/her park, and seek advice from peers in lively discussions. The hands-on approach was much appreciated. ○ The Grundtvig project "Volunteer Management in European parks", intends to disseminate innovation and good practice in the field of volunteer management and upgrade learning

	<p>opportunities. During 2012 a mid term meeting between partners took place in Rome, and the second training for volunteer coordinators was organised in UK. Guiding principles for volunteer management in PA were defined, and a research on the impact of volunteering in protected areas started. Tutoring exchanges for volunteers and park staff are open and currently taking place across the network.</p> <p>Junior Rangers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Junior ranger camp was held in Triglav National Park, Slovenia with cross border involvement from Prealpi Guilie Nature Park Italy. The 11th International Junior Ranger Camp was a great success with 12 parks representing 12 different countries, and 40 participants including Junior Rangers, Rangers and Staff. Young people took part in active conservation work, surveying visitor as well as evaluating the parks information systems.
<p>To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output</p>	<p>Joint work with Eurosite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the General Assembly decisions September 2011 - To build on the collaboration with Eurosite and create one organisation. The joint committee met 3 times with extensive discussion and analysis of legal, financial and technical matters in order to determine a route to create one organisation.. • Communications between the respective directors took place on a regular basis to exchange information to forward to the joint committee.
<p>Organisational Development and Capacity Building</p>	
<p>To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC Federation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Translating e-mails into Fr, Sp, It and also send the e-mails to the members will also continue. • Membership number remain stable around the 420 mark, with the

		<p>number of members being struck off due to non payments, being close to equalising the number of new members per annum.</p>
	<p>To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the staff changes, a new staff structure and distribution of tasks was put in place. • A review of funding for the work of EUROPARC is underway with further improvements to the financial management systems

Workplan 2013

2013 will be an exciting and challenging year for the EUROPARC Federation. Following the establishment of the organisation in 1973, we will celebrate **“40 years – Working for Nature”**. It is anticipated that not only will the annual conference reflect on EUROPARC achievements but refocus our energies as a network on what we aspire to for the future of protected areas and the nature we are committed to conserve.

Of course there are some interesting developments too, the discussion for the creation of a combined network with Eurosite will come to fruition and of course the exact structure and composition cannot be foreseen at this time. Therefore the development of a full strategy and operational plan will await the outcome of these developments

However a provisional plan is in preparation for 2013 which of course will be adjusted and amended as project applications and other as yet unconfirmed fundings become known. The Director reports regularly to the Treasurer and Council on the budget and project planning.

Given the theme of the year is **“40 years- Working for Nature”**, the Federation will seek to engage with members to participate in events throughout the year. This accounts for a substantial rise in travel and external assistance in particular. Also the Federation will be seeking additional funding to host a special, larger international JR camp and invest in the future of the junior ranger network with representation at the annual conference.

In our other areas of work, the Transboundary manual and guidelines will be updated and a concerted effort to develop transboundary work across the membership. The Grundtvig funded project, Volunteer management in protected areas will continue, with further training programmes and a research on volunteering in protected areas in Europe completed. Additionally a new LIFE project - Efficient Managers for Efficient Natura2000 Network with Pro parks of Romania, will see the Federation work to develop a training programme and communications tool-kit for the management of N2000 sites, which will benefit all members.

The Charter for Sustainable Tourism will benefit from the work undertaken in review and updating in 2012 with a refreshed approach in 2013 and more investment in the promotion of the charter at a European level.

Working through our working groups, EUROPARC will continue to develop new fields of work and seek further funding opportunities to develop these areas of work, to benefit all our members.

Lobbying work, to identify the benefits member protected areas bring to the N2000 network, as well as seeking to influence areas of policy that would improve the management of protected areas, will continue with partners in Brussels. EUROPARC's focus will be on focus on the CAP reform protected areas contribution to N2000 network, 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. These are all identified in the lobbying and Advocacy strategy previously agreed by the general assembly.

Communications with members and on the members' behalf will continue with quality continually under review and improvements made. Special anniversary communication are planned throughout the year.

Finances remain constrained as ever and additional efforts are being made to gain new and additional funds. An outline budget is estimated below. Clearly, as public finances are increasingly difficult we are seeing the lose of some members as a result. We will double our efforts to retain and gain new members and seek continual efficiencies and savings throughout EUROPARC operations.

As ever, I am indebted to the dedication and commitment of the directorate team, but also to the unstinting efforts of council members, working groups, sections and committee members who all work to take forward the work of EUROPARC to conserve and protect European natural heritage through international cooperation.

The provisional budget to reflect the outline workplan for 2013 is below. To achieve the workplan funds from the NGO Life grant will be necessary. First, is shown the how monies are allocated under different headings. This reflect upgrading of our financial management systems

The table below show the changes in the financial management systems of the Federation and what elements are reported in the finance reports.

Item	Pre 2012	From 2012
Income		
Membership fees		
Project grants	NGO grant and other grants were shown separately	Now shown together
Other funding		Now will show funding from non EU funded projects and other sources such as Alfred Toepfer Foundation, , EUROPARC consulting resource recompense, Charter and TB registrations
Donations	Were shown as part of other income	Now shown separately
Other income	A mixture of donations, charter and TB registration bank interest etc	Now just bank interest, booksales,
Consulting	Resource recompense received was shown	Will now be shown as part of Other funding
Expenditure		
Personnel	Cost of all staff for EUROPARC Federation including all taxes	As previous
Travel	All travel by council, staff representatives of EUROPARC and others contracted on work on behalf of the Federation. Not travel associated directly with projects for which project funding is covering	As previous

Rentals	Rent for offices in Regensburg and Brussels. Cleaning and some utilities.	Rent, depreciation
External Assistance	Graphic design and printing, website management, bookkeeping, workshop facilitation, translations	Graphic design and printing, website development, workshop facilitation, bookkeeping
Other costs	Auditing, legal	Auditing , legal, payroll accounting
Overheads	Insurances for Regensburg and Brussels, office cleaning, office utilities, office repairs, postage, membership fees for other organisations, brand logos registrations,	Insurances for Regensburg and Brussels, repairs and maintenance, office cleaning, phones, office materials , membership fees, brand registration, bank charges, IT, and internet costs,
Direct Project Costs	All costs associated with projects	Costs except travel and subsistence

Work-plan 2013 provisional costs

Item	Estimate 2011		Final 2011	Estimate 2012	New headings	Estimate 2013
Income						
Membership fees	292.933,00 €		309,119 .65	261,268	Membership fees	260,000
EU NGO Life + grant	0		0	0	Project grants	149,000
Project Grants	83.032,00 €		167,470 .83	51,815.54	Other Funding	43,000
Consulting	20.000,00 €			17,500	Other income	1000
Appreciation in value, EP Consulting			118,000 .00			
Other income			29,822. 81	1,280	Donations	
Income total	395.965,00		624,413 .29	331,863.54		453,000
Expenditure						
Personnel	253.044,00 €	Personnel	261,598 .37	262,070	Personnel	250,000
Travel	46.803,00 €	Travel	44,219. 45	43,823.98	Travel	80,000
Rentals	26.408,00 €	Office costs.	32,741. 01	22,660	Rentals	24,000
External Assistance	39.357,00 €	Professional fees	45,094. 63	34,710	External Assistance	40,000

Other costs	26.500,00 €			19,800	Other Costs	13,000
Overheads	25.320,00 €	Overheads	54,000.82	24,239	Overheads	24,000
Projects	66.334,00 €	Total Project direct costs	60,546.83	11,150	Projects	22,000
Expenditure total	483.766,00 €		498,201.11	418,452.98		453,000
Total Equity and Liability			353.722,70 €			

Carol Ritchie

Director

August 2012