



**EUROPARC Federation
Report to Council
January 2014**

Title:

Workplan of working group Ecosystem Services

Recommendation:

- ❖ to decide whether to give mandates to working groups

Goal

“By 2023, the care and sustainable management of Europe’s protected areas is co-funded through earnings from ecosystem services, that nature provides”.

Working Group Ecosystem Services

The working group is giving this subject the attention it deserves and initiates necessary actions. By gathering data, experiences, best practice examples to-date and by providing useful information, the group will induce and support network members to participate in the process. In addition, the group will take the necessary first steps towards potential stakeholders and new partners, look for ways to integrate them, define shared benefits and grow opportunities to involve the political, social, economical and financial sectors.

Achievements

Since the start of 2013, the working group has assembled every 2 to 3 months. The agenda quickly shifted from theoretical to practical issues, aiming for results, always checking direction against the goal.

Past:

Agenda

Both Eurosite and Europarc are aware of the importance and necessity of Ecosystem Services and Economics for their members.

Promotion

A positioning paper in which Ecosystem Services and Economics is explained, as well as the position of the working group itself, was sent out to the members.

Eurosite and Europarc conferences:

The conferences in September and October 2013 paid attention to the subject of Ecosystem Services and Economics. Hans Schiphorst facilitated a workshop during the Europarc conference. Meindert Brouwer, author of “The Ecosystem Promise”, facilitated one during the conference of Eurosite.

Case studies, best practices and examples

A questionnaire was sent to all members of Eurosite and Europarc (the latter through the Europarc News Bulletin). First results provide insight in how well known the subject is and in what extend it is (going to be) used in managing and funding protected sites. They show a need for support and a willingness to combine forces and work on this together.

Also, the outcome assures that some members actually have case studies, best practices and examples available and it provides a guideline to what we can and cannot expect from our members. More important maybe the question: “what will we do for our members”?

Short term

Jan '14: List of potential partners

Apart from the Dutch representatives in the working group, other partners must be found and contacted to make the wheel really turning.

- Members who responded to the questionnaire sent out in advance of the Europarc General Assembly in 2013 in Debrecen and the Eurositen General Assembly in the Oder Delta in 2013
- Members who did not respond to the questionnaire
- Non members: interesting organizations and institutes from business world to nature conservators and from health-care to banks
- Members of the “original” ESS working group

Feb '14: Digital storage facility only for working group members and others invited

A simple and free solution will be used for group members to store document and files for own use. If and when external publicity is necessary, measure will then be taken.

Feb '14: Participation and presentation in Work Session “Groeien over grenzen”

The ‘Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu/Department Duurzaamheid’ facilitates an I&M labeled work-session with participants coming from science, government, business world, agrarian sector, food industry and the financial sector. Hans Schiphorst will address the participants by telling them about ecosystem services and economics.

Feb – Apr '14: Getting in (live) contact with respondents

Interviewing them using a ‘call script’ in order to obtain similar information and products. Questioning in the line of “you stated your organization benefits from ESS, can you please tell me”:

- What ESS
- Why that ESS
- How did you start/what activities did you undertake
- With whom did you start off
- How did you organize things
- What’s your approach
- Do you have business cases/best practices/examples to share with co-members
- ...and...so...on...

Mar '14 and ongoing: communication

Apart from the participation of members in various ways, the working group will arrange an adequate communication activity. There will be input for the Eurositen and Europarc newsletters. Besides that, both Eurositen and Europarc internet sites have room for ‘projects’. This will also be used for publishing news and stories. Specific communication towards the various Europarc sections will be arranged, also by involving the Europarc Low Countries section.

Mar – Apr '14: Assemble ESS-Toolkit

Helping and supporting members to either start with ESS as co-funder for site-management or to take the current position a step further. We’re talking about three steps:

- 0% => 30% Does not yet benefit from ESS, focus on realizing 30%
Needs expertise, examples and support from a member of the next category
- 30% => 60% Benefits for 30% from ESS, focus on realizing 60%
Needs expertise, examples and support from a member of the next category
- 60% => 100% Benefits for 60% from ESS, focus on realizing 100%
Needs collaboration and sparring

Mid term

Jun '14: Toolkit 'live' in use

The toolkit, assembled with products and findings out of the interviews with respondents, is put to use at motivated members. This activity server two purposes:

- helping the member to streamline his actions
- assessing, adjusting and completing the toolkit towards a high added value level

Jun '14: Meeting with wider membership of the ESS working group

- We aim to meet with wider membership of the ESS working group, possibly in Siggen or near another suitable location.

Sep - Dec '14: Prominent advisory-task by members towards members

Best way to learn is from fellow members who learned the same thing some time ago. This way the network will enhance and be able to cope with future challenges. The enhanced toolkit will prove a valuable device.

Long term

April '15: ESS is state of mind for site managers

At this time the concept will have proven itself. Of course this is just a start. The proven concept must be introduced to other businesses, profit and non-profit organizations. Where it doesn't work, alternatives must be found. Where it does work, the 'return on investment' must increase in favor of the less profitable areas.

	jan '14	feb '14	mar '14	apr '14	may '14	jun '14	jul '14	aug '14	sep '14	oct '14	nov '14	dec '14	jan '15	feb '15	mar '15	apr '15	may '15
Short term																	
List of potential partners		█															
Digital storage facility		█	█														
Participation Work Session "Groeien over grenzen"		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Contacting respondents		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Communication		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Assemble ESS-Toolkit			█	█													
Mid term																	
Toolkit 'live' in use						█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Prominent advisory-task by members								█	█	█	█						
Long term																	
ESS is state of mind for site managers																	█

Schematic representation

Hans Schiphorst

Chair Eurosite/Europarc working group on ecosystem services and economics