

EUROPARC Federation



Report to Council September 30th 2010

Title:

Creation of Joint Committee with Eurosite

Summary :

Following discussion with Eurosite a joint paper has been produced to set before our respective general assemblies. This has already be ratified by the Eurosite meeting on 15th Sept 2010

Recommendations :

To approve the recommendation to the general assembly

EUROPARC, Eurosite outline collaboration plan

EUROPARC General Assembly 2010

Background

At the joint meeting in Strömstad, in September last year, representatives of Eurosite's Board and the EUROPARC Council agreed the value of both organisations working more closely together.

Of course, the views, opinions and backing of members are central to defining how best to underpin collaboration between the two networks. The purpose of this paper is to consider how to develop the good joint-working established to date further and to explore the scope and form future collaboration should take. In doing that, it is essential for both networks to take stock of current operating contexts and (reduced) staffing capacities, as well as forthcoming opportunities, and to propose a concrete plan, which can be developed in the interests of both organisations and respective members.

Aim

To consolidate collaboration between the two network organisations, it is now proposed to develop a mutual 'coalition agreement' whereby, members mandate the creation of a joint working group of representatives and staff from both networks.

To further that aim it is proposed to

- To establish a Joint Committee of representatives from Eurosite and EUROPARC, mandated to develop a joint activity plan for development for a three year period 2011 to 2013;
- Define, by March 2011, a coalition agreement, which would define agreed common purposes, and produce a plan of work with identified funding mechanisms;
- To propose any other jointly agreed options, which may emerge, to enhance collaboration of the two networks;
- Specify inputs, roles and responsibilities of staff from both networks and express those in a jointly developed and agreed work plan.

The Joint Committee will work to a specified remit and have specific functions, including agreed communication and reporting mechanisms within and between each network – for example, that remit will include specific responsibilities:

- To oversee the creation of the coalition agreement
- To report to the respective council of Eurosite and EUROPARC
- To coordinate all communications produced under the coalition agreement
- To monitor the outputs agreed under the coalition agreement

Implementation Plan

Members are asked to discuss and give views on the following planned steps:

- Establish a joint committee, mandated by both organisations by October 2010 - it is proposed that 3 representatives from each network organisation will be identified to participate in the committee.
- The joint committee may co-opt other members from the two networks in order to gain wider representation and opinion, if and as deemed necessary.
- Meetings will be held twice annually, the first (indicatively) taking place in November 2010 and June 2011 – Eurosite and EUROPARC will host one each.
- Meeting costs will be met by the parent organisations for their own representatives.
- The purpose of the meetings will be to review progress and report back to respective general assemblies.
- By March 2011, have an agreed joint work plan defined and developed for delivery for the coming three years.

The intention is to present this paper for approval at both EUROPARC and Eurosite general assembly's in 2010. The joint committee will be convened, subject to agreement by both organisations' general assemblies.

ANNEX 1

Recognising the predicted tough operating contexts of both networks and the need to increase added value for members' work, the following notes are provided to suggest to members the range and scope of possible joint-working.

A: Joint project development

The Joint Committee will oversee development of project proposals, which aim to maximise income and enable jointly agreed common network priorities to be realised across the areas identified – essentially, this will also include identification of appropriate funding mechanisms and opportunities.

B: Practical management – capacity building

- Workshops – as part of a joint-programme increasing professional development and learning opportunities for members' staff working on sites and protected areas;
- Exchange mechanisms – fostering reciprocal practical, problem-solving through better sharing of information – 'twinning'; via web-based fora etc;
- Habitat and / or species specific initiatives, which aim to preserve or enhance given sites and protected areas conservation features – for example, grassland management techniques,
- Methods and approaches which can be identified as constituting best practices vital in areas such as data collection, monitoring and reporting for nature conservation requirements.

C: Brussels Agenda

- Natura 2000 management – establish a joint working group to support the EC's Expert Group on Natura 2000 Management;
- Routinely consult members of both networks to input to and inform:
 - The review of CAP (in particular) and also other actions to ensure integration of nature conservation and biodiversity priorities with other sector priorities;
 - Developments affecting funding for nature conservation leading up to the new EC programme period, 2014 to 2020.

D: Operational opportunities:

- Increased synergy;
- Share representation on common committees and organisation – the European Habitats Forum, for example.
- Improved and stronger practical capacities;
- Better / more structured communication, info exchange and knowledge building mechanisms.