

EUROPARC Federation

**Report to Council
March 6th 2010**



Title:

Director's Report September-December 2009

Summary:

Activities of the Directorate

Recommendations:

To note

EUROPARC Federation 2009 Update

Summary table of work undertaken against strategic headlines and objectives of the EUROPARC strategy.

Overview Sept 2009 – Dec ember 2009

The remaining final quarter of 2009 , following the conference in Stromstad, Sweden was very busy preparing the EU NGO grant application, but also punctuated with period of representing the federation at conferences and other organisations.

The following summaries the activities undertaken:

Internal Issues:

- Staff absence resulted in a more pressured environment to prepare NGO grant and finalise the annual accounts. These ongoing personnel issues also resulted in errors being identified in the bookkeeping and financial information provided to the Director and hence to the Council and General Assembly. Further legal action was initiated by a staff member which the Federation is currently defending. This will have financial implication for the Federation during 2010.
- A YoV intern was employed for her ecological gap year.
- Office move to Regensburg was finalised and all plans in place for move.
- Lobbying Strategy and Communications strategies both finalised and available for council adoption.
- Met with Abruzzo, Molise and Lazio National Park with president to plan the 2010 conference

Representation:

EUROPARC federation was represented at the following

- Conference of ANPA at Llandudno Welsh conference. Director gave a presentation .
- EUROPARC was represented at the French regional parks conference
- Director attend the Conference of South American protected areas in Columbia . Director gave a presentation and signed the MOU with Redparques. Hosted by the National park Service of Columbia.
- Director attended the IRF World Ranger Congress in Bolivia, EUROPARC sponsored ranger Lunde Tundai from Hungary to attend. Director facilitated workshop ad entered discussion with IRF Europe regarding future project work . Also met with representatives from Australia , US and Canada about possible future co-operations
- President attended the Wild 9 wilderness conference in Mexico
- Dr Henne participated in Management effectiveness workshop at Vilm, report enclosed.
- EUROPARC Federation members attended with stand the EUROGUSTO event
- Deputy Director attended the Park and Benefits meetings.

Colour code		Some progress, ongoing work		No/little activity or change in activity		Achieved
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	EUROPARC Strategy Objectives	Progress to December 09
Support the management of Europe's protected areas		
1.	To identify good practice and guide protected areas in management planning for climate change.	NO further meetings with Eurosite took place. Adaptive site management training workshop at conference.
2.	To stimulate and encourage communication amongst protected areas regarding management adaptation to climate change.	EUROPARC published 9 articles, which dealt indirectly with climate change by looking at issues such as biodiversity loss, the TEEB report and events concerning the topic.
3.	To inform policy-makers in the EU of climate change effects in protected areas management.	. Member's data-base was developed for collecting information on such projects from member protected areas. The database currently contains full information from 25% of EUROPARC members. The rest will be collected this year. In addition 12 E-News, one member Newsletter and one Protected Area In-Sight were produced collating such information, amongst others, and ensuring its distribution.
4.	To gather and distribute experience on integrating climate change management into other policy areas such as rural and regional development.	Climate change aspect of management included in charter certification. 20 parks certified in 2009. Information weak and diffuse
5.	To raise awareness of climate adaptation and mitigation in protected areas in the wider public and in particular young people as future decision makers.	In 2009 120 events were organised in over 80 protected areas in 20 countries across Europe on the theme of 'Youth - the future of our parks'. Information on the event was publicised on the website, 3 articles were published in the E-News and 2 press releases were sent to magazines and newspapers in 8 countries.
6.	To raise the profile of climate change management issues in transboundary protected areas.	Transparcnet set up and meeting took place with climate change agenda. 4 day meeting, 29 participants from 13 countries and including 13 park directors and one park president. New transboundary database developed.
7.	To support protected area management in Europe through connecting the practical expertise of the EUROPARC network on the ground with the policy-making bodies of the EU as well as other European nature and environmental organisations.	Eurosite moved out of Brussels so no progress. Lobbying and policy paper completed. Action plan in progress. Register of interests of MEPS in preparation. Profile raising and information event planned for Dec 09 did

		not happen . Fortnightly blogs on website with EU information of relevance to members. Explanations of funding opportunities and of structure and processes within the various commissions made available.
8.	To contribute to stopping the loss of biodiversity in Europe.	Branding of events with 2010 did not take place.
9.	To contribute to the conservation of wilderness areas within European protected areas and the Natura 2000 network, to contribute to improved and effective management of the Natura 2000 network. And to enhance role of EUROPARC's 'Following Nature's Design' Initiative for transboundary protected areas.	. No progress a in Natura 2000 expertise exchange. No progress in preparing finance report recommendations in conjunction with Eurosite. Management effectiveness seminar held. PAME project commenced (Protected Area Management Effectives) , in partnership with University of Greifswald, .. University of Queensland IUCN-WCPA for Science and Management of Protected Areas and BfN: Transboundary group meetings held, now an increase in the number of parks (partnerships) to have received the transboundary certificate to 12 in Europe. New transboundary database developed. Transparcnet established,
10.	To demonstrate the values and wider benefits of protected areas to their surrounding landscapes, regions and communities in ensuring sustainable development.	Organisation of the Book, Exhibition and banners celebrating"100 years of Parks" - International tour of the exhibition underway.
11.	To further implement the European charter for sustainable tourism.	Charternet project completed in Dec 09. Project office left. Side meeting and workshop at conference. .
12.	To develop further the Charter for Sustainable Tourism to involve further tourism related SME's and other stakeholders.	PESTO application was unsuccessful
13.	To make the connection between the sea and the land, in the context of coastal and marine protected areas and integrated coastal zone management.	Full day workshop took place at conference.
14.	To develop projects to further the development of agri-environment schemes in protected areas	Memorandum of understanding with Slow Food International to develop future project work.
15.	To provide opportunities for young people to learn about the value of nature, to obtain practical skills in nature conservation and related fields, to build support for protected areas and to enhance the relationship between local communities and protected areas.	Regular update of the website and creation of 3 new dedicated pages for the International camps and to collect news and info from members running the Junior Ranger program. 9 Articles were produced (e news + annual report + PA In-Sight) + 1 Document "Junior Ranger Guidelines - for Parks" + One video. One international camp: 46 participants from 12 protected areas and 9 different countries. One JR keynote speaker at the conference. 2 Meetings in Brussels to plan and define International Camps programme (2009 and 2010). Sent documents and info to 12 protected areas interested in developing the JR program.

16.	To develop the expertise of and enhance early career opportunities for young nature conservationists and protected area managers at European level.	No progress with Working for Nature. Natu Regio seminar took place.
17.	To raise awareness and facilitate professional development of protected area staff.	No progress in expertise exchange, WWF DCP and NatuRegio ongoing work. EUROPARC conference, Emails, e-news, meeting, website,newsletter, articles.
18.	To provide expertise in nature and protected area management from within the European Union to other European countries.	WWF DCP project, NatuRegio project, on going, EUROPARC conference. With 300 attended , 75 hours of workshops. With IRF supported European ranger to attend World Congress of Rangers in Bolivia. Director facilitated workshop at IRF conference and attended the Protected areas of SOUTH American conference in Columbia. President attended Wild conferece . All report disseminated in e-news.
19.	To develop links with protected area authorities in other continents with a view to a mutual exchange of expertise and improvement in protected area management.	MoU with IRF, WCPA, ANPR, Parks Forum, Redparques and Slow Food International al signed and ongoing.
20.	To examine the values and benefits of protected areas in order to examine their role in the sustainable use of natural resources.	No reports
21.	To 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.	Landscape convention workshop at conference.
22.	To raise awareness of the positive aspects of protected areas for public health and well-being.	Workshop Healthy Parks Healthy People at conference
23.	To examine the potential for developing further activities in the field of protected areas, public health and well-being.	Work being progressed by NB and EAI
24.	To contribute in the field of health and mental well-being by highlighting the cultural and spiritual values of protected areas.	President attended Wild 9 conference, Report in E-news
25.	To promote the natural environment among young people as a means to a healthy lifestyle.	Previously reported
26.	To work in close cooperation with EU institutions and European and international NGOs, in order to give protected areas in Europe greater opportunities to voice their needs and concerns about EU policy and in turn to ensure that EU institutions and partners benefit from protected area experts' experience on the ground.	Lobbying strategy produced . Lobbying workshop undertaken in France in Jan 2010.
27.	To increase the level of information and knowledge about the role of protected areas in the field of sustainable development.	Previously reported
28.	To feed expertise into relevant policy areas of other directorate generals of the European Commission: DG Agriculture, DG Youth, Culture and Education, DG Enterprise, as well as the European Parliament and Committee of the Regions.	Lobbying strategy prepared.
29.	To build capacity in and provide training for Europe's protected areas on areas of EU policy.	Brussels blog produced for all members. WWF DCP project, training trainers, adaptive site management training supported. Charter seminar in

		Slovakia, NatuRegio project ongoing.
30.	To improve the quality of work in transboundary protected areas.	Transboundary group meetings held, now an increase in the number of parks (partnerships) to have received the transboundary certificate to 12 in Europe. New transboundary database developed. Sumava NP (CZ) /Bayerischer Wald (D) and Triglav NP (SL) and Pre-Alpi Giulie (IT) evaluated and certified. Setting up of TRANSPARCNET network, new verifiers trained.
Develop the European Protected Area network		
31.	To advance the work of European Protected Area networks.	New members continuing to join the Federation. Membership stable at 441 (following reduction of lapsed memberships). Charter Network increasing with 75 charter parks across Europe. „Junior Rangers in about 50 parks across Europe, JR camp in in Spain: 8 different countries, 12 protected areas, 46 participants.
Indicate and share the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas		
32.	To highlight the importance of protected areas as a climate change early warning system and invest in their adaptation management.	Lobbying strategy prepared.
33.	To highlight the importance of protected areas in the creation of viable European ecosystem networks.	No progress as yet.
34.	To raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues across the EUROPARC network and to the wider public.	12 E-News, one member Newsletter and one Protected Area In-Sight were produced Living parks book, exhibition, regular website updates,
35.	To further the role of protected areas as the providers of physical and mental health and well being.	References in e-news articles but nothing specific. Work being progressed by EUROPARC NB and EAI
36.	To integrate health issues into protected areas management.	References in e-news articles but nothing specific. Work being progressed by EUROPARC NB and EAI
37.	To proclaim anew the value and benefits of protected areas across multiple agenda.	All communications output from Federation. Celebrating 100years of national parks in Europe. Book exhibition banners, display and conference
Capacity building, training and education of staff and stakeholders of Europe's protected areas		
38.	To provide training in adaptive management.	Supported training in Adaptive Site Management with workshop at conference
39.	To develop skills and experience in biodiversity policy areas.	Brussels blog and information for members.
40.	To raise awareness of biodiversity issues in youth and education programmes across the EUROPARC network.	Previously reported.
41.	To encourage, support and develop skills and capacity in young environmental professional across Europe.	NatuRegio project progress, 30 participants for Bulgaria and Romania trained over past 3 years.
Organisational Development and Capacity Building		

42.	To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation.	Analysis of all running costs undertaken and office move from Grafenau to South Bavaria planned. Analysis of staffing functions and responsibilities also underway. New job description written.
43.	To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output.	Slow Food International, Parks Forum , Redparques all signed
44.	To enhance the role of the shared Brussels office with Eurosite.	Eurosite pulled out of Brussels. Profile raising and information event planned for Dec 09.cancelled Lobbying strategy produced.
45.	To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC Federation.	Governance review progressed with new guidance for working with sections, new working groups to be established in march 2010.

Carol Ritchie
Director
February 2010