

EUROPARC Federation

**Report to Council
March 6th 2010**



Title:

Director's Report January- February 2010

Summary :

Activities of the Directorate

Recommendations :

To note

EUROPARC Federation 2010 Update

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

January- February 2010

Overview.

With the creation of a new workplan in November 2009 for the 2010, this report corresponds to the objectives and activities agreed for 2010.

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 has remained and continue to create administrative and management issues . Bookkeeping was outsourced which identified numerous problem which resulted in the entire account of 2009 having to be redone. These accounts have now been submitted to the statutory auditor and results awaited. 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.
- New accurate financial information , showing the fragility of the federations position, has resulted in the contingency measures in place to ensure the financial viability of the Federation.
- Office move to Regensburg has taken place. Contact details will be circulated to council members. Press event to open new office in preparation

Representation

- Director attended meeting of interested Junior Ranger members in Bristol with EUROPARC Atlantic Isles. Very positive meeting with much interest in junior ranger programmes to be developed.
- Director and Deputy Director took part in an evaluation of the NGO grant, submitted recommendations to consultant acting on behalf of DG Environment.
- Federico Minozzi attended the EUROPARC Nordic Baltic seminar and gave presentations on Charter and Junior Rangers
- Lobbying workshop
- All staff and President attended lobbying workshop at Montagne de Reims Regional park , France. Report in January E-news.

Project development;

Immediately following the lobbying workshop. EUROPARC staff and President took the day to look at future project development for the Federation. All but one current projects being undertaken by the Federation will **END** this year. With the end of charternet project a large source of supplementary income for the Federation. Additionally no project applications submitted last year were successful.

The Federation is therefore, during 2010 will have a very low income base, which without serious spending curbs will not meet anticipated expenditure. It is crucial that the Federation develop and succeed in being awarded grants to develop new projects.

Following the planning session, the following project areas are under development

GRUNDTVIG - taking a bigger role in a new volunteering project jointly with other partners. This will be submitted February

Youth in Action –a Junior Ranger/Volunteering project is being considered and actively seeking partners. Netherlands already interested. This will be submitted by June 2010

Sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastline through community involvement – this would be a focus on marine and marine junior ranger.

Seeking partners and meeting with WWF mediterranean. – application to MAVA foundation by JUNE 2010

Discussions with Slow Food about agri-environmental projects ..

Summary of activities undertaken are shown in the table below.

Colour code		Some progress, ongoing work		No/little activity or change in activity		Achieved
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	EUROPARC Strategy Objectives	Progress to February 2010
Support the management of Europe's protected areas		
Indicate and share the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas		
1.	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 practise and expertise the management of protected areas in climate change and biodiversity loss	No activity as yet.
2.	To improve the management of biodiversity management in Europes Natura 2000 and protected areas network, and Enhance knowledge of EU policies among EUROPARC members	Touched on the subject at lobbying workshop. Funding sources document available to members on website
3.	To demonstrate the values and wider benefits of protected areas to their surrounding landscapes, regions and communities to increase knowledge and information about sustainable development.	Articles in E-news Jan and Feb, speech by president at Ministerial meeting/conference in Spain. Ongoing work of parkks beb nefbits project
4.	.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	Covered aspect in lobbying workshop in France. Further correspondance and communication from University of Turin, seeking to develop projects and collaboration.
5.	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.	No activity as yet
Develop the European Protected Area network		
Capacity building, training and education of staff and stakeholders of Europe's protected areas		
6.	To build capacity in and provide training for managers of Europe's protected areas on relevant aspects of EU policy, and	Funding sources document available to members on website
7.	To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output	Made contact with Redparques regarding future funding possibilities and projects,. Developed Gruntdivg project with EUROPARC Germany and others. Discussed future project partnerships with IRF. Developing MOU with national Parks Service of USA. Meeting with slow Food internation scheduled. Developing MAVA foundation project proposal
Organisational Development and Capacity Building		
8.	To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC Federation	Working Groups paper prepared for council, new groups to be agreed. Improvements to membership system proposed to council. Section planning meeting in progress.
9.	To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation	Bookkeeper made redundant . These service outsourced. Spending curbs in all areas to maximise saving and efficiencies in all areas.

