

General Assembly Documents

EUROPARC Strategy – Indicative Paper

For information only

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The EUROPARC Federation is an organisation made up of members who represent the protected areas of Europe. With 460 members in 37 countries EUROPARC has grown since its creation 38 years ago, to the largest protected area network in Europe. This proud achievement is not just reflected in that the Federation continues to gain and retain a stable membership, but also in continuing to strive to improve standards in protected areas management and have greater recognition for the value and benefits they bring to wider European society.

The Federation was founded on the principles of international co-operation. Nature knows no boundaries and EUROPARC believes that the protection and conservation of Europe's nature heritage cannot be achieved without co-operation and understanding between nations. EUROPARC brings professional protected area staff together to exchange technical experience, share innovative ideas, develop new management processes and systems, coming together to agree common lobbying positions, as well as provide opportunities to network across Europe.

The EUROPARC Federation adopted its current strategy in 2008 which expires in 2012. During 2011 the EUROPARC Council and sections made some first considerations for a new strategy due to commence in 2013. In their meeting in Schwerin, Germany in June 2011, they determined that any new vision should be strong and short for maximum impact with a mission, and that subsequent aims should be more focussed and structured.

First thought priorities for the next 5 years should include:

- Development/strengthening of the new organisation
- Lobbying on European level
- Networking
- Improved links with key institutions
- Development and communication of good practices on key issues
- Bridge between practice and policy
- Translation of EU policies for members

The context within which EUROPARC operates, as well the structure and governance of the Federation itself has changed considerably in these past 5 years. Therefore a new situational analysis will be initiated as a framework upon which to develop a new strategy. This will be led by the EUROPARC council elected in 2011. A small working group may be formed to develop this in detail. Consideration will of course be given to the decisions taken by the general assembly in 2011 with respect to the recommendations presented in the paper regarding future relations with Eurosite.

It is critical to create a successful and representative strategy, so that it can fully support and represent its members. EUROPARC has a proud tradition of member engagement, and in order to explore a new vision, mission and priorities for the Federation we need to fully consult with members. The consultation period will begin following the 2011 general assembly. Questionnaires will be prepared and circulated to all members in order to ascertain current and future priorities.

An online survey, in multiple languages is planned. Further opportunities will be sought for member input through sections, working groups and especially convened meetings. Members are encouraged to contribute ideas and considerations to ensure the new EUROARC strategy captures and reflects the true needs and priorities of Europe's protected areas.

It is hoped a first draft will be available by May 2012 with a final draft to be presented to the general assembly in 2012. This will allow for any last changes to be incorporated and workplans to be finalised in advance of the new strategy's commencement in 2013.

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Director

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