

EUROPARC Federation

Working Group Paper

21st September 2011



Summary :

Amendments and clarifications to the guidelines for working groups

Actions:

Endorse amendments and note clarifications

EUROPARC Federation Working Groups Paper Amendment Sept 2011

Following the adoption of the guidelines for working groups by the EUROPARC council in Sept 09 and ratified by the General Assembly in Sept 2010, this paper details some amendments and clarifications to that earlier paper. The earlier version is in italics below:

With respect to standing committees (Charter and Transboundary)

1. Members of standing committees appointed by council , with nominations coming from the membership
2. CV's and application forms to be submitted by interested parties to the Directorate
3. Membership is for a 3 year term reviewed after 3 year with no more than 3 consecutive 3 year period.
4. At least one member should stand down after 3 years to enable circulation, recruitment fo new people and long term sustainability of the committee
5. For the charter evaluation committee one permanent place is provided for TUI and or industry representative
6. Charter verifiers cannot participate in Evaluation meetings regarding their own evaluation reports

The following working groups have now been established, and in addition the Lobbying forum remains an e-group only.

Working Group	Chair	Outputs for EUROPARC members
Health and Protected areas	Matti Tapaninen , Metsähallitus(Finland)	<p>Access to an increased collected body of knowledge on health and protected areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop study of existing work and good practical examples. Communication through e.g. Workshops at conference 2010. One post-2012 goal is to make a toolkit/guidelines to be used by PA managers, practitioners. Show how HPH concepts can be integrated into PA management. <p>Access to a network – extending beyond the PA sector. Contacts with health sector. Communication of collated existing work to health sector.</p> <p>Increase awareness of PA's contribution to health – within the health sector, among the general public, etc – increasing the interest in PA's.</p>
Sustainable Tourism	Lasse Loven (Finland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing, evaluating and piloting the methodology of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas especially in Charter Part 1 and 2; Designing a Capacity Building program for members and partners on Charter; Updating and stabilizing the EUROPARC organization on communication and networking the Charter; Designing the lobbying & marketing methods and schedules for events and actions with/about the Charter; European level coordination of quality development for ecotourism/sustainable nature tourism together with valid partners; Designing on EU level Project development including external fund raising.
Transboundary	Martin Solar (SL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Transboundary projects Identifying funding sources for the Transboundary work of the Federation Producing promotional material for certification and TransParcNet Coordination with other Working Groups Lobbying for cross border funding Capacity building across Europe Expertise exchange
Economics and Ecosystems	Hans Schriphorst (NL)	<p>Working on a project to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. developing a model to calculate the carbon storage capacity in a peatland habitat 2. calculating the difference in storage capacity in a degenerated system compared with a habitat in good condition 3. calculating the economics involved in this 4. showcasing the possibility of the economics involved in carbon storage as a way to contribute to peatland management

Wilderness	Erika Stanciu	Contribute to development of the Wilderness Register, advising on criteria and functions of the software that will be developed for the Register identify funding for future wilderness management support and training contribute to the Wilderness conference in Brussels 2010 Input into the Development of the Wild Europe website
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Composition

A EUROPARC working group is intended to be a forum of co-operation and participation. Participants represent the interests and views of members, from disparate sectors of the Federation, but bring expertise and experience of the theme or topic of the group.

Working Groups should be composed of a wide range of “experts” in a particular topic drawn from the membership of the Federation. Somewhere between 6-8 members would be considered ideal as it allows of a breadth of experience yet is not a financial burden on the Federation. As many countries and types of members (agency and parks) should be represented as offer expertise on the theme .

Some external membership could be anticipated from non protected area experts, including academics and others.

Membership of the working group should be agreed by the Council and CVs should be submitted to secure a place.

Circulation of members is also important to ensure a wide representation of members as well as a good mix of experience. Membership will be reviewed every 2 years and some circulation of members will be anticipated, i.e. some will stand down. Chairs will be up for re-election every 2 years and internal procedures within the group need to be created to facilitate that process.

IN some situation sub groups may need to be established, particularly to deal with detailed technical aspects. These will follow the same procedures of official recognition of the Federation, or may be informal groups with no formal financial support.

Chairs and working group members may be asked to represent the Federation at events/conference etc relevant to the theme and topic under study

Outputs

It is important that the work of the groups is closely aligned to the Federation strategy. As such all outputs need then to be reported to the Federation, its members and to funders. Therefore maintaining and strengthening communication lines with all parties involved is essential.

To facilitate this Federation Directorate staff will be assigned, where possible to support and assist groups.

Additionally a council member will be allocated as the advocate of the theme/topic within the council.

Further an annual meeting of council/section and chair of groups will be convened to discuss strategy and forward planning.

Outputs of groups will be indicated in the Federation's annual report and indicated to members.

A working group would be expected as possible outputs, to develop project proposals, based on EUROPARC's strategy, or produce reports, or publications indicating best practice in a particular aspect of park management. Outputs need to be agreed with the Directorate and embedded in the workplan, which is the operational planning tool of the strategy.

Finances

All Federation monies are accountable to the members and to specific donors. Procedures for eligible expenses will be provided. Working groups would be supported with travel and expense costs for maximum 2 meetings per annum, within a given allocation. This allocation is speculative on an anticipated income, therefore is regularly monitored and reassessed. This allocation would be for a maximum of 2 year should no project or other tangible work be realised then working groups would be dissolved and an e-forum of interested parties set up in place. Whist the Federation would endeavour to reimburse travel and accommodation within agreed limits, contributions to some of these costs from the member organisations, in recognition of the benefits of their staff member in a Federations working group is appreciated.

A workplan indicating the groups anticipated output for the forthcoming year should be lodged to the directorate and agreed no later than October of the preceding year to enable budgets to the coming year to be prepared.

Carol Ritchie
Director
EUROPARC Federation

September 2011