



**EUROPARC**  
F E D E R A T I O N

  
**Transboundary Parks**  
E U R O P A R C

Joining forces in the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme

## **Transboundary side-meeting at the EUROPARC Conference 23rd October 2012, 5-7.30 p.m.**

### **1. Introduction of participants**

All present were asked to introduce themselves, answering one of the following questions. The responses were multi-layered and are given below as direct quotes.

#### **What do you expect from this side-meeting today?**

„To meet everyone involved and interested in transboundary work. Make TB an active network where new projects can evolve.“

„Learn more about communicating better with partner parks even if situations get complicated.“

„Possibility to develop new projects within the network (not only with partner park). Knowing and exchanging best-practice examples with members of the network.“

„Get new ideas about the TB Programme for the future.“

„Clarify the role of STEC and Working Group.“

„To solve the role of STEC and Working Group.“

„Get to know the transboundary practice in other Protected Areas, their problems and solutions. What opportunity can come from that for my own park.“

„Hear about new developments in Transboundary cooperation in Europe.“

„Learn more about Transboundary Parks, the criteria and standards of the certification process.“

„To prepare and realize a map on landscape and nature along both sides of the border.“

„Cooperation, working together.“

„What will the future of the Transboundary Parks Programme look like? How can we develop it further?“

„Share best-practice examples. Decide on measures that keep the cooperation running.“

#### **What are the benefits of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme for you/your park?**

„Great friendship with partners. More visibility and better communication.“

„Better cooperation between partner areas and parks across boundaries. Better cooperation in all domains like education, tourism, ecosystem management, etc.“

„Transboundary cooperation is essential for existence of a Transboundary National Park.“

„The certificate is something we can be proud of. Exchange of knowledge during meetings (TransParcNet). Finding holes in the transboundary cooperation (weaknesses) and sharing what should be fixed.“

„1+1=3; 1+1=½; 1+1 ≠ 2“

„The Transboundary Programme creates a good opportunity to get all important stakeholders together and establish a common communication.“

„Cooperating with our partner at nature protected area Karkonosze. Have more information about their work and practice cooperation.“

„Recognize benefits of the cooperation and not the hurts.“

## **2. Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC) and Transboundary Working Group (TBWG). New division, new chairs.**

Up until now STEC and TBWG were partly composed by the same people. In the future, both operating bodies should continue working together, but concentrate even more on their special areas of responsibilities.

It was agreed that no members of the STEC should be part of the TBWG and vice versa. Verifiers are welcome in the working group, they can however not form part of the STEC. This guarantees a most impartial opinion of the STEC members whilst assessing the verifiers' report and deciding on the recommendation of awarding the Transboundary Certificate to the Council.

As Martin Solar (SLO) stepped down from his position as chair of STEC, a new chairman had to be found. The EUROPARC Headquarter and the other STEC members proposed Arto Ahokumpu (FI) as chairman. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Also the TBWG had to be formed newly. Leo Reyrink (NL), Stefano Santi (I) and Rolands Auzins (LV) agreed to be part of the working group. Whilst Leo Reyrink will chair the working group, Rolands Auzins will be the liaison person to the Council in all transboundary matters. More people were proposed as members of the working group, who will be personally invited by the EUROPARC Headquarter shortly.

The operating bodies, STEC and TBWG, are composed as follows:

### **STEC**

- Arto Ahokumpu (FI), Chair
- Arnold Boer (NL),
- Handrij Härtel (CZ)
- Martin Solar (SL)

### **TBWG**

- Leo Reyrink (NL), Chair
- Rolands Auzins (LV)
- Hans Kiener (D)
- Stefano Santi (I)

## **3. Other matters**

### **Certification**

The Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland at the German-Czech border was awarded the Transboundary Certificate at this year's EUROPARC Conference in Genk/Belgium. The three applying parties, Saxon Switzerland National Park and Protected Landscape Area, Bohemian Switzerland National Park and

Elbe Sandstones Protected Landscape Area are very proud of their achievements. Their cooperation is working for decades and the verifiers said “they were already ready to get the certificate 10 years ago”. It is a pleasure to welcome Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland to the Transboundary Family. Congratulations on your award!

The Grenspark/Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette at the Dutch-German border was successfully re-evaluated this year. They will receive their re-evaluation Certificate at the annual TransParcNet meeting, which will take place in their own park next year.

### **TransParcNet 2013**

Leo Reyrynk invited the participants and all those interested in transboundary work to next year's TranParcNet meeting to the Transboundary Area Grenspark/Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette (D/NL) from 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

### **TransParcNet 2014**

We are looking for a host for the TranParcNet meeting in 2014. Those interested in inviting people engaged in transboundary work from all over Europe to their protected area, should contact the EUROPARC Headquarter at [p.schultheiss@europarc.org](mailto:p.schultheiss@europarc.org).

### **Fees and Guidelines**

The proposals for fees and guidelines were shortly discussed. Amendments will be made by the Headquarter and send to the STEC for final decision. All papers should be revised by the end of 2012.

### **Re-evaluation Thayatal (A) – Podyjí (CZ) Transboundary Area**

In 2012 the re-evaluation of the Transboundary Area Thayatal - Podyjí should have taken place. At the moment there is a disagreement about applying for the re-evaluation. Whilst the Czech party wants the re-evaluation, the Austrian park sees the necessity to clear some matters first. David Grossmann from Podyjí National Park explained the situation to the people present at the side-meeting, and STEC and the Headquarter agreed to address both parks again, trying to offer solutions for the re-evaluation.

### **Mediator training**

As difficulties in cooperation occur in some certified Transboundary Areas the call for impartial arbitrators aroused. The EUROPARC Headquarter proposed to offer training for mediators in transboundary cooperation from 2013 onwards.

### **Extend the network**

New members should be approached to join and herewith strengthen the network. Ideas for who to contact can be send to the EUROPARC Headquarter to [p.schultheiss@europarc.org](mailto:p.schultheiss@europarc.org).

### **Projects**

The TBWG seeks to discuss new project ideas. Surely a lot of experience in project development, especially in European Union funded projects, can be found amongst the existing certified Transboundary Areas. An overview over the realised projects would be helpful for the TBWG to further develop ideas and put a project application together. The Headquarter will send out a brief questionnaire on realised EU-funded projects on transboundary issues to the membership in order to create a list that can be handed over to the TBWG.

**Cooperation**

In order to obtain more information about other Transboundary Programmes, contact to Eurosite and IUCN should be established. We seek to broaden our horizon by learning from others and sharing our experiences.

30.10.2012

Petra Schultheiß