

EUROPARC Federation

**Report to Council
March 6th 2010**



Title:

Proposals for Federation Working Groups

Summary :

This is a supplement to the working group guidelines previously agreed.

Proposals received from members to form working groups. 9 groups recommended.

Recommendations :

To agree which groups will be formed and supported by the federation.

To agree council representation on each working group

EUROPARC Federation Report to Council

Supplement to Working Group Guidelines – proposals for working groups from members

EUROPARC Federation Council agreed workshop guidelines at its meeting in September 09. Directorate was asked to arrange for members to make proposals for the creation of working groups, under the following procedures.

Procedure for creation of working groups

Members can propose themed working groups that meet the requirements presented above. **Members should indicate an expression of interest in establishing / being involved in a working group by sending an e-mail to Federation headquarters indicating what functions the working group could undertake to fulfil the Federation's strategy.**

The e-mail should briefly present at least the following:

- theme,
- objective of the working group,
- possible outputs,
- initiators,
- potential members if the proposal comes from a group of members,
- why the working group is considered important and the planned outputs relevant for the membership – indicate if there was a request from members (from the annual conference or a workshop for example)

CVs of working group members should be submitted when the request for the establishment of the working group is submitted or, if that's not possible, within four weeks of submitting the proposal.

Proposals submitted by the deadline will be analysed by the Council. Working groups accepted for the following two years will liaise with the Directorate to agree on detailed plans. Final structure and outputs agreed with the Directorate will be presented to the Council.

A copy of the Federation strategy is on the EUROPARC website. Please speak to EUROPARC staff if you need further advice and information.

Proposals should be received at Federation headquarters by 15 February 2010. The council will decide at its meeting in March 2010 the working groups for the next two years.

The numbers of groups the Federation can support will be dependent on the Federation's income, so the Council will agree by a list of priorities which groups will be supported.

Council are required to prioritise and select the groups to be supported, their remit and membership. Council member also need to identify their involvement in any of the agreed working groups.

Council may also wish to consider the possibility of forming joint working groups with other organisation with whom EUROPARC has shared objectives. ALPARC has already indicated a willingness to form such joint groups both in the Alpine and Carpathian regions.

The following organisations have working groups.

ALPARC

- **Large Mammals and Raptors**” Working Group
- **“Large carnivores** ” Working Group
- **“Habitats**” Working Group
- **“Sustainable Tourism, Cultural Heritage and soft Mobility ”** Working Group
- **“Mountain Agriculture and Products of Quality”** Working Group
- **“Common Communication and Environmental Education ”** Working Group
- **“Traditional Know-How and Ecological Constructions in the Protected Areas”** Working Group
- **“Water Resources”** Working Group
- **“Databases and GIS”** Working Group
- **“Environmental performance evaluation and ecological balance”** Working Group

Other organisation such as Eurosite, Pan Parks, ECNC could be contacted as I currently have no information about their working groups activities.

EUROPARC has also agreed with the Alfred Toepfer Foundation the use of the Gut Siggen conference centre, free of charge . This years week allocation is from 17th-24th July, consideration should be given to the best use of these dates, which could include the creation of a short life working group, bringing together expertise, to tackle/explore a specific issue and develop proposal or recommendations. Costs to members for use of Gut Siggen would be minimal as the facility itself is free. EUROPARC however has not budgeted for substantial costs for workshop leaders or facilitators as member input was anticipated.

At the deadline of 15th February the following the proposals were received from EUROPARC members. These are elaborated in the appendix below

Proposals for working groups

1. climate change and biodiversity incorporating wilderness, from Kalkalpen NP (A)
2. Biodiversity and Climate change. Tara NP , Serbia
3. Charter for Sustainable Tourism – Federparchi EUROPARC Italia
4. Charter for Sustainable Development - EUROPARC Spain
5. Charter verification group (already agreed)
6. Tranboundary Verification group (council already agreed)
7. Sustainable Development and Economics – Causeway Coast and Glen Trust NI
8. Health - EUROPARC Atlantic Isles and EUROPARC Nordic Baltic (separate paper)
9. Lobbying Group - currently in e-forum
10. Wilderness (as sub section of climate change) – EUROPARC Czech section

Appendix

Requests from members below

1. Climate change and biodiversity – Kalkalpen National Park (A)

Dear Carol!

Thank you for the email about the Europarc Working groups.

- Theme:

The Kalkalpen National park is very interested to be a **member of the working group about “climate change and biodiversity incorporating wilderness, corridors for migrating species”**.

- Objective of the working group:

- Definition and mapping of natural processes in protected areas and in not protected areas in every country
- Typology of dynamic processes
- Best practise for high biodiversity, genetic shelter and endemic species in wilderness areas
- Natural processes as a special category in the Natura 2000 system

- Possible outputs:

I believe that most of the members of Europarc have different opinions about the ecologic functions of wilderness areas and the real effects for the biodiversity. So one job of this working group could be to tell everybody why we need those natural dynamic processes in Europe. So we could organise an European action day for more wilderness or day of information about biodiversity of wilderness areas or protected areas.

- Our inputs:

In our park we have more than 75 % wilderness or more than 156 km² wilderness area. In this area we have lots of dynamic processes like avalanches, windfall, and bark Beetles- and erosion-areas.

We can organise excursions in our wilderness area and we are able to organise meetings or conferences for the working group.

We can present our experiences and the result of wilderness monitoring.

On the other hand we should cooperate with other protected areas, of course in surrounding, but also with international projects like ECONNECT or other networks. Corridors for migrating species could be very helpful

- Possible outputs:

Are to find helpful answers about:

What are the real ecologic and biodiversity facts of wilderness?

How can we use this wilderness effects in the environmental education and recreation?

What are the social effects of wilderness?

- Potential members:

Example regions of the EU-Project "ECONNECT"
Alparc-Members

Nice regards from Upper-Austria!

Dr. Erich Mayrhofer
Nationalpark Direktor

Nationalpark O.ö. Kalkalpen Ges.m.b.H.
A-4591 Molln, Nationalpark Allee 1
Tel. +43 (0)7584/3951, Fax 3654-291
www.kalkalpen.at



Firmenbuchnr. FN 158230 t
Firmenbuchgericht: Steyr

2. Climate change and Biodiversity - Tara national Park Serbia

From: marijana.lakic@nptara.rs [mailto:marijana.lakic@nptara.rs]
Sent: Freitag, 12. Februar 2010 09:02
To: office@europarc.org
Subject:

National Park Tara
12.02.2010.
Bajina Basta
Serbia

EUROPARC Federation

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING OF WORKING GROUP

As a member of EUROPARC Federation National park Tara would be interested for forming a working group with already existing theme:

Biodiversity and Climate change.

Biodiversity working group should be always present and active in EUROPARC federation regarding the fact that it is the core of existing of most of the protected areas. Countries with lower economical standard have even more reason to be included in working group with this theme because of the present pressures on biodiversity. Objective of the working group could be: To halt biodiversity loss more effectively in EUROPARC network of protected areas by common addressing of present pressures Possible outputs:

- providing guidebook for biodiversity monitoring in European mountain

protected areas

- launching of pilot projects with knowledge transfer to protected areas in European pre accessing countries regarding developing of ecological networks - developing of Strategy and monitoring methodology for climate changes in European protected areas
- developing promotional tools for sensitizing local populations in protected areas on biodiversity issues
- providing guidelines for financing of biodiversity projects (it is difficult to finance projects from this field in countries which our currently in transition period especially with current trend economy crisis)

We hope that with this email we have contributed to the work EUROPARC Federation,

Best Regards,

Tara

Director of National Park

Phd Boban Tomic

3. Charter for Sustainable Tourism - Federparch /EUROPARCItalia

Agree with my Director, I am sending our reactions to your message regarding the establishment of new working groups in the EUROPARC Federation.

In general, we would like to try to involve more Italian parks in WGs, but also to be more present as Italian Section. Moreover, we are discussing about the possibility to organize some national working groups corresponding to European groups, to favorite exchanges of ideas from national to European level and vice-versa.

About themes or topics proposed, according also to the requests from the Italian ETSC Group (composed by Federparchi and the Italian Charter parks), we would like to stress the importance to create **a specific** (not included in other WG) **WG about the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism**.

In fact Charter is a key priority for the Federation and for many national Sections (as the Italian one) and it is a extraordinary instrument for all European network.

There are still many important topics to discuss about Charter (rules of III phase, mechanisms for promotion and visibility of Charter parks and Charter partner businesses, new funding etc...), and for them a specific WG is necessary. Furthermore, possibly a WG could give a concrete support to the Federation staff and, finally, it can help to connect the several existing national working groups about Charter.

Thank you for your attention, best regards

Stefania

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Stefania Petrosillo

International Department
*In charge of International Cooperation
and Europarc Federation relations*

FEDERPARCHI - EUROPARC ITALIA
via Cristoforo Colombo, 163
00147 Roma, Italia

Tel. +39 06 51604940
Fax. +39 06 5138400
Mob.: +39 334 2084627
Email: coopint.federparchi@parks.it
Web: www.federparchi.it ; www.parks.it

4. Charter for Sustainable Tourism – EUROPARC Spain

Dear Carol,

Following your message regarding the establishment of new working groups in the EUROPARC Federation, we would like to inform you about the interest from the Spanish Section in supporting the activities related to the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism. On behalf our President, Hermelindo Castro, we would like to stress the importance of this EUROPARC project from different perspectives, at least the following:

- 1) As a big project of the Network, with a clear EUROPARC identity, where along these years many individual Protected Areas have seen the direct benefits of being part of the organisation,
- 2) As a growing project in many countries, certainly in Spain, which shows the opportunity to work from the Parks with the tourism and local enterprises, helping to create economic activity and therefore employment under a sustainable ideology framework,
- 3) As an excellent project to be imported to other regions of the world.

Following the Guidelines proposed by the Federation, the Spanish Section of EUROPARC would like to propose the establishment of a specific working group dealing with ECST, with the purpose of developing tools and methodologies to further develop the Charter. We suggest to use as a reference working document that prepared by the members of the European CharterNet working group (August 2009).

Kindest regards,

Marta Mugica
Coordinator Spanish Section

6. Transboundary verification Group – DR Arnold Boer

To : Carol Ritchie, Europarc Director

From : Arnold Boer, STEC Chair

15-02-2010

Dear Carol,

As a response to your e-mail dd 14-01-2010 , by which you have sent us the paper "Guidelines for the establishment of Europarc working groups, task groups, etc", I herewith send you the "Expression of Interest" for the official recognition by the Europarc Council and Directorate of the work and status of the Transboundary Steering and Evaluation Committee (STEC) as a Europarc Transboundary verification group.

The paper has been developed by the following persons, all members of the STEC : Lassi Karivalo (Metsähällitus), Martin Solar (Triglav NP), Kari Lahti (Metsähällitus), Richard Blackman (dep. Director Europarc), Arnold Boer (Hon. Member Europarc).

We assume the paper is clear enough. If the Council needs more information, we are quite willing to provide that.

We hope to receive information regarding the Council-decision before the next TransParcNet meeting, April 27th 2010 in Illmitz, Oesterreich.

With kinds regards,

On behalf of the STEC Verification Group

drs. Arnold Boer
STEC Chair

7. Helen Noble from the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (NI)

The group has met the once and the information is very promising. Most of the partners are Europarc members already, together with Eurosite expressing an interest. I attach the original proposal, together with some further information.

There seems to be two options available:

Europarc could develop a working group that looks at potential projects and funding opportunities and then develop groups to develop the projects to application

The second option is for a task/finish group that looks at projects and their partners and then work up applications.

Both have a real opportunity for Europarc to lead, with the potential for new members for the Federation being brought on board through partnership working.

Europarc Federation should consider a working group that looks at how protected areas can be used as exemplars for sustainable development through the principles of sustainable development through the pillars of economic, environmental and social.

And look at how this can be achieved through developing projects for suitable funding sources such as LIFE+ etc

Partnership envisaged and organisation

The programme links a wide group of partners at different participatory levels. Key beneficiaries are agencies directly involved in wetland and peatland management and policy development: regional governmental agencies and protected area agencies (Eurosite and Europarc partners). The programme is considered as a joint activity to be consolidated after the programme by absorbing the activities into the workplan of a permanent joint Eurosite / Europarc Wetland Working group.

A selected partnership of 8 – 12 partners will be established, representing a number of European wetlands, each of them contributing specific practices and issues relevant to the scope of the programme. The programme management team initiating and coordinating the activities will consist of a team of Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, Municipality of Steenwijkerland, Eurosite and Europarc,

but may be extended if required later. Tasks may be as much as possible shared and delegated within the partnership. Additional capacity for programme development as well as programme management may be realised through outsourcing, attachment or temporary recruitment.

A secondary target group of the programme covers stakeholders of other European wetlands (managers, policy makers, NGOs) who will be reached through communication activities of the programme enabling them to learn experiences from the selected partnership.

Funding for the programme will be raised from EU sources.

8 Health - EUROPARC Atlantic Isles and EUROPARC Nordic Baltic (separate paper)

10. Wilderness –Zdenka Krenova Czech Section

LETTER OF INTEREST

Dear council members,

With this letter I would like to express my interest to be a member and participate on activities of the Europarc Federation working group "Climate changes and biodiversity" incorporating wilderness and corridors for migrating species. I am glad to announce that my application is supported by the Czech Europarc Federation Section.

I hope that with my skills and experiences coming from my everyday work for the Šumava National Park and interesting discussions with students during my teaching activities I can be useful member of the working group. My CV briefly describing also my recent "wilderness" activities is attached to this letter.

I would like to proposed to establish "sub-group" for wilderness as a part of the CC working group because there are many new wilderness activities, some of them very specific, and others very closely connected with other topics (N2000 management, transboundary, training etc.). We, I mean our two NPs – Šumava & Bavarian Forest together with many other partners, have been working a lot on these topics. We established the common transboundary wilderness area and organised different meetings, workshops, guided tours, and exhibitions to support ideas of wilderness in our region and all Europe. A brief overview of our activities you can find in the Wild Heart of Europe – Annual Report 2009, which is attached to this letter.

I would like to declare to be very happy to share our recent experiences with other members of Europarc Federation, learn from others and participate in the working group to support European concept of wilderness and wild nature protection.

I am looking forwards to getting your answer.

Yours sincerely,

Zdenka Krenova

Carol Ritchie
Director
February 2010