



**EUROPARC Federation**  
**Report to Council**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Title:**

The Statutes of the EUROPARC Central and Eastern Europe Section (CEES)

**Summary:**

Content of the CEES

**Recommendations:**

To approve the Statute of the CEES and confirm the creation of the CEES



# EUROPARC

## Central and Eastern Europe

### The Statutes of the EUROPARC Central and Eastern Europe Section (CEES)

#### Preamble

The members of the EUROPARC Federation (hereinafter EF) in Central and Eastern European countries have decided, by mutual agreement and of their own free will, to establish the Central and Eastern European Section of the EUROPARC Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Section). The Section is an open, informal (non-legally based), voluntary and non-political association of EUROPARC Federation members.

#### Article 1

##### *The main aims of the section are:*

- a) To contribute to the fulfilment of the EF goals (proactive participation on implementation and modification of the new EF Strategy);
- b) To support and strengthen the Central - Eastern European cooperation within the EF and its decision making processes (also through searching new members and partners);
- c) To be an independent, respected and expert based conservation advisory body for member countries, based on our common experiences and international knowledge (measures to improve conservation status and sustainable development, more effective nature conservation management generally in the region);
- d) To enhance an opportunity for joint nature conservation cooperation and projects through members cooperation;
- e) To strengthen the existing transboundary and multilateral cooperation between members and initiate new ones;
- f) To focus on the conservation issues of the typical vulnerable forested, wetland and grassland habitats of the region;
- g) To support and coordinate joint preparation and realization of environmental education and public activities related to the EUROPARC aims;
- h) To draw attention on policy makers and international organizations (European Commission, Council of Europe, UNESCO, OECD, IUCN, UN etc.) through effective lobbying;
- i) To support implementation of Charter on Sustainable Tourism in protected areas as well as other 'products' of the EF (European Day of Parks, Junior Ranger Programme, etc.).

#### Article 2

##### *Membership*

- a) The Section was established at an Initial Meeting by a vote and the signing of the statutes by all founding members and, subsequently, by approval of the EUROPARC Federation Council.
- b) Any organisation in the Central and Eastern Europe countries may become a member of the Section on condition that it is also a member of the EUROPARC Federation.
- c) Membership shall be applied for in writing. The application includes a declaration of agreement with the statutes of the Section, and demonstrate that the applicant is a member of the EUROPARC Federation.
- d) A membership of a new member is approved by a simple vote of majority of all board members.
- e) Membership shall come to an end on resignation, expulsion, or termination of the EUROPARC Federation membership. Resignation, from the section is to be effected in writing to the President of the Section. Violation of the statutes of the Section can constitute a reason for expulsion. The Board

takes a decision concerning expulsion following a request from a member. Over half of all member votes are necessary to expel a member.

f) The Section shall be dissolved if the Members' Assembly convened specifically for this purpose is attended by at least half of all members, and more than three quarters of members present vote for the dissolution of the Section.

g) There is no membership fee for the section.

### Article 3

#### *Organisation and Management*

a) Every member shall be represented in the Section by a personal representative. Representatives of members constitute the Members' Assembly of the Section.

b) Each member of the Section has one vote, the member who is not present, can give its vote to another one as a proxy vote.

c) In a case of a tied vote, the President's vote shall be the deciding one.

d) The Section will inform the EUROPARC Federation of its Members Assembly and other meetings. A representative of the EUROPARC Federation Council or the Directorate has a right to participate and represent views of the Federation at the Section Meetings as an observer.

e) The business of the Section is managed by the Section's President (hereinafter the President) and the Sections Coordinator (hereinafter the Coordinator).

f) Position of the President is country rotating position following an order agreed by Members Assembly. Doing so, each country represented at least by one member with more than two years lasting membership shall have a right to chair the Section. A change in the order of the Presidency shall be agreed by Members Assembly at least six months before the end of election period.

g) The President's term of office is three calendar years starting and ending by Members' Assembly.

h) The President can appoint a vice president of the Section in order to increase his/her capacity in representation and communication and to ensure representation of the Section in case of any kind of President's disability to operate in his position.

i) The Headquarters of the Section during the term of office of the President is always the Headquarters of the member organisation which the President represents.

j) The President may be recalled from his/her position by a simple majority of all the votes of the members present, following the prior submission of a well-founded proposal from a member of the Section. The proposal and explanation of the grounds are to be sent to the members of the Section in writing, at least three weeks prior to the next Members' Assembly.

k) With the aim to ensure an efficient way of communication and decision making process within the section, the Sections' Board is established. The Board chaired by the President is composed of one representative from each member country (appointed by members from the country).

l) For a well done operation and governance, the President appoints the Sections Coordinator (hereinafter the Coordinator).

### Article 4

#### *Duties of the President, the Sections' Board, and the Coordinator*

##### a) The President

1) Convenes the Members' Assembly as many times as necessary, at least once a year;

2) Manages the Section's business during the period between following the statutes;

3) Is responsible for preparation of an agenda and chairs the Members' Assembly;

4) Represents the Section in negotiations, keeps contacts with the EUROPARC Federation (President, Council, Headquarters).

##### b) The Sections' Board

1) Its members are appointed or removed by members from each country covered by the Section;



- 2) Consults and advises to the President on a strategic focus and development as well as significant Sections' activities;
- 3) Ensures an appropriate communication between members in each country and expression of their interests at the Section level between Members' Assemblies;
- 4) Usually uses an electronic way of communication and meets during Members' Assembly.

b) The Coordinator

- 1) Is appointed or removed by the President as his/her subordinate;
- 2) Is usually from the same country as the President;
- 3) Carries a responsibility for communication and circulation of information within the Section as well as with other parts of the EUROPARC Federation;
- 4) Uses proactively his / her capacity to look for new opportunities how to improve and develop the Section's cooperation and common activities.

**Article 5**

***Finances***

- a) The members of the Section may raise funding for joint projects and activities from their own funds as well as other sources of finance.
- b) The costs incurred by the President and the Coordinator in the performance of their duties is to be covered by the member of the Section which is at the same time the President's or the Coordinator's employer. This member of the Section also makes a voluntary commitment to guarantee working conditions for them to carry out their duties. The costs can be also divided among members from the current Presidency country.

**Article 6**

***Final Clauses***

- a) The statutes comes into force when approved by the EUROPARC Federation Council.
- b) Amendments and additions to the statutes are possible following the submission of a written proposal by a member of the Section, discussion in the Members' Assembly, a vote with a majority of over half all member votes, and with the subsequent approval of the EUROPARC Federation Council.

These statutes are approved together with the establishment EUOPARC Central and Eastern EUROPE Section by funding members at the Initial Meeting in Železná Ruda - Bayerisch Eisenstein March 17<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Funding members confirm their approval by following signatures:

#### Czech Republic

Krkonoše National Park

National Park Bohemian Switzerland

Podyjí National Park

Šumava National Park

Jan Štursa (individual member)

#### Hungary

Bukk National Park Directorate

Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate

Hortobágy National Park Directorate

Kiskunság National Park Directorate

Ministry of Agriculture Hungary

#### Poland

Karkonosze National Park

Tatra National Park

Biebrza National Park

Paleski National Park

Gory Stolowe National Park

Wielkopolski National Park

Romania

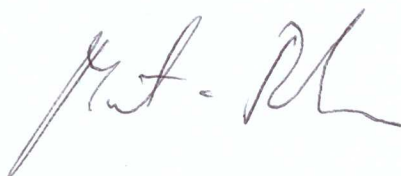
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority

Slovakia

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Triglav National Park

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke.