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Fedenatur/Periurban commission

Terms of Reference

Overall Mission

To prepare a strategy and workplan that will set priorities of the periurban agenda of work within the EUROPARC Federation.

Background

Following the decision to integrate Fedenatur and EUROPARC Federation, the creation of a Fedenatur/Periurban commission is a response to that and a clear signal of the commitment of the newly combined network.

Building on the excellent work of Fedenatur in taking forward the important work of the periurban parks, this new commission will seek to build a strategy for EUROPARC to take forward.

Combining the respective memberships creates a Protected Area network that will **cover 40% of Natura 2000 sites** (marine and terrestrial).

The periurban parks are extremely important greenspaces where **peak daily visitation can reach 34.000**, more than attend most major European league football matches. In and around towns and cities, Fedenatur member parks provide services for a total population of almost **24 million people**. Added to the 73 million people who visit, the 56 million who live beside and 4 million who reside in parks awarded with [EUROPARC's charter for Sustainable Tourism](#), the members of the combined organisation serve a constituency of at least **25% of the European population**.

The extended network will add new stakeholders, together seeking nature conservation and sustainable development solutions to the challenges that face us all. **EUROPARC has built considerable proficiency in the support of protected area management and looks forward to working too with stakeholders responsible for periurban parks**, through this commission, to share experience, which will help all of Europe's greenspaces and landscapes be places that are good for biodiversity and good for people.



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Terms of Reference

The activity and the results of the Commission will be based on, and coherent with, the [EUROPARC Strategy 2015-21](#) (in particular point 1.3) as following:

STRATEGIC THEME 1		WORKING FOR NATURE
Priority AREA 1.3	Grow the Protected Area network	
Strategic OBJECTIVE	Enlarge, export, and grow the Protected Area model, especially in the marine/coastal and peri-urban environment by actively involving and enthusing new stakeholders.	
ACTION	Engage with entities that support peri-urban nature and landscape conservation, in particular to promote and support the implementation of applying the European Landscape Convention widely across the network.	

Planned outputs and activities over 2 years

Set up of a Strategy of the Peri-urban protected areas commission for next 2 years which will adress topics of interest:

- Reduction of massive public use impact on peri-urban protected areas
- Role of Periurban protected areas in Climate change / Urban heat island effect attenuation
- Health and Peri-urban protected areas
- Green Infrastructure and Peri-urban protected areas / Land-planning and soil consumption
- Valuation of Ecosystem services in Peri-urban protected areas
- Brochure on Peri-urban Parks (main roles and challenges of this type of spaces)

The strategy will

- identify main areas of work,
- policies to tackle,

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- issues to communicate on
- projects to submit

Indicators

- Strategy presented to the Council / Directorate
- Brochure on Peri-urban Parks distributed on conferences / on-line

Potential members

Several former FEDENATUR members plus other parcs interested from EUROPARC.

Resources and potential sources

An Europarc staff member (Teresa Pastor) will endeavour to oversee the group.

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General Information

Why does EUROPARC have Member's Commissions?

The **EUROPARC Federation** is a membership organisation. It exists to serve the needs of our members as they have identified them in the statutes of the organisation and it recently approved strategy.

However the services expected by the members may not always be able to be provided fully by a team of staff, further one might want to consider that as a membership organisation, the role of and functions of the members in running the organisation and delivering on its goals should form a part of the Federations governance and structure.

With that in mind the creation of the new strategy offers an opportunity for some renewed thinking on how members can have a role in the functions of EUROPARC.

IT may be useful to suspend the attachment to the current structure, or order to pause and consider what is needed and achievable.

The strategy was written with the then existing structure, this does not compel EUROPARC to retain that, as the delivery of the aims and action expressed, should in most cases, take precedence. Further, the need for change to the delivery structures was already indicated in the strategy.

What makes a Good Group?

Groups working together with a common purpose, are good for people in that they can provide members with important social interaction, support and enriched opportunities for learning.

A well-functioning participation group can be

- Good at finding problems;
- Promoting innovation;
- Can make better decisions than individuals on some kinds of tasks;
- Can be good tools for implementation, in that group decisions to which members are committed will be carried out willingly;
- Can also help fend off the negative consequences of large organisational size, by keeping communication lines short and hierarchies relatively flat.



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However, it must be noted that, groups can turn sour and be ineffective. The Federation would need to be aware of any difficulties that arise in order to manage.

EUROPARC should endeavour to create differing types of groups, suited to the needs and task required by the Federation, but ensure we maximise the positive opportunities indicated.

What types of Groups will EUROPARC have?

Types of Participation Groups of the EUROPARC Federation		
Internal Participation groups of EUROPARC		
Technical standing committees	to analyse specific aspects of EUROPARC work, particularly existing programmes such as charter and TB	Guidelines of the work of these groups already exists.
Commissions	To undertake a piece research or advise on a given topic or theme , develop a project and prepare a report with recommendations for EUROPARC	Will take over the function of previous working groups with a great emphasis on evidence gathering and outputs
Forum	Predominately e-forum to explore area of works, stimulate discussion	All commissions should have their own platform as well as exchange across the Federation.
Advisory panels	to give overview or audit the work of the Federation on a given topic	International work of the Charter is one such example
External working groups	Groups which the Federation is asked to join a group managed by other organisations. Can also be called	Current groups and platforms we are involved in



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	“platforms” e.g. large carnivores	
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The creation of new commissions

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 funding bodies. Therefore maintaining and strengthening communication lines with all parties involved is essential. As per current working groups guidelines

To facilitate this, Federation Directorate staff will be assigned, where possible, to support and assist groups. Additionally the council may decide to act as an advocate of the theme/topic within the council if the group does not include a council member. This does not presume financial support to attend commission meetings.

Given an analysis by council and directorate, a call for creation of commission is then made. The strategic remit of each will be identified in the call. Council should give some consideration as to the chairing of such commissions, there can be nominated by council or selected by a group.

Other suggestions by sections and members can be considered but there is a danger of “spreading ourselves too thin” as resources and capacity are limited. Groups can for e-forums at any time and any reasonable suggestion from sections and member will be considered.

Interested parties in a commission should identify a chair, through which a basic proposal for the specific workplan remit of the commission.

This plan would include

Strategic theme addressed by the commission (the directorate will complete any aspects related to the NGO grant or other projects)

- objective,
- planned outputs over 2 years
- indicators
- potential members if the proposal comes from a group of members,
- resources, and potential sources

Plan of meetings, schedule of work will be agreed by the Directorate and the group.



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CVs of working group members should be submitted when the request for the establishment of the commission is submitted or soon thereafter.

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

Outputs

Annual meetings of council and chair of commissions should aim to take place at the annual conference. Groups are expected to produce an annual forward plan, directly related to the strategy of the Federation. Outputs of commissions will be presented in the Federation's annual report and promoted to members in its communications, annual reports and to funders where applicable.

Finances

All Federation monies are accountable to the members and to specific donors. Procedures for eligible expenses will be provided. Ideally working groups would be supported with travel and expense costs within a given agreed allocation. This is our aim although the allocation is speculative, based on an anticipated income, and is therefore regularly monitored and reassessed. 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 its place. Whilst the Federation would endeavour to reimburse travel and meeting costs within agreed limits, contributions to some of these costs from the member organisations, in recognition of the benefits of having their staff member in a Federation working group, would be appreciated.

A work plan 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.