



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

EUROPARC Council Election 2017

Election candidate information

Name: **Pete Rawcliffe**

Nationality/Citizenship: **British**

Member organisation: **Scottish Natural Heritage**

Position to be elected for (council member, treasurer, president): **Council**

Nominated by: **Grant Moir, CEO, Cairngorms National Park Authority**

Current Position: **Head of the People and Places Unit**



Please introduce yourself in a few sentences, your background, interests and experience.

I have been working for Scottish Natural Heritage – the national conservation agency- since 1994 and am currently managing one of our national units. I am based in Battleby, near Perth. My Unit has over 30 staff based across Scotland and works on the people and nature related aspects of SNH’s remit.

I have had led a variety of work in SNH, including the development and implementation of proposals for Scotland’s National Parks; the development of SNH’s policies on landscape, enjoying the outdoors, parks and reserves and health. I currently lead SNH’s work on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, including implementation of the Scottish route map to 2020.

My background comprises a mixture of academic study and research in the environmental and political sciences, consultancy work on planning, transport and conservation policy, and environmental education.

I am married with 2 children both now at University. Hobbies include hill walking, cycling and growing our own food. Over the last decade, we have enjoyed “house-swapping” with families across Europe.

Experience relevant to the EUROPARC Federation.

I have over 20 years of experience of working for conservation at the national level, working on National Parks and protected areas policy, biodiversity strategy, landscape and recreation, health, and outdoor learning.

I have been co-opted to the Europarc Federation Council Section for the last two years and chair of Health and protected areas commission. I helped draft the current Federation strategy and am fully committed to its implementation

| |
|---|
| Languages spoken and level of fluency (basic, moderate, good) |
| English – good |
| Personal statement (please answer the questions below as concisely as possible) |
| <i>The EUROPARC Federation needs a group of strong leaders in the Council who are willing to invest time in taking the organisation forward and raising its profile and who will represent it at national and European level.</i> |
| <p>What is your relationship to the EUROPARC Federation and what is your motivation for becoming a member of the EUROPARC Council</p> <p>I am an active and long standing member of Europarc Federation and its Atlantic Isles Section. I am committed to its work, ethos and the European ideal it promotes. I am keen to stand for the Council to continue the progress made by the current Council in taking the network forward.</p> <p>What do you think you can offer the EUROPARC Federation and its members?</p> <p>I believe I offer good knowledge of conservation thing and practice in Scotland, UK and internationally; together with strong strategic thinking skills, and proven experience of working in and for Councils and Boards. I am passionate about nature and the benefits it brings to people, especially young people.</p> <p>While the future remains uncertain, the UK “Brexit” is likely to make the work of the Federation even more relevant to it members here. But we will need to work at making this happen and a UK based Council member can play an important role in ensuring we remain connected.</p> <p><i>The Federation was founded for its members. It works hard to be the voice of these members on various levels and to facilitate their work on the ground.</i></p> <p>How do you see the role of the members in the Federation and how would you stimulate and encourage their contribution?</p> <p>Members are the rationale for the network and everything that the Federation does should provide value to them. I would like to see “active sections” but also “active members”, contributing to working groups and developing new thinking and practice within the overall strategic objectives provided by the current strategy. The next few years will also be really important for Europarc in building on the start we have made in involving more young people in our work through the development of a Youth Council. We also need to continue to attract new members too.</p> <p>How would you develop the internal communication and cooperation within the Federation?</p> <p>At the heart of the strategy is a commitment to engaging both sections and members in implementation and we must continue to develop opportunities for doing this through the Federation’s working groups, conferences and internal communications. I would like to see more cross-section co-operation too, with the Italian-French and Nordic-Atlantic Isles collaborations on sustainable agriculture and health respectively two good examples to build on. We should also build on the early success of the webinar series to engage members more regularly on discussions on topical issues.</p> |

EUROPARC is an organisation that is constantly developing and that needs to stay on top of the political agenda whilst thinking about the needs of its members.

What should the principle functions of the EUROPARC Federation be in the coming years?

The current strategy sets the framework for this – working for nature; helping people and organisations learn; promoting sustainability and working together. As the leading European network for nature we will need to show leadership as new strategies and plans for biodiversity are drawn up for years post 2020. More than ever we need to be a strong voice for nature and make the case for why the protected areas we manage are vital to meeting Europe’s social economic and environmental aspirations.

In what areas, e.g. lobbying, funding, does EUROPARC need to maximise its external relationships and with whom?

The EU will remain the focus of lobbying effort with Natura 2000, biodiversity, agriculture, green infrastructure and the marine environment likely to remain as the top issues. But if nature is to be “mainstreamed”, we also need to be creative in building stronger partnerships with other sectors such as business, health and culture. The Council of Europe also has an important role to play and some of its instruments such as the European Landscape Convention may begin to play a bigger role as both the nature of Europe and EU itself changes. We should also aspire to make more political capital from the constructive role the Federation plays in helping to put Europe on the global stage through its work in building alliances with other protected area networks and also being at the forefront of international thinking on protected areas management and issues such sustainable tourism and health.