

PAFs from the perspective of the EUROPARC Federation Their importance for protected areas

Michael Hošek, Natura 2000 Commission chair
Kemeris NP, Latvia

25th October 2019



PAAs in the PAF?

- PAF is focused on Natura 2000 network plus parts of 'Green Infrastructure' that serves as stepping stones
 - Question: Can national PAs network be considered as Green Infrastructure?
- Although national PAs are not in officially, in general they are thanks to a major overlap (usually more than 60%)

What is new compared to the previous PAF?

Improvements:

- more precise classification (7 classes of ecosystems, division to one-of and regular actions, etc.)
- PAF mentioned in the CAP Strategic Plan, though indirectly
- EC co-organizes stakeholders meeting in every EU country
- In general, PAFs considered as an important strategic document

Space for improvements:

- still the numbers are for the whole country or region, i.e. no exact data about a particular site
- Significant differences how the PAF is compiled among the EU countries
- **Question: will the EC prepare one EU-wide PAF?**

Challenges for PAs

- Usually, states use 'top-down' approach to compile PAFs
- In federal states, PAF will be compiled from PAFs carried out by regions (Italy, Spain, Austria, etc.)
- In some cases, PAF is being written by a contracted consultancy
 - In such case, the question is 'Will a respective authority have a capacity to implement the PAF if it does not have a capacity to carry out the document?'

Challenges for PAs

- Often incomplete or general management planning documents for Natura 2000 sites, not serving well as a background...
- Or even management plans not available

Challenges for PAs

- Large differences in how states count needs
 - E.g., Czechia EUR 120 million X Slovakia EUR 2 billion
- Question: Is better to be ambitious or pragmatic?
- Data used are often older (Reporting 2007-2013), there will be a need to update PAFs

Sources for funding

- Logically, the EC stresses to use the EU financial sources (LIFE, CAP, other Cohesion funds, ...) while asking states to modify and allocate national funds for the purpose of the PAF implementation
- Logically, EU states rely on the EU funds more than their own budgets
- We as the PAs managers should seek for more balanced approach using both plus others, if possible
- Question: How to achieve it?

What we can do to reflect our needs more?

- To establish national technical body on national PAs network that will contribute during drafting (like in Spain)
 - Still there is a time, at least in some EU member states...
- To have well counted needs and can show their importance also for the Natura 2000 network
- ???

Thank you!

Hosek.Michael@gmail.com

