

Partnerships for Biodiversity

The EU Biodiversity targets and the role of Protected Areas towards 2030

Seminar-dialogue 2021

*Organized by EUROPARC Federation in cooperation with DG ENV
with the participation of DG AGRI*

Tuesday, 01.06.2021 - Online meeting

Following the successful Seminar-Dialogues organised in [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), and [2020](#), on the **1st of June 2021** around **50 representatives of the EUROPARC Federation members from all Europe** had a new chance to **dialogue with the European Commission**.

The Seminar Dialogue is an annual event organized by EUROPARC in strictly collaboration with the Unit “Nature” of Direction General Environment (DG ENV), European Commission. By bringing together representatives of the European Commission and Protected Area professionals, EUROPARC aims to **highlight the contribution of Protected Areas to the achievement of the European policy goals**, whilst giving the European Commission a clear insight of the challenges faced by professionals in the field.

This year the event was focused on targets, criteria, guidelines, and funds for the implementation of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030**, and the role of the **Protected Areas**.

After the opening welcome from the **Head of Unit Mr. Nicola Notaro** and the **EUROPARC Director Mrs. Carol Ritchie**, the first session started with the presentation by **Mr. Joaquim Captao, DG ENV**, about the Protected Areas’ targets, how to achieve them, the commitments of the EC and member states, how to establish and implement appropriate conservation objectives and measures, the role of Natura 2000 and other protected areas according to the national and regional framework to reach the 30% of protected land and marine, and the current debate about the definition of strict protection.

[Download the presentation of Mr. Captao](#)

EUROPARC contributed sharing the results of the internal consultations and discussions with other partners, as the European Habitat Forum Platform, presented by **Mr. Federico Minozzi**: the parks give full support to the Biodiversity Strategy, they welcome the new recognition of the role of the national and regional parks and Protected Areas, and they demand to the institutions to ensure the conditions for good management, resources and skills.

[Download the presentation of Mr. Minozzi](#)

The case study illustrated by **Mrs. Daniela Gentile**, representative of the **Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park**, is a brilliant and clear experiences about the success and the difficulties to promote a park, to enlarge borders, to manage strict protection reserves, to dialogue with local communities. And indeed, the involvement of the local stakeholders is absolutely necessary to reach the conservation objectives and to create acceptance and support to the parks.

[Download the presentation of Ms. Gentile](#)

The second part of the Seminar Dialogue focused on the Restoration targets.

Mr. Frank Vassen, DG ENV, introduced the guidance on criteria for selecting habitats and species for conservation status improvements based on the Habitats and species (EU Habitats Directive) and Bird species (EU Birds Directive), the reporting responsibility of member states, and the role of the Biogeographical Process.

[Download the presentation of Mr. Vassen](#)

Mrs. Luisa Samarelli, DG ENV, informed the participants about the state of play of the preparation of the nature restoration law. She illustrated the process, from member states' and the public's consultations to the current 'thematic impact assessments' for the main ecosystem types, and the next steps to the "proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets to restore degraded ecosystems", that will also foresee specific National Restoration Plans.

[Download the presentation of Ms. Samarelli](#)

But what does mean concretely a restoration project in a protected areas? The amazing case study from **Mr. Leo Reyriink and Mr. André Classen** of the **Dutch-German Cross Border Nature Park Maas-Swalm-Nette**, showed "shocking" caterpillars and big tractors working in the park to restore moorland impacted by the excess of nutrients in former agricultural lands, and the final results of the realisation of ponds for special species protection/stepping and a species protection lake.

[Download the presentation of Mr. Reyriink and Mr. Classen](#)

Last but not least, the big question: how to make all that possible. How to ensure the best programming and use of the EU funds to achieve the biodiversity targets? **Mr. Przemek Oginski, DG ENV**, offered many important information about the EU funds available for biodiversity, and **Mrs. Claire McCamphill, DG AGRI**, gave a crucial perspective of the connections between nature conservation and the future Common Agricultural Policy.

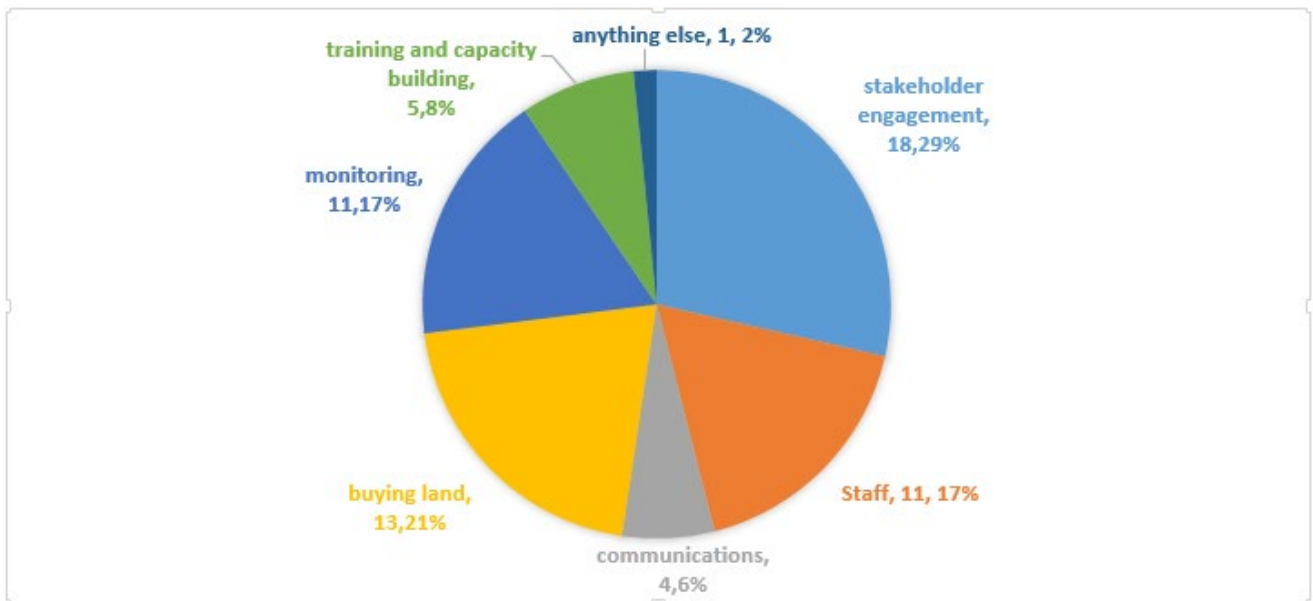
[Download the presentation of Mr. Oginski](#)

[Download the presentation of Ms. McCamphill](#)

During the debate, participants had the opportunity to participate in polls and to express their comments in a "virtual" board: You can see the results here:

[Go to the Jam Board](#)

In the online poll, participants were asked to answer the following question: *If you had sufficient resources to take forward the implementation of the EU protected area targets, what would your main investment be in?* You can read the answers and their frequencies in the chart:



EUROPARC thanks very much the EC and all speakers and participants for the time, ideas, information, knowledge, experiences they shared during the event. Due to the restrictions still presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seminar Dialogue 2021 took place online, but we are all confident to meet next year again in presence!

So, see you in Brussels for the Seminar Dialogue 2022!

Group photo:



