

Terms of Reference

EUROPARC Management Effectiveness Commission	
<p>Purpose Why is this group being formed</p>	<p>Designation and existence of Protected Areas (PAs) is just a first step. Even more important is to manage them in an effective way, regularly check the outcomes and adapt plans if needed.</p> <p>It is important to monitor and assess the management effectiveness of Protected Areas to keep track of the progresses and achievements and use adaptive management approach, to make necessary adjustments.</p> <p>On one hand this topic is quite well developed in Europe - PAs management authorities use various methods to evaluate management effectiveness (METT, RAPPAM, PAME, European Diploma, IUCN Green List, etc.). On the other hand, none of those approaches is recognised as the common one with general applicability across Europe (both in and outside of the EU). In addition, results of such exercises give answers mainly at an administrative level. For example, as most PAs do have a management plan, the outcome of such evaluation is usually positive. Yet, the level of biodiversity continues to decrease due to a lack of systematic approach covering administrative, planning, and implementation parts of the process.</p> <p>The EUROPARC Management Effectiveness Commission (EMEC) is established to utilise knowledge and experience of the EUROPARC network - including partners - and develop PAs Management Effectiveness Guide fitting to European conditions and carry out its pilot use.</p> <p>Management effectiveness of PAs is a priority issue for nature conservation. Although PAs are so far the most successful nature conservation tool, in major they fail in halting the loss of biodiversity. One of the reasons for that is a lack of the effectiveness monitoring and its association with management. That is the gap that the Commission is aiming to address.</p>
<p>Links to Strategy What specific area of the strategy this work is linked to ?</p>	<p>EUROPARC Federation Strategy 2030 Goal 3 - Enhance the status of nature on land and sea and people's connection to it, Theme Improve Protected Areas governance, planning and management effectiveness</p> <p>EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 Chapter 2.1: Coherent network of Protected Areas Key commitment: Effectively manage all Protected Areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately.</p>
<p>Membership who is membership of the group open to?</p>	<p>Membership is composed by experts from the EUROPARC network, partner organisations, and individual experts. That will ensure sufficient experience with existing approaches and awareness of expectations from our main partners: European Commission, European Environment Agency, and others.</p> <p>Members:</p>

<p>What kind of expertise or skills are needed.</p> <p>Are representatives from external organisations included, who and why?</p> <p>Please list proposed members and their organisation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael Hošek (EUROPARC Federation Council) 2. Leelo Kukk (EUROPARC Federation Council) 3. Ben Ross (EUROPARC Atlantic Isles Section, Nature Scot) 4. Matti Tapaninen (EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section, Metsähallitus) 5. Diego Garcia (EUROPARC Spanish Section) 6. Elena Osipova (European Environment Agency) 7. Erika Stanciu (IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas) 8. Micheal O'Brian (expert)
<p>What benefits will membership of this group bring to its members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation on development of new united PAs management effectiveness method applicable at the European scale - Utilization of their national /regional approaches and experience - Influencing development of management effectiveness measuring at the European level
<p>Chair of Group</p>	<p>Michael Hošek</p>
<p>Council Liaison</p>	<p>Leelo Kukk</p>
<p>Directorate Liaison</p>	<p>Carol Ritchie, Federico Minozzi.</p>
<p>Term What is the anticipated duration?</p>	<p>10 /02022 – 6/2024</p>
<p>Outcomes/Results What are the intended results or conclusions of the group?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification of expectations by our partners (European Commission / European Environment Agency) incl. EUROPARC members consultation (focused on their needs). 2. Desktop collation of existing methodological approaches and comparison analyses towards the EUROPARC 2030 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 needs and expectations. 3. Developed recommendations of necessary actions. 4. Prepared project proposal for the pilot implementation. To develop new guidance.
<p>Outline workplan What do you plan to do and achieve for the period to 2024</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification of expectations by our partners (European Commission / European Environment Agency) incl. EUROPARC members consultation (focused on their needs). 2. Desktop collation of existing methodological approaches and comparison analyses towards the EUROPARC 2030 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 needs and expectations. 3. Regular contribution to the EUROPARC events (conference, workshops, seminars, webinars).
<p>Challenges and Opportunities what do you envisage being the main challenges to a successful achievement of your</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The main challenge is the diversity of approaches including diverse understanding of the management effectiveness as a term. Regardless that kind of confusions, there is also a common understanding of needs, with vast experience of many PAs managers with such evaluations. The Commission must propose

<p>workplan and what they opportunities can you take advantage of that would support assist or multiple your efforts.</p>	<p>united understanding and definitions for the sake of its work and results.</p> <p>II. Resources are needed to support and develop this work. A funding proposal will be generated with an analysis and a guide/tool that will take into account demand for the capacity: human, financial, technical. The proposed guide should be comprehensive, but also not difficult to implement with limited capacities. There is no intention to replace all existing systems, but rather identify relevant gaps and overlaps, opportunities for synergies, their relevance and applicability for Protected Areas. The challenge for the Commission will be to distinguish and select important elements from non-essential and to define commonalities among European countries. It is also important to ensure that any management effectiveness guide or tool consider all parts complementing each other: governance, field management, monitoring schemes, planning system...</p> <p>III. Opportunity: common understanding of the Interest from PAs and possibly from the EC to develop a suitable method for management effectiveness in PAs, supporting the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.</p>
<p>Working methods How will the group function? Meetings/online access/F2f etc approx. how many/when How will the group be managed?</p>	<p>Online meetings and F2F if budget allows once per year.</p> <p>We plan to meet online every two months with meeting notes taken and shared by the Commission chair in cooperation with the Directorate liaison.</p>
<p>Reporting How will the group report its work, when and by whom. All working groups will need to ensure their work is recorded in EUROPARC's annual report and may too be subject to technical reports from funders if the work is related to projects or NGO grant.</p>	<p>The group will report via its chair and \directorate Liaison to the Directorate and Council.</p>
<p>Review How and when will the work of the group be reviewed</p>	<p>Progress and next steps to be reviewed in June 2023.</p>