

**EUROPARC Federation**



**Report to Council**

**September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Title:

Director Report

Summary :

Update on activities of the Directorate and financial outlook for 2010 and 2011.

Recommendations :

To note the report

# **EUROPARC Federation May 2010 Update**

**January- July 2010**

## **Overview**

**With the creation of a new workplan in November 2009 for the 2010, this report corresponds to the objectives and activities agreed for 2010.**

The following summaries the activities undertaken:

## **Internal Issues:**

- The bookkeeping has been outsourced as a cost saving measure. Sabine Schlögel will leave our employment in September.
- With the resignation of Richard Blackman as deputy Director, the office in Brussels will remain with one member of staff until further notice. To accelerate cost saving an agreement has been reached with the IUCN office. As such we have closed the current office in the Mundo building and moved to a new office within the IUCN building. This will result in savings for the Federation as well as enhance the working relations between our two organisations.
- The office move to Regensburg has been greatly successful. The official opening was attended by the Mayor Hr Wolbergs and received excellent press coverage. We have also made some good contacts with local environmental organisations.

## **Representation:**

- The Director attended meeting of interested Junior Ranger members in Bristol in January with EUROPARC Atlantic Isles. Very positive meeting with much interest in the development of Junior Ranger programmes in the UK.
- The Director and Deputy Director took part in an evaluation of the NGO grant process and submitted recommendations to a consultant acting on behalf of DG Environment.
- Federico Minozzi attended the EUROPARC Nordic Baltic seminar and gave presentations on Charter and Junior Rangers
- Lobbying workshop took place in Montagne de Reims Natural Regional Park in France. With 31 members attending, the Lobbying plan was produced.
- All staff and the President attended the lobbying workshop at Montagne de Reims Regional Park
- Director attended meetings in Brussels, with Eurosite to plan further co-operation at Green week and beyond.
- Director attended a meeting of the European Landowners Organisation in Brussels with Richard Blackman to discuss further cooperation.
- Director attended meeting with EUROPARC Germany in Berlin to agree the early plans for conference 2011.
- Morwenna Parkyn attended the press contacts seminar in Nuremburg

- Dan Bloomfield attended the HPHP conference in Melbourne Australia and represented EUROPARC Federation. EUROPARC signed the Healthy Parks Healthy People Declaration and hopes be involved in the next congress planned for London
- Director met with BTCV, IRF and North Pennines AONB representatives in the UK to discuss various project developments
- Policy Officer (Federico Minozzi) attended European Habitat Forum meeting and follow up meeting with DG Environment
- Federico Minozzi attended Grundtvig 2 planning meeting in London. Grundtvig 2 application was successful and new project will commence in October.
- Richard Blackman and Corneila Ehlers attend the TranParcNet meeting in Neuseidler See National Park, Austria.
- Richard Blackman attended meeting with Marie Guitton, Euromontana, re MountainTRIP project.
- EUROPARC, the Saxony-Anhalt and Valencia regions hosted and presented at the event 'Synergies of Regions and Protected Areas in the management of Biodiversity', in Brussels on May 31st. 40 people attended from European institutions and regions.
- Morwenna Parkyn attended the Nordic Baltic Seminar in Estonia at the end of May
- Richard Blackman met with the IEEP and participated at a Euroidentities workshop
- Diana Gallrapp and Richard Blackman attended the PARKS & BENEFITS workshop in Norway.
- Morwenna Parkyn and Cornelia Ehlers represented EUROPARC at the 100 year of National Parks event at the Bavarian Forest National Park
- Corneila Ehlers represented the Federation at the Dinaric Arc Transboundary Conference Capljina, BiH
- Carol Ritchie, Federico Minozzi attend the Life + conference in Brussels
- EUROPARC hosted a stand with Eurosite at green week
- EUROPARC hosted the inaugural Siggen series of seminars "The Price of Nature" courtesy of the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung. Report will be produced.
- Federico Minozzi attended in July the "Stakeholder conference on Financing Natura 2000" in Brussels
- Carol Ritchie will attend the Parks Forum of Australia conference in August 2010 courtesy of Parks Forum
- Federico Minozzi attended in September the conference "Biodiversity post 2010" in Gent (Be)
- Federico Minozzi made an introduction session about EUROPARC to IUCN staff in Brussels
- Diana Gallrapp attended Parks&Benefits meeting in Haapsalu/Estonia

### **Communications:**

Monthly E-news have continued throughout 2010. Two Charter network newsletters were also produced. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Protected Areas Insight is in preparation, as is a new Transboundary leaflet and the EUROPARC leaflet .. In April we sent out an electronic version of the Annual Report for 2009. In addition, members should have received the conference report from the Swedish conference last year.

Sales of our book "Living Parks" continue.

The EUROPARC exhibition, 100 years of National Parks in Europe, has travelled from Germany, to Serbia, to Latvia, to Finland and is making its way to France. It will end the year in Italy. During the exhibition dates it was seen by around 5000 visitors in the first three countries visited. In 2011: the exhibition will probably travel to Baltic Sea Region region.

Over 180 parks in around 20 European Countries opened their doors to thousands of visitors for the European Day of Parks. Over 400 events with the theme 'Biodiversity and People: Space for Nature?' were organised celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity. The event was mentioned on the UKs BBC radio two and in local newspapers and websites around the world.

The Federation website has been continuously updated, particularly the news pages with information from the field of nature protection across Europe. To date 42 379 we have seen hits on the website an increase of 7% on last year.

Press coverage: two articles in local newspapers with office move, 5 press releases about various EUROPARC issues sent to newspapers across Europe and environmental organisations, quotes from EUROPARC in Spanish article on sustainable tourism

Communications with members continued with 13 internal information/press releases so far in 2010

### **Project development:**

The following projects areas are ongoing or under development:

- PAME – Protected Area Management Effectiveness. This project concluded its analysis of protected area management in Europe, Report is available on [http://www.bfn.de/0610\\_v\\_pame2009.html](http://www.bfn.de/0610_v_pame2009.html)
- EUROPARC website - Future work to develop this further is under discussion.
- NatuRegio - The training of young professionals in Romania and Bulgaria has concluded. Final outputs and report will be published
- Charternet - the project to support the European Charter for Sustainable tourism has concluded. Future project work is now underway.
- The WWF Danube Carpathian project training of environmental professional in the Danube Carpathian region continues and is being led by EUROPARC consulting
- Youth in Action –An application for a Partnership Building activity “Action for youth in Parks” has been submitted in September, in partnership with IRF, and Ranger associations from Romania, Denmark, Scotland.
- The PARKS & BENEFITS project is continuing in the Baltic region and the first Norwegian Charter Park established through it.
- STEPPA project - Sustainable Tourism in Enterprises, Parks and Protected Areas project has begun with the kick off meeting in Leeds, UK.
- Sustainable Tourism Destinations project submitted to BfN (Germany) due to commence in Oct 2010.
- Sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastline through community involvement – this would be a focus on marine and marine junior ranger. Seeking partners and meeting

with WWF Mediterranean. – Application to MAVVA foundation by will be submitted in 3rd quarter of the year.

- Summary of activities undertaken are shown in the table below.
- GRUNDTVIG – the first Grundvig project ‘European Volunteers in Parks’ comes to an end this year. However a follow up project application was successful and the new training volunteer coordinators project will start in October 2010

**Table 1: Summary table of work undertaken against strategic headlines and objectives of the EUROPARC strategy.**

Colour code		Some progress, ongoing work		No/little activity or change in activity		Achieved
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	EUROPARC Strategy Objectives	Summary of progress to mid July 2010
<b>Support the management of Europe's protected areas</b>		
<b>Indicate and share the benefits and values of Europe's protected areas</b>		
1.	To communicate the importance of protected areas in the adaption to and mitigation of climate change and biodiversity loss, and facilitate the sharing of best practise and expertise the management of protected areas in climate change and biodversity loss	Press release issued for EdoP (Year of Biodiversity was the theme), information on Conference sent out (including press release), EDoP and Year of Biodiversity in E-News as well as other related articles, office opening, exhibition has been to Latvia, Serbia, Finland and is now in France, book continues to be sold and promoted, publications sent to all sections and EUROPARC Consulting for them to promote protected areas, conference report 2009. Planning of 2010 conference, Brussels event and Green Week, Second PA In-Sight is currently being produced,
2.	To improve the management of biodiversity management in Europe's Natura 2000 and protected areas network, and Enhance knowledge of EU policies among EUROPARC members	<u>Updates on website</u>
3.	To demonstrate the values and wider benefits of protected areas to their surrounding landscapes, regions and communities to increase knowledge	Articles in E-news February, March , April, Ongoing work of parks and benefits project, EDoP advertisements, exhibition has been to Latvia and

	and information about sustainable development.	Serbia, conference report 2009, annual report, Green Week 2010, July-Sept/outlook 2011: Ongoing work of PARKS&BENEFITS project, E-news, press release
4.	.Raise awareness of the role that Natura 2000 sites and Europe's protected areas play as providers of opportunities for the promotion of public health and well-being	Workshops planned in Conference 2010, Dan Bloomfield represented EUROPARC at HPHP conference. New working group established.
5.	Illustrate the contribution of Europe's protected areas to the sustainable use of natural resources and their links to a range of other policy areas.	All Charter network activities, parks and benefits project, STEPPA project, Green Week 2010, map and collaboration with CED PPN Turin. ongoing work of PARKS&BENEFITS project; Outlook: ongoing work of PARKS&BENEFITS project: development of Charter part II in BSR, PPP;
<b>Develop the European Protected Area network</b>		
<b>Capacity building, training and education of staff and stakeholders of Europe's protected areas</b>		
6.	To build capacity in and provide training for managers of Europe's protected areas on relevant aspects of EU policy, and	Siggen seminar for the development of federation working groups. Siggen seminar The Price of Nature. Lobbying workshop . Funding paper and other information sheets available on members area of website
7.	To explore opportunities for partnership working and strategic alliances across all aspects of the Federation's output	Made further contact with Redparques regarding future funding possibilities and projects. Submitted YIA project partnerships with IRF and other National Ranger Associations Developing MOU with national Parks Service of USA.. Developing MAVA foundation project proposal and closer cooperation with Australias parks forum
<b>Organisational Development and Capacity Building</b>		
8.	To adopt and disseminate best practise in governance in the EUROPARC	Section meeting took place in April. Meetings of working group to develop

	Federation	new plans in Siggen in July. Road maps for 4 working groups produced
9.	To rationalise processes, seek efficiencies and develop capacity in the resources and management of the EUROPARC Federation	Bookkeeping service outsourced. New financial procedures in place, new and better management of membership database. Cancelled contract in Mundo building in Brussels and staff member move into the IUCN building. Risk management undertaken by internal auditor and actions developed. Production of guidelines for use of registered logos, draft produced for members to use to promote the EUROPARC Federation



**Table 2. Finance Update 2010 an 2011**

Item	Anticipated 2010	Revised total July 2010	Predicted 2011
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership	346,569.00 €	333,548€	320,000
EU NGO Life + grant	95,402.00 €	95,402.00 €	??
EUROPARC consulting	30,000.00 €	20,000.00 €	20,000
Project income	107,935	91,659€	40,000
<b>INCOME Total</b>	<b>579,906.00 €</b>	<b>540,609.75 €</b>	<b>380,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Personnel costs	356,999.00 €	343,531.00 €	240, 000
Travel	53,756.00 €	29,000€	30,000
Rentals	31,067.00 €	35,453.00 €	35,000
External Assistance	35,322.00 €	36,000.00 €	13,000
Other costs	22,000.00 €	21,564.00 €	7,000
Overheads	48,334.00 €	41,700.00 €	48,000
Projects	95,270€	47,431.75€	47,000
<b>EXPENDITURE Total</b>	<b>642,748.00 €</b>	<b>554 ,679€</b>	<b>419500</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>-62,842.00 €</b>	<b>-14070 €</b>	<b>-39500</b>

## Looking ahead to 2011

### Provisional costed workplan

With two difficult financial years behind us and new efficiency measure in place, the EUROPARC Federation should in 2011 stabilise its financial position. These deficits shown are incidental as they are a feature of either pre-financing of a project, where the expenditure outstrips the income in a given financial year, or where income has been recovered in advance and expenditure is in the year following. In cash flow terms, there has been sufficient monies in the current account to ensure operational cost have been met, without any recourse to the savings reserve.

Additionally new processes to secure membership fees have been put in place. These include better tracking of invoices (and reminders!) and a clear policy in term of striking off non-paying members. This has ensured we maximise the membership fee income.

The directorate, however, continue to seek additional sources of income and to be less reliant upon the EU funding streams as these are increasingly complex, particularly where we are in receipt of multiple grants. Project proposals are in preparation to seek foundation funding. In addition, we are discussing with our partners with whom we have signed Memorandum of Understanding about how to develop new projects with international and non-European funding sources.

The estimated income and expenditure figures in Table 2 reflect activities the work areas below:

- Core staff and office functions
- All communication work of the Federation, including e-news, website and publications.
- Support of the federations working groups in Health. Sustainable Tourism, Wilderness, Lobbying, Transboundary and support of EUROPARC evaluation committees of Charter and Transboundary
- Support and administration of the Alfred Toepfer scholarship
- Ongoing support and administration of EUROPARC programmes, Charter, Transboundary, Junior Rangers European Day of Parks.
- Directorate support of the work of EUROPARC sections across Europe.
- Planning and delivery of training and networking opportunities for members e.g. the Siggen series and annual conference, including the extensive workshops
- All lobbying and liaison work across Europe and especially in Brussels
- Support for the Work of the EUROPARC council
- Representation of members interests by EUROPARC staff and Council
- Development of joint working programme with Eurosite
- Participation in the implementation of the following projects
  - STEPPA – examining the added value of the charter to tourism businesses
  - Grundtvig –developing new training guidance for volunteer coordinators in Europe
  - Sustainable Tourism Destination – Does the Charter also meet the criteria for European Sustainable tourism Destinations
  - Wilderness –developing management guidance for the management of wilderness in Europe

- Youth in Action (application submitted) Training of Ranger in Youth education /junior Rangers in Europe
- Parks and Benefits –Development of the Charter in the Nordic Baltic region of Europe.

A full workplan will be developed in November 2010. Specific outputs are contained in project agreements. Other EUROPARC outputs will be detailed in the finalised workplan.

Project work in preparation includes a large scale marine project, to develop models of community engagement, including development of Junior Ranger programmes in relation to climate change issues in the Mediterranean. Discussions are also ongoing with Slow Food International to formulate an age-environmental project and in conjunction with EUROPARC Spain implementing aspect of the Red Parques (South American) Memorandum of Understanding. Further projects are being considered in the areas of protected area management effectiveness and Natura 200 management.

There are no immediate plans to alter the staffing structure of Federation but additional assistance through judicious use of interns and student will support the work of the full time staff.

Carol Ritchie

Director EUROPARC Federation

July 2010, updated September 2010