

Appendix 3 to council meeting minutes, 01.02.2013 in Porto (PT)

Working groups future mandates

Report from Transboundary Working Group - contact Rolands Auziņš

Recommendations:

- ✓ To note the report.

- ✓ To decide a new mandate for a TBWG 2013-14

Done in 2012:

1. TransParcNet meeting 11-14 June in Inari/Pasvik PA (Finland/Russia/Norway).
2. Transboundary side-meeting at the EUROPARC Conference 2012, Belgium.

Up until 2012 STEC and TBWG were partly composed by the same people. It was agreed that no members of the STEC should be part of the TBWG and vice versa. Verifiers are welcome in the working group, they can however not form part of the STEC.

Martin Solar (SLO) stepped down from his position as chair of STEC and Arto Ahokumpu (FI) was accepted as new chairman.

Forming of the new TBWG has started. Leo Reyriņk was appointed as chairman.

The operating bodies, STEC and TBWG, are composed as follows:

STEC

- Arto Ahokumpu (FI), Chair
- Arnold Boer (NL),
- Handrij Härtel (CZ)
- Martin Solar (SL)

TBWG

- Leo Reyriņk (NL), Chair
- Rolands Auziņš (LV), contact person to the Council
- Hans Kiener (D)
- Stefano Santi (I)
- Franz Haider (A)
- Jakub Kaspar (CZ)
- Riina Tervo (FI)

The working group will meet next at the TransParcNet meeting early June in the Netherlands, 2013.

3. Certification.

Saxon Switzerland National Park and Protected Landscape Area, Bohemian Switzerland National Park and Elbe Sandstones Protected Landscape Area at the German-Czech border were awarded the Transboundary Certificate.

The Grenspark/Naturpark Maas-Swalm-Nette at the Dutch-German border was successfully re-evaluated.

4. Presentation.

Presentation of the TB work of the EUROPARC Federation on the 28th of November 2012 during the Conference “Grenzüberschreitende Schutzgebiete in Europe” in Schwedt/Oder by the chair of the TB Working Group Leo Reyrink.

5. Documents.

Petra Schultheiss in cooperation with members of STEC and TBWG has started revision and actualization of the following TB documents: Application forms, Cost conditions and Fees, Guidelines for verifiers, Re-evaluation form, Registration Form.

Plans for 2013

1. TransParcNet meeting from 4-7th June in Dutch-German Nature Park Maas-Swalm-Nette.
2. Meeting of the TB Working Group on the 4th of June with the following objects:
 - Preparation of a paper (results/plan/vision) of the TB work
 - Preparing objectives for EU-funded project drafts
 - Activities to get more protected border areas in Europe into the certification program
3. Meeting of the TBWG during the conference in Hungary as a side-meeting.
4. Expecting a new application for the Transboundary Certificate from the French-Belgian Hainaut Cross-border Nature Park and re-evaluation of the trilateral park Pasvik-Inari.
5. TB experts are invited to a workshop/meeting of the Association de Coopération Transfrontalière et Interrégional 12.-13. April in the Pyreness in France. It is also as a kick-off meeting for project "Nature without frontiers".
6. Connect with Eurosite and learn about their “Twinning” program. See where synergies lie.
7. Workshop on Creativity on project management. Goal: to have a project proposal for a common TB project for end of the year (topics: stakeholder engagement in PAs across Europe; Transboundary Parks and green infrastructure...).
8. Due to the fact that STEC members cannot act as verifiers the well of verifiers dried out significantly. It is planned to have a new verifier training in autumn if resources allow.
9. Also it is planned to develop a mediator training for transboundary parks. In cross-border cooperation difficulties might arise more easily and it would be good to have professional mediators to send in if situations get too difficult for the parks to resolve. Also planned for end of the year.

Research about EU-funded projects within TB parks already started. A questionnaire has been distributed to all TB parks to gather information. Silke Weich and Leo Reyrink from Maas-Swalm-Nette Nature Park will collect the information and prepare a report for the TransParcNet meeting. This will be the starting point for a new Transboundary project proposal.