



Minutes:

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Members Assembly 2012

Tallinn, 6 March 2012

Participants

Arto	Ahokumpu	Metsähallitus	Finland
Rolands	Auziņš	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Annette	Buck	Nationalpark Thy	Denmark
Thomas	Hansson	EUROPARC Federation	Sweden
Jakob	Harrekilde Jensen	Nature Agency	Denmark
Matti	Helminen	Individual member	Finland
Marja	Hokkanen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Raimo	Itkonen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Sanna-Kaisa	Juvonen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Teet	Koijtjärv	Individual member	Estonia
Kaja	Lotman	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section	Estonia
Edita	Lydiene	Žemaitija National Park	Lithuania
Liisa	Nikula	Metsähallitus	Finland
Giedrius	Norvaišas	Žemaitija National Park	Lithuania
Minttu	Perttula	Metsähallitus	Finland
Nele	Sõber	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section	Estonia
Andris	Širovs	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Tomas	Tukačiauskas	Kuršiu Nerija National Park	Lithuania
Klaas	van Ommeren	Dovrefjell National Park Authority	Norway
Jan	Woollhead	Region Zealand	Denmark

Minutes

1. President Kaja Lotman welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.
2. The **2012 Activity Plan** was accepted with the following changes:

In addition to the spring (in Estonia) and autumn (in Estonia, theme to be confirmed) seminar, the section member Metsähallitus proposed 2 seminar themes:

1) Seminar on active ageing and European protected areas:

Active Aging is the theme of the European Union in 2012. A seminar on this theme could address the themes Senior Park Rangers and Park Elders. It also touches upon the theme of Volunteering in 2011 and the on-going theme Healthy Parks, Healthy People, and the general need of protected area networks to build partnerships. The seminar would discuss the benefits of senior activities and networks to the management of national parks and other protected areas. Good practices from European countries would be presented and compared by experts and protected area managers. National and international networks of senior citizens would be presented. A



tour of the country organising the seminar would study the management procedures and plans. A national event on the Senior Ranger theme is being planned in Koli National Park in Finland, and it will be part of LIFE+ project in autumn 2012. Metsähallitus will host the seminar.

2) Seminar on protected area governance:

The governance of protected areas is an on-going development process in many European countries. The development of cooperation of protected area networks is a pressing issue for the EUROPARC Federation and Eurosite. There is a large variety of protected area governance, with good and poor experiences. The recognition of governance models and the discussion on different ways to govern protected areas would enhance cultural intercourse and understanding. Current topics can be identified in Iceland and Denmark. The older governance models of Finland and Sweden could present an interesting case for exchange of experiences. From the viewpoint of understanding the importance of their new ways and initial steps, the new governance models of Estonia, Latvia and Norway are also interesting for all Nordic-Baltic Section countries. The seminar would discuss the governance models of national parks and other protected areas. Good practices from various European countries would be presented and compared in presentations of experts and protected area managers. Hosting organization to be confirmed, proposed time autumn 2012 or spring 2013.

Further discussions will be made between possible partners and the secretariat.

3. EUROPARC Federation strategy

Federation lacks resources to update the strategy at the moment especially when merger issues with Eurosite are still under discussion. Thus the strategy process has been postponed to the next year.

4. EUROPARC Federation merger with Eurosite

EUROPARC Federation has had legal advice and now the discussions will continue May 2012, when both organizations meet on equal base (due diligence meeting).

5. Silent partner in EUROPARC Germany Grundtvig project

Section has been invited to be a silent partner of the EU-Grundtvig-Multilateral Project "Volunteer Management of European Parks", which is led by EUROPARC Germany. Through the silent partnership, section members can take part in the project activities, but should pay the costs themselves! The project contact person from the Nordic-Baltic section side will be coordinator Nele Söber, who forwards relevant information to interested section members.

6. Updates from the working groups

Liisa Nikula made a presentation about the working groups' activities (presentation attached). Comment by members: information about working groups' activities should be regularly reported and updated also on the Federation webpage.

7. Membership updates

New members have joined EUROPARC Federation. In a near future, the section makes an official invitation for them to become section members as well. Simple application form was proposed in the assembly in order to get the correct and basic information from the new members.

8. Membership data on the web



All members are encouraged to update their information in the EUROPARC database, by logging into the member's area at www.europarc.org. It is crucial that this information is correct, since it is the same information that is displayed on <http://europarc-nb.org/our-members/> where the general public can search for contact details and links to each member. Please make sure that links lead to relevant pages, preferably with information in English! If one does not know or remember the log in information, please do not hesitate to contact EUROPARC Federation!

9. Other information

- 1) Lithuania, Zemaitija National Park gave an overview of their project "Lifescape" – implementing European landscape convention in the South Baltic Region (presentation attached)
- 2) Alfred Toepfer award nominations:
Rolands Auziņš proposed to nominate former EUROPARC Federation president Erika Stanciu. Members decided to nominate others as well and vote via email before the end of June. The deadline for nominations to the EUROPARC Federation is 27th July 2012.
- 3) Project "Parks and Benefits" lead partner Ministry for Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection M-V (Olaf Ostermann) made two suggestions:
 - 3.1) The Nordic-Baltic section should write an official letter to Joint Programming Committee in order to ensure that sustainable tourism in protected areas and health issues are included in the new programming period;
 - 3.2) Collect proposals for Charter 2 from the project partners of "Parks and Benefits" before the Sustainable Working Group (chair Lasse Loven) makes their proposals to the Federation.

Nele Söber
Nordic-Baltic section coordinator
March 2012