

## EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section

# Questionnaire for members

2010

**Dear EUROPARC Nordic–Baltic Section members,**

the 2010 Members Assembly decided that a questionnaire should be sent out to all members asking their opinion of the section's work in general and, more specifically, that of the secretariat.

A substantial part of the questions (part II) relate to communication and dissemination of information. Thus, it also serves as a follow up of the questionnaire that was distributed last year (2009-03-17).

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When answering the questionnaire, please bear in mind the key objectives of the section:

1. To facilitate exchange of information and expertise between the members of the section.
  2. To facilitate exchange of information and expertise between the section and other EUROPARC sections and the EUROPARC Directorate.
  3. To support the implementation of joint projects and other activities in the Nordic and Baltic countries.
  4. To emphasize the role of the section members as key actors in the management of protected areas.
  5. To increase the number of members in all member countries.
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## General impressions

### Does your organization get sufficient and relevant support from the section and secretariat?

(If not, please specify the improvements you would like to see).

- Generally yes.
- Yes! /Absolutely!/Absolutely, fluent communication./yes, in the amount we ask for it./
- Yes, in fact we expect information, not support. (And have not asked either).
- We did not expect support but just exchange of information. But: We didn't receive any information on support either.

### Are you satisfied with the way in which the section and the secretariat's work is organized?

- Yes/Yes, mainly.
- Maybe more info is needed on the sections work with EUROPARC Federation.
- For exchange of information. OK. But I don't think the section has the resources to live up to the key objectives.

### Are you satisfied with the secretariat's representation of the section and communication with EUROPARC Federation in general? The Directorate? Other organizations? European Institutions?

- Don't know.
- Quite frankly: I don't know.
- More lobbying
- More cooperation with other organizations.
- The communication with other organization could be improved.
- We have not seen any example of the communication with the European institutions.
- The communications from EUROPARC Federation are sometimes slow and not sufficient.

### Do you think the section focuses on the right issues? (eg in 2011 potential issues to focus on are Health and PA's; Sustainable tourism in PA's; Forests and biodiversity, etc....)

- Sustainable tourism is important. Connection to health might be of growing importance when it comes to funding and support.
- Mostly.
- The right issues. But do we have the resources to work on more than one issue?
- Very good focus for 2011. Sustainable tourism in PA's is very important!
- Maybe some more focus on framework: ecosystem services.
- Well discussed and agreed together.
- Yes, the focus of the section should be decided based partly on analyses of current trends, research etc, partly on issues raised by the members.
- Right now, yes. And the section should be ready pickup another issue if it is relevant.
- Yes, very important that biodiversity is included.
- Up to know we work from one workshop to another including new workgroup. I would like see bigger project where all (mostly) section's countries would be involved. Within this project we would have workshops/seminars, expertise exchanges, study tours and so on. It would help also to solve funding issues for our events and activities.
- Yes! Climate change and possible loss of biodiversity would be very useful to focus on.

*The questionnaire continues...*

**What other issues would you like us to work on? Other events or joint projects you would like to see? Are we missing something?**

- Management of biodiversity and best practice.
- Address the key question about wilderness vs. maintaining biodiversity by active management.
- Comparative studies on benchmarking of success factors for PA's.
- Biodiversity
- Economics, funding
- Good idea to chose and focus on a few issues – we cannot work on all of them.
- Valuation of ecosystem services. Develop and raise awareness about this!
- Joint project planning can be strengthened.
- Maybe TEEB and ecosystem services should be more emphasized.
- To activate young officers working for PA's to participate and be more active – lower threshold
- Public-private partnerships in the management of PA's
- Working with volunteers
- It would be great if there was a working group on visitor monitoring.
- It would also be great if the section could work more on marketing protected areas towards the public and explain their value to policy makers.
- I think that it could be very useful with a general discussion on strengths and weaknesses of protected area management and classification within the area of the Nordic-Baltic Area, so we better could identify where we could improve or contribute to other sections.


**Any other comments you would like to make?**

- The cancellation of the autumn seminar was a serious fault that should be analyzed in detail. The reasons must be found.
- The value of being member is very much dependent on how active one choose to be within the network.
- How far we with to get legal entity for the section?

*The questionnaire continues...*

## Communication channels

Please state how satisfied you are with the section's current channels of communication.

	Strongly dissatisfied				Strongly satisfied!	Don't know
	☹ 1	2	3	4	☺ 5	--
<b>Website</b> ( <a href="http://www.europarc-nb.org">www.europarc-nb.org</a> )	0	0	2	4	6	0
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interesting to see the new website!</li> </ul>						
<b>E-newsletter 6 issues/yr</b>	0	0	0	8	4	0
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The difficulty is to get the members to share information about their projects!</li> <li>Excellent!</li> <li>National distribution should be better (our – the contact persons' - responsibility)</li> </ul> 						
<b>E-mail communication</b>	0	0	0	5	4	1
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good job!</li> <li>Perhaps one could enlist to a subscription function linked to the website: When news are posted on the website, an e-mail is sent (automatically) to those who have signed up.</li> </ul>						
<b>Seminars</b> (eg. "Monitoring and Management of Visitors and Visitor Flows", Rovaniemi Nov.'09; "Management of Biodiversity and Landscapes in Estonian Coastal Areas", Estonia May '10)	0	0	0	2	5	4
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Rovaniemi seminar on visitor monitoring and management was very useful. Estonia seminar not relevant for us.</li> <li>I have not participated in those, but the topics seem interesting.</li> <li>It depends more on the members and financing than the secretariat.</li> </ul>						

*The questionnaire continues...*

	Strongly dissatisfied				Strongly satisfied!	Don't know
	☹ 1	2	3	4	☺ 5	--
<b>Members Assembly</b> (eg. Stockholm 2 Feb.'10)	0	0	1	3	3	6
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would like to see a more broad discussion, on how we can improve with regard to protected areas. Also: A general discussion on strengths and weaknesses of protected area management and classification within the area of the Nordic-Baltic Area, so we better could identify where we could improve or contribute to other sections.</li> </ul>						
<b>EUROPARC Conference</b> (eg. Strömstad Sept.'09)	0	0	0	5	4	3
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not as useful as the section's seminars.</li> </ul>						
<b>Telephone calls</b>	0	0	1	1	3	7
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephone calls and personal meetings always work best.</li> <li>The telephone number to the secretariat/coordinator does not work!</li> <li>You never phone us!</li> </ul>						
<b>Networks and Working groups</b> (eg. Health and Protected Areas, Sustainable tourism)	0	0	0	4	3	5
<b>Comments/Improvements you would like to suggest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We should develop social media methods.</li> <li>The benefits should be presented more clearly somewhere.</li> </ul>						
<p><i>Thank you for your help!</i> <i>//the secretariat</i></p>						