

HEALTH AND PROTECTED AREAS
Arto Ahokumpu



METSÄHALLITUS

EUROPARC NB section meeting
Kristianstad, 9.-10.2.

Matti



Evidence in the 2002 review (updated in 2008) came from fields as diverse as ecology, biology, environmental psychology and psychiatry, and showed that access to nature plays a vital role in human health, wellbeing and development. The research indicated that humans are, among other things, dependent on nature for psychological, emotional and spiritual needs that are difficult to satisfy by any other means.

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Mission to the management of Protected Areas

Process to Health and PA's Working Group

Nordic-Baltic in cooperation with Atlantic Isles



Public health and experience of nature – the role of protected areas. Maribosøerne, Denmark. 27-30 May 2008.

Naturally better – how protected areas can help deliver health and wellbeing. Wallingford, England. 26 March 2009.

Workshop Healthy Parks, Healthy People EUROPARC Conference 2009, Strömstad, Sweden.

1st Working Group meeting Gut Siggen, Germany. 19-20 July 2010

Workshop and official establishment of WG during the EUROPARC Conference 2010, Pescasseroli, Italy

Members of Working Group



Rolands Auzins	Latvia Nature Conservation Agency (on behalf of the Council)
Lena Malmström	EUROPARC, Nordic-Baltic Section
Richard Blackman	EUROPARC, Atlantic Isles Section
Bridget Finton	Scottish Natural Heritage
Lynn Crowe	Sheffield Hallam University
Jan Woollhead	Region Sjaelland
James Parkin	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Marcus Sangster	Forestry Commission Great Britain
John Van den Berg	Staatsbosbeheer, NL
Matti Tapaninen	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services

Roadmap of Working Group 2009 - 2012

Siggen workshop result



1. Workshop during EUROPARC Conference 2010 (September)
2. Desk study of existing work (Spring/summer 2011)
3. Project planning and implementation (Good practices leading up to Health Forum in London 2012)
4. Communication plan / assistance for updating EUROPARC Strategy
5. Health Forum, London 2012: Launch EUROPARC message

Post 2012: Toolkit / guidelines for managers and practitioners



Things to do?

Ideas for N-B Section annual plan 2011

Situation analysis in member countries

- Good practices, projects, networks/partnerships
- Where are we now?

Common development projects

- Concrete work in regions and sites

Workshop/side meeting during EUROPARC Conference 2011

Network within Nordic – Baltic and strengthen cooperation with Atlantic Isles. Transparent communication with all the members of EUROPARC (mailing list)

Main Challenges to meet



What are the benefits of green spaces (*especially PA's*) to human health and happiness?

- Do we understand benefits – as part of ecosystem services?
- Can we measure benefits?

Do we have tools and processes to 'make a difference'?

- Strategic partnerships (white/green sector, public/private)
- Segmentation of customers / who are those we don't catch?
- Good practices and sharing of them
- Innovators to sit in the same table (Global perspective)

Thank you and
good health!

