



EUROPARC NORDIC-BALTIC SECTION

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Minutes

EUROPARC Nordic Baltic Section Members Assembly 2010

February 2, Stockholm, Sweden

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Valhallavägen 195, Stockholm. Conference room Sarek.

Agenda

- 09:00 **Meeting opens. Welcome and introductions** (Thomas Hansson)
Report from the Secretariat - 2009 (Lena Malmström)
Annual report (Draft enclosed)
Members - current status
- 10:00 - 10:20 **Coffee break**
- 10:20 **The Section's work and priorities in 2010.**
Presentation of important activities in 2010, including e.g. seminars (Lena Malmström, Jan-Inge Tobiasson) and the web site (Lena Malmström).
Proposal for 2010 Activity Plan (Draft enclosed)
Discussion and approval of Activity Plan.
The Section's general 2009-2011 Work Programme and Communication Plan are available for your reference on [our web site/About us](#).
- 12:00 – 13:15 **Lunch**
- 13:15 Presentations:
EUROPARC Policy and Advocacy Strategy meeting (Thomas Hansson, Jan Woollhead)
Dabas koncertzāle/Nature Concert Hall (Rolands Auzins)
Federation and the Brussels office (Federico Minozzi, EUROPARC Federation)
- 14:30 – 13:45 **Coffee break**
- 13:45 **European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas** and the **Junior Ranger Network** (Federico Minozzi)
Parks & Benefits Project (Catharina Oksen, Jan Woollhead)
- 15:15 **Any other matters. Time for discussions.**
Tentative items:
Open discussion on Section's work and priorities beyond 2010
Members' involvement
The next presidency
- 16:00 **Meeting closes**
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Attendees:

Arto	Ahokumpu	Metsähallitus	FI
Rolands	Auzins	Nature Conservation Agency	LV
Eugenijus	Drobelis	Dzukija National Park	LT
Thomas	Hansson	President EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section	SE
Jakob Harrekilde	Jensen	Danish Forest and Nature Agency	DK
Lassi	Karivalo	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services	FI
Erika	Klavina	Kemeri National Park Administration	LV
Åsa	Lagerlöf	Ängsö NP, County Admin. Board of Stockholm	SE
Kari	Lahti	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services	FI
Teppo	Loikkanen	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services	FI
Lena	Malmström	Coordinator EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section	SE
Federico	Minozzi	EUROPARC Federation, Brussels office	BE
Apolinaras	Nicius	Association of Lithuanian state parks and reserves	LT
Liisa	Nikula	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services	FI
Elin	Norkvist	Jönköping County Administrative Board	SE
Giedrius	Norvaisas	Zemaitija National Park	LT
Catharina	Oksen	Guldborgsund kommune	DK
Mia	Olausson	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	SE
Jan-Inge	Tobiasson	Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län	SE
Anita	Tullrot	Västra Götaland County Administrative Board	SE
Per	Wallsten	Tyresta National Park	SE
Patrik	Wandin	Jönköping County Administrative Board	SE
Carina	Wennström	Metsähallitus/Forststyrelsen	FI
Jan	Woollhead	Region Sjælland	DK

(Total 24 persons)

Minutes

Welcome and introductions (Thomas Hansson)

All participants were greeted welcome by Eva Thörnelöf, Director of the Natural Resources Department at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The meeting was opened and the programme introduced by president Thomas Hansson.

Report from the Secretariat - 2009 (Lena Malmström)

The secretariat is made up of the president Thomas Hansson and coordinator Lena Malmström. They both work part time with the Section.

The Nordic-Baltic Section currently consists of 45 members in 8 countries. Members were encouraged to update their contact information as well as their member information.

Rolands Auzins reported that the Council has struck off 61 organization from the members list, mainly due to unpaid fees. 12 organisations are waiting for the Council's approval to become new EUROPARC members. (One of these is Keskkonnaamet and basically a name update, not a new member).

Thomas Hansson encouraged everyone to submit suggestions for potential new members in your countries. The following comments were made:

- SE Contact organizations and foundations such as Skärgårdstiftelsen, Upplandsstiftelsen, municipalities.
Pelle Wallsten, Tyresta NP will provide Lena with a list of contacts for a network of relevant foundations.
 - FI Metsähallitus covers most protected areas. Lassi Karivalo will provide contact details for some 5-6 National City Parks.
 - DK There are 2 newly formed national parks. They will be contacted by Jakob Harrekilde Jensen.
 - LV Most/all parks are covered through the Agency.
 - LT Most/all parks are covered through the Agency.
- (Estonia, Norway and Iceland were not represented at the meeting. Thomas reported that the Norwegians are working on including the local management of protected areas into the network.)

The question of including EUROPARC members in countries without sections, such as Poland and Russia, was raised. The assembly did not reach any conclusions, but members from countries outside the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section should be invited to seminars, etc.

Annual report

The draft of the Annual report was approved unanimously.

The Section's work and priorities in 2010

Lena Malmström encouraged all members to contact her with information about activities, ideas, comments, etc. It is the secretariat's best (only!) way of knowing how you want the secretariat and Section to function. Lena also encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter, etc. The participants gave Lena compliments on the improvement of the newsletter.

Fall Member meeting

In previous years, the fall member meeting has been arranged in connection with the annual EUROPARC Conference. In order to avoid that several meetings take place simultaneously, it was agreed that the best date for the ENBS fall member meeting would be the (late) afternoon of September 28, the day of arrival for the 2010 EUROPARC conference in Italy. Since arrangements outside the conference program cannot be made through the conference centre or the Federation, the secretariat will investigate alternative options.

Seminars

In December, Lena submitted an application for funds to the Nordic Council of Ministers. The application concerned a mini-series consisting of two seminars (our spring and fall seminars) on the theme of biodiversity. The secretariat has received a preliminary answer that the application was successful.

The Spring seminar will be arranged by Keskkonnaamet (Estonia) and the secretariat. The plan is to offer a package consisting of a field excursion and the conference Nature Conservation beyond 2010. Preliminary programme:

May 25: Arrival in Estonia (Tallinn?)

May 26: Excursion – for ENBS members. Theme: Biodiversity. Possibly to one of the islands. Return to Tallinn in the evening.

May 27: AM: Some people have IUCN meetings etc. Alternative programme for the rest of us (or free-time in Tallinn?)

13.00: the conference Nature Conservation beyond 2010 opens.

The Section will support the participation of one keynote speaker during the conference. The speaker's topic should be related to biodiversity and of particular relevance to participants from the ENBS.

The 2010 fall seminar will be organized by Västmanland County Administrative Board and the secretariat, 3 days starting September 6 or 7. The working title is "Management of biodiversity in Nordic-Baltic woodlands".

Website

The design of the coming new website was presented by Lena. The website is hosted by the same server as the EUROPARC Federation's website. English is the website's working language.

It was suggested that each member should be responsible for providing texts/presentations of their organisations and protected areas. Ideally, this information should be available through the EUROPARC database. Lena will keep members informed of how the construction work proceeds.

Lena will ask the web developer if it is possible to publish film material on the site. In the meantime, members are advised to embed links to e. g. YouTube.

Newsletter

In order to avoid large files in e-mails, the newsletter will no longer be distributed as a pdf-file, but as a link only. The actual newsletter will be published on the website.

Working groups

The Federation's new Guidelines for Working Groups have recently been distributed for comments among the members. It was agreed that comments from the ENBS members shall be sent to Lena who will forward them to the Federation. Last date for comments is February 15.

The participants pointed out that before working groups are formed, their purpose and tasks must be clearly formulated. Furthermore, the working groups should be limited to a few years to be effective (they should not be permanent).

The Assembly decided that the Section will not propose a working group on Visitor monitoring to the Federation at this time. Instead, the secretariat should support active networks of interested parties within the Section.

We should await the results of the conference Healthy Parks, Healthy People in Australia in April before making final decisions about the orientation and focus of a working group on Health and protected areas together with EUROPARC Atlantic Isles.

European Day of Parks

The EUROPARC theme for European Day of Parks (EDoP) 2010 is connected to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB2010). It is titled "2010: Biodiversity and People: Space for Nature?"

It was suggested that the EDoP should not follow a date, but rather take place on a certain Saturday or Sunday every year.

Since the Section is a registered supporter of IYB2010, our (major) events can be published in the IYB2010 calendar. Please contact Lena Malmström with suggestions on activities you wish to see submitted.

The activity plan for 2010 was approved. Lena will develop the draft and distribute it to the members.

Presentations

The EUROPARC Policy and Advocacy Strategy meeting in France (Thomas Hansson and Jan Woollhead)

The ENBS was represented at the meeting by Thomas Hansson (SE), Jan Woollhead (DK), Oddvar Fiskesjö (SE) and Erik Krosenkranus (EST). There was a total of about 30 participants from the Federation. The meeting came to the conclusion that it is important to join forces with existing lobbying groups, such as other NGO's. Jan pointed out that the EUROPARC Federation has a strong representation in Europe and that it should use its influence to improve e.g. the EU funding programmes from 2013. Federico Minozzi will send a link to the existing lobbying strategies to Lena for publication on the ENBS website.

The project "Dabas koncertzāle/Nature Concert Hall" (Rolands Auzins)

In summertime, open-air events are arranged in Latvian protected areas. The events are a symbiosis of nature, music, science, visual arts and poetry and each year there is a different nature-related theme. The organizers would like to see similar events in other Nordic and Baltic protected areas, especially in 2011 when the Baltic Sea is the theme, which will be represented by the "hero" *Amphypoda*. More info to come in a future newsletter. A CD/DVD about the project can be borrowed from the secretariat.

Information from the Federation and the Brussels office (Federico Minozzi)

Federico Minozzi summarized the tasks and priorities of the Federation and its two offices (Germany and Belgium).

The Grafenau office will close on 22nd of February and re-open in Regensburg on 8th of March. The relocation will decrease administrative costs and make it easier to travel to/from the head office.

The Federation is currently awaiting information from DG Environment on whether the application for funding has been approved or not. The Federations has been working proactively and is also applying for other funding.

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (Federico Minozzi).

Federico Minozzi has taken over the responsibility for the Charter from Petra Dippold, who is on maternity leave. Federico described the Charter as a practical management tool for sustainable tourism in protected areas. There are currently 75 Charter Parks in 8 countries, mostly in France and Spain.

The next Charter meeting will take place in June 2010 in Weerribben Wieden National Park, Steenwijkerland, NL. It is a good opportunity to get to know more about the charter network. (Exact date to be confirmed.) More information is available on the EUROPARC Federation website

The Junior Ranger Network (Federico Minozzi)

The youths in the Junior Ranger Program are the future of our parks. The program is a good way to involve local stakeholders. Every year there is an international camp. The 2010 camp will take place in England. Within the ENBS, Finland is currently in the preparation process for introducing the Junior Ranger system. More information is available on the EUROPARC Federation website.

The Parks & Benefits Project (Catharina Oksen)

The Parks & Benefits Project was presented by Catharina Oksen of Nature Park Maribosøerne, since project manager Romy Sommer could not make it to the meeting. The purpose of the project is to generate socio-economic effects by sustainable management of protected areas for the benefit of their regions.

There are 18 partners from 6 countries around the Baltic Sea Region involved in the project, which stretches over 36 months. The contact person for the project at the EUROPARC Federation is Richard Blackman.

The project will:

- Implement the European Charter in protected areas developing integrative and harmonized spatial planning in order to link protected areas to their regions.
- Establish public-private partnerships between protected areas, small and medium enterprises and regional authorities.
- Increase the quality of ecotourism offers by a Baltic Sea Region quality standard.
- Work with handicap accessibility through sustainable mobility concepts and alternative transport modes.

Ideas for a common brand and marketing of sustainable tourism in protected areas in the Baltic Sea region are welcome. Please send such ideas to romy.sommer@animare.net or lana.malmstrom@naturvardsverket.se.

Members of the ENBS are welcome to join workshops and meetings, but will have to pay to participate. Read more at www.parksandbenefits.net.

Any other matters. Discussions. Suggestions. (Thomas Hansson)

It was suggested that members who are looking to find project partners or partners for joint funding applications, etc., should contact Lena Malmström to get requests e-mailed to all members or published in the newsletter. It is a good way of knowing what other members are working on.

The secretariat shall distribute a questionnaire and ask members what they think of the work within the Section. Answers will constitute a basis for discussions at the next member meeting.

Seminar suggestions for 2011:

- Messages from CBD COP 10. Kari Lahti, FI (spring seminar)
- Cooperation around visitor centres (esp. Estonia, Finland and Sweden have well developed visitor centres) Carina Wennström, FI
- Large carnivores in the ENBS. Wolves, bears, conflicts, etc. The secretariat.
- Volunteers in protected areas. Lithuania, Denmark
- Alternative funding for protected areas. Pelle Wallsten, SE
- Computer Aided management. Many kinds of different technical devices (incl. databases) are used to manage protected areas – an exchange of experiences to optimise this use. Giedrus Norvaisas, LT, Lassi Karivalo, FI
- Exchange programmes for rangers. Pelle Wallsten, SE
- Climate change and protected areas. Adaptation and management. Lassi Karivalo, FI.
- Invasive alien species in protected areas. Lassi Karivalo, FI

Please contact Lena Malmström with further suggestions.

EUROPARC Deutschland, among others, is writing an application for funds to continue the Volunteers in Parks project. Several of the ENBS members are interested in this project, Lena will keep us all updated on any news or information to the members.

The next presidency

The goal should be that the presidency should take turns rotating between the Nordic and Baltic countries (there are, however, more Nordic countries). The Baltic states are up next. Latvia has recently hosted the secretariat. It was therefore decided that the secretariat will pose a formal question to the Estonian and Lithuanian members asking if they wish to take on the presidency during 2012-2014. Their answers and how to proceed from there are to be discussed at the next member meeting. The final decision will be made by the Members Assembly.

16.00 Thomas thanked everyone for participating . A special thank you went out to Lassi Karivalo, since this was his last EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Members Assembly. We thank him for all the work and enthusiasm he has put into the Section, and wish him the best of luck in the future!

The meeting was closed.

Lena Malmström 2010-02-09
With generous contribution by
Mia Olausson. Thank you, Mia!