



Minutes:

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Members Meeting 2012

Genk, 23 October 2012

Participants

Agnese	Balandina	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Andris	Širovs	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Anne-Marie	C.Bürger	Region Zealand / Biomedica	Denmark
Annette	Eigaard	Danish Society for Nature Conservation (guest)	Denmark
Bo	Immersen	National Park Thy	Denmark
Catharina	Oksen	Nature Park Maribosoerne	Denmark
Dennis	Mejer	Danish Ministry of Environment	Denmark
Frederik	Cordes	Nature Park Maribosoerne	Denmark
Kaja	Lotman	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section	Estonia
Kirsten	Jul Zaluski	Mols Bjerger National Park	Denmark
Klaas	van Ommeren	Dovrefjell National Park Authority	Norway
Matti	Tapaninen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Mervi	Heinonen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Mika	Leth Pedersen	Mols Bjerger National Park	Denmark
Nele	Sõber	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section	Estonia
Patrik	Wandin	Store Mosse National Park	Sweden
Pekka	Sulkava	Metsähallitus	Finland
Peter	Gjelstrup	Mols Bjerger National Park	Denmark
Rauno	Väisänen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Rita	Jakovleva	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Sanna-Kaisa	Juvonen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Tapio	Lepikkö	Metsähallitus	Finland
Therese	Ruud	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management	Norway
Thomas	Hansson	EUROPARC Federation	Sweden
Thor	Flognfeldt	Dovrefjell National Park Authority	Norway
Tiina	Hakkarainen	Metsähallitus	Finland
Tore	Ulvund	Dovrefjell National Park Authority	Norway

Minutes

1. President Kaja Lotman welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.
2. Introducing new members

Section has 3 new members- Abisko National Park (SWE), Hamra National Park (SWE) and Mols Bjerger (DK) National Park.



3. Feedback from the Siggen seminar in May 2012

Council has proposed to change some of the member categories. It was discussed in the Council that if a member is in great debt, EUROPARC seizes membership. Nordic-Baltic section had also 4 members in debt according to the data received September 2012 (Denmark- 1, Norway- 4). Since mid of October members have paid the fee, but 1 Norwegian member (Setesdal Vesthei - Ryfylkeheiane Landscape Conservation Area) wishes to end its membership.

Czech section is planning to make their section wider by inviting Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Austria to form Central-Europe section. Some countries are positive about the idea, some are not.

French section will elect a new president in the end of 2012. The section has had many debates over the merger issues as there are different positions.

4. Feedback from working groups

Transboundary working group held a meeting "TransParcNet 2012" on Finnish-Norwegian-Russian border in the Trilateral park Inari-Pasvik. Since 2009, the working group has yearly meetings. In 2013 the meeting will be in the Netherlands. The wish is to meet even more often and to have Council and the Directorate involved more in the working group activities and meetings. Also there is a big potential in getting new transboundary parks certified. Right now there are 19 certified protected areas of the 60 potential ones.

Health working group involves 2 sections- Nordic-Baltic and Atlantic Isles. Health has been an issue in the Federation since 2008. Two years later the working group made a road map. Working group has asked the Federation to work more on the health topic the next years in order to make a toolkit for managers on how to work with health benefits and to monitor them. Health working group can use already existing platform "Healthy people, healthy parks". Also some project ideas are under discussions. Next seminar on health issues will most probably be in 2014. The main point of the working groups and sections is to be more visible in the EUROPARC General Assembly.

5. Section's 10th anniversary

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic section was formed in January 30th, 2003. Metsähallitus will host anniversary seminar in Finland, Nuuksio National Park May 28th-29th, 2013. The seminar will focus on strengthening the cooperation between three Nordic-Baltic protected area manager networks: EUROPARC Federation, Ramsar Nordic Baltic Wetlands Initiative NorBalWet and Nordic World Heritage Sites.

6. Presidency 2015-2017

Next hosting countries according to the rotation rules can either be Denmark, Iceland or Norway. It was proposed that further discussions will be made with Denmark.

7. Plans for 2013

Next year is full of section events:

7.1. Beginning of February- members assembly in Estonia



7.2. April- seminar on protected areas governance in Estonia

7.3. May- anniversary seminar

7.4. September- seminar on cultural heritage in Estonia

7.4. October- members meeting in Hungary during EUROPARC Conference 2013

8. Broadening the section

It was proposed to start discussions with Poland on broadening the Nordic-Baltic section.

9. News from members

Sweden- branding national parks

Norway- management is going to local authorities since 2010, still some challenges

Finland- OpenAir project, re-evaluation of Koli National Park Charter

Denmark- Project "Parks and Benefits" ended, which gave good examples and practices on how parks can have economic benefits. Maribo Lakes Nature Park received Charter.

Latvia- 100th anniversary of the first protected area establishment. Kemer National Park received Charter certificate and would like to get involved in the health working group.

Nele Söber
Nordic-Baltic section coordinator
October 2012