



In a hurry?

The text has been underlined in those instances when you members are required to take action.

Minutes:

EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Members Assembly 2011

9-10 February, 2011. Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, Sweden

Participants

Arto	Ahokumpu	Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, Ostrobothnia	Finland
Rolands	Auziņš	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Annette	Buck	Nationalpark Thy	Denmark
Alf	Ericson	County Administrative Board of Västmanland	Sweden
Thomas	Hansson	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section	Sweden
Jakob	Harrekilde Jensen	Nature Agency	Denmark
Juris	Jatnieks	Nature Conservation Agency	Latvia
Giedrius	Norvaišas	Zemaitija National Park	Lithuania
Leelo	Kukk	Environmental Board	Estonia
Lena	Malmström	EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section	Sweden
Peter	Mattiasson	Länsstyrelsen i Jönköpings län	Sweden
Liisa	Nikula	Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services	Finland
Catharina	Oksen	Guldborgsund kommune, Naturpark Maribosøerne	Denmark
Mia	Olausson	County administrative board of Stockholm	Sweden
Johan	Rova	Länsstyrelsen i Jönköping, Store Mosse NP	Sweden
Evelina	Selander	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden
Fredrik	Ståhlberg	Skåne County Administrative Board	Sweden
Jan-Inge	Tobiasson	County Administrative Board of Västmanland	Sweden
Tomas	Tukačiauskas	Kursiu nerija National Park	Lithuania
Per	Wallsten	Tyresta National Park	Sweden
Klaas	van Ommeren	Dovrefjellrådet	Norway
Jesper	Witzell	Söderåsen National Park	Sweden
Jan	Woollhead	Region Zealand	Denmark

Total 23 (Member country not represented: Iceland)

Minutes

1. President Thomas Hansson welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open. After a short presentation round, the agenda was approved.
2. The **minutes from our last member meeting** (Pescasseroli, September 29, 2010) were approved.
3. **Membership updates.** The invoicing for 2010 is still going on and that of 2011 has just started, but at the moment the section has about 45 members.
Thy National Park (DK) was welcomed as a new member and received their certificate.



All members were encouraged to update their information in the EUROPARC database, by logging in to the members area at 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!

4. The **2010 Annual Report** was approved.
5. The **2011 Activity Plan**, including the seminar programme, was accepted with the following changes:

In addition to the spring seminar and conference Nature Tourism Conference in Riga in March, the section will also organise a *seminar on ecosystem services* in Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, SE, on May 3-5. The secretariat is the organiser of this event, which is a replacement of the cancelled seminar in Västmanland last year. Funding comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

In October, a *seminar on volunteering* will be held in Archipelago National Park, FI. The seminar is organised by Metsähallitus and/or Archipelago National Park together with the secretariat.

Danish member Region Zealand is organising a workshop for rangers and youth, in collaboration with the Federation Directorate, the International and Danish Ranger Federations. The meeting decided that the section's involvement is desirable and would contribute to building a platform for rangers in European protected areas. Lena Malmström is to maintain contact with Federico Minozzi of the Brussels office and Jan Woollhead. Preliminary dates for this workshop are 4-7 April or 6-10 November.

All contact persons are strongly encouraged to pass on information about the section's activities to their colleagues. Well-attended seminars is a crucial part of our network's experience exchange and sends an important signal to our funders.

6. **Input from members.** The members told of news and upcoming events in their organisations. Among the things mentioned:

Several member organisations are going through pervasive reorganisations, eg Latvia's Nature Conservation Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. In Denmark, the Forest and Nature Agency recently merged with the City and Landscape Agency thus forming the *Nature Agency*. The agency remains a member of EUROPARC. The Danish part of the Wadden Sea was inaugurated as Denmark's 3rd national park in October 2010, and there is a proposal for a 4th: River Skjern.

Estonian Keskkonnaamet is preparing the EN-BS presidency 2012-14. Moreover, they are organising a seminar on national parks and their interaction with local communities. More information to come. Finland and Metsähallitus is involved in many international projects or networks, eg within Ramsar, IUCN. The health issue is very much on the agenda.

7. **Presidency 2012-14 and approval of candidate.** There was a unanimous vote for Estonia as the host of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section secretariat in 2012-14. Estonia has applied for



money for a coordinator, the answer to the application is expected in late June. There is already a suitable candidate for that position. There will be elections for the presidential post.

The 2012 spring seminar must be planned during this current year. Some of the Swedish members offered to host a seminar on communication. Their proposal should be ready for approval by the September member meeting.

8. Reports from our working groups. Arto Ahokumpu presented a news update from the Working Group on Health and Protected Areas. (Presentation available on <http://europarc-nb.org/what-we-do/member-meetings>). The working group is preparing an application for project money (Interreg) in order to continue the work and carry through the planned activities leading up to the 2012 London Health Forum. The WG is collecting material for a desk study of existing health related activities/incentives in Nordic-Baltic and Atlantic Isles protected areas. Please send good examples and best practices to lena.malmstrom@naturvardsverket.se.

Comment from Rolands Auziņš (WG representative on Council): EUROPARC Council is looking to see the working group's first results. After that, there may be possibilities to get support in terms of meeting venues or communication through the Federation.

The meeting stressed that the working group should put forward our message (that health should be included into the revised EUROPARC strategy and the Federation should get involved in the Healthy Parks Healthy People Forum in London 2012) to, first, the forthcoming Federation strategy meeting (planned for Siggen in July) and then to the new council after September.

Working Group on Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. Lena Malmström reported that the section has nominated Lasse Lovén as the section's representative to the WG and Klaas van Ommeren, Dovrefjellrådet (NO) as focal point. Together with the section secretariat and the Parks & Benefits project, the WG is working on a draft for a European Charter *part II* for the Baltic Sea/Nordic-Baltic Area. Also together, we are involved in the organisation of and programme during of Nature Tourism Conference 2011 in Latvia on 22-24 March.

Presentation of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism part II for the Baltic Sea/Nordic-Baltic Area. Presentation by Klaas van Ommeren, Dovrefjellrådet and Parks&Benefits Project. (Presentation available <http://europarc-nb.org/what-we-do/member-meetings>) Following the informative introduction to the Charter and, more specifically the proposed draft for a Charter part II in our region, the Members Assembly decided that the draft could be accepted - on condition that the chapter on "sustainable action plans" be reworked with more flexibility introduced into it. Therefore, a new deadline was set: **All members are welcome to submit comments before February 28th. After that, the proposal will be reworked (and the members' comments included) and accepted and passed on as a proposal to the Federation.**

9. International events. Liisa Nikula reported that there is a Nordic-Baltic cooperation within the IUCN, with two regional counsellors, in Estonia and Finland respectively. They arrange meetings prior to international meetings, so as to come well prepared and be able to influence decisions. Their next meeting will be held in Stockholm, in April/May.



Also within Ramsar, there is a Nordic-Baltic network and it is currently chaired by Norway. Please spread the word that in our region, the World Wetlands Day is celebrated in late August. Each country may decide on the exact date.

Ramsar celebrates 40th anniversary this year. There is a proposal that there should be one Ramsar training site per country.

LIFE+ information meetings are currently being held around Europe. Information about the whens and wheres of these meetings is available on our website.

The EUROPARC/Eurosite joint committee's work to develop a roadmap for joining the two organisations' efforts, is progressing in a positive direction. According to the plan, EUROPARCs decision will be made at the EUROPARC Federation General Assembly in September. More information will be included in the General Assembly material that will be sent out to all members prior to the conference.

10. Information from the EUROPARC Council. Rolands Auziņš reported. (However, since both ENBS meetings have taken place in between Council meetings, there is not so much information available at the moment).

Each and all members may nominate candidates for President and Council to the EUROPARC. The nomination window opens on March 1st. Members are kindly asked to keep the section informed about any nominations they submit.

The Members Assembly decided to support the nomination of Thomas Hansson as EUROPARC Federation president.

Rolands Auziņš declines to be re-nominated for Council. However, the meeting's message was clear that members wish to see him to be re-elected. Rolands made no promises to stand candidate, but will reconsider his decision. Eva Thörnclöf of the Swedish EPA was also suggested for nomination to Council. The discussion, led by Rolands, will be continued among those who meet at the Nature Conference in Riga.

11. Members' input into the planning for the next presidency. Proposals for activities and priorities 2012-14 . In the planning of future activities, the secretariat continuously uses the results of the questionnaire issued in September last year as reference. Suggested topics and requests for activities brought forth during the members assembly were:

- a. Outcomes of the COP-10 meeting in Nagoya 2010.
- b. Large carnivores and wilderness
- c. Rangers – skills development, how to involve field rangers in EUROPARC. This work should be carried out together with the International Ranger Federation.
- d. Volunteering (continuation after 2011 autumn seminar)
- e. Discussions on the role of protected areas and nature conservation
- f. communication and marketing of protected areas (Swedish proposal to host a 2012 spring seminar)

It was suggested that the secretariat send out a list of suggestions that members may rate according to their interests.



12. Next meeting

The secretariat has asked for meeting time during or just before the EUROPARC Conference 2011 in Germany.

13. Other items

Please, all members, do disseminate our information within your organisation and to others who may be interested! It is especially important in order to get people to attend our seminars and other activities.

The secretariat wishes to thank all participants - plus those who contributed but could not attend - for a very good meeting!!

2011-02-17 Lena Malmström
 coordinator EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section