



EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Activity Plan 2011

Introduction

The role of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section is above all to function as a forum for information exchange, as well as for capacity building and communication of best practices. Cooperation, communication and networking are key words in our daily work and in 2011 the secretariat will continue to

- highlight upcoming events of interest to the members throughout the section
- arrange topical seminars in cooperation with member organisations
- support and facilitate exchange of staff for capacity-building and information exchange
- provide the members with help in finding project partners for projects within the Nordic-Baltic member countries and in relation with EUROPARC Federation and other EUROPARC sections
- maintain and strengthen the links between our section and the EUROPARC Federation

Among the activities in focus this year, are seminars on sustainable tourism and volunteering (which coincides with the International Year of Volunteering). We will support the working groups on sustainable tourism as well as health and protected areas, and facilitate other initiatives to experience exchange to the very best of our ability.

Since this is the last year of the Swedish presidency for the Nordic-Baltic Section, an important task will be to make preparations for the next presidency period and the handing over of the secretariat.

A most important event in 2011 is the EUROPARC Conference 2011 with the election of a new EUROPARC Federation President and several new council members.

2011 Activities

Members

The secretariat intends to take a more active approach towards recruiting new members. Current members are encouraged to supply the secretariat with suggestions of new members.

Member meetings

Members Assembly, 9-10 February, Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve
Fall member meeting (21-25 September. EUROPARC Conference 2011, Germany. *Date to be confirmed*).

Participation in other meetings

The president and/or coordinator will participate in meetings with the Federation and its other sections, as well as in president and council meetings. (In 2011, the section meetings are chaired by EUROPARC Germany, and the German section also represent the sections in Council.)

According to the 2009 – 2011 work plan, the secretariat shall also participate in two external meetings/events per year, ie meetings organised by other sections and/or the Federation.



Seminars

Spring seminars

Nature Tourism Conference: Policies – Products – Practices. 21-24 March in Riga, Latvia. Organised by Lauku celotajs/Latvian Country Tourism Association together with the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section secretariat and the Parks & Benefits project for sustainable tourism in the Baltic Sea Region.

An as yet untitled *seminar about the ecosystems approach to biodiversity management. May 3-5, Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, Sweden.* Organised by the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section secretariat.

Autumn seminar

Volunteering in Protected Areas. Archipelago National Park, Finland. October.

In October, a seminar on volunteers in protected areas will be held in Archipelago National Park, FI. The seminar is organised by Metsähallitus together with the secretariat.

Also...

Workshop about rangers and youth organised by Region Zealand, DK, in collaboration with the EUROPARC Federation Directorate, the International and Danish Ranger Federations. Preliminary dates for this workshop are 4-7 April or 6-10 November.

The Members Assembly 2011 found it desirable that the section be involved and thereby 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.

Communication

In as far possible, information will be posted on our webpage and notices with links to the site will be e-mailed to members. This is in order to avoid e-mails with large attachments.

Website

Maintenance and updating of the website contents will be carried out continuously. We strive to improve its usability and contents, with the contribution of material from the members.

The secretariat will apply for funds from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to:

1. Correct bugs on the website. (Spring 2011)
2. 2nd phase of development: To add a member log-in. This would give members access to the main EUROPARC data base, directly from the Section’s site.

Newsletter

In 2011, six issues will be published according to the publishing plan below. The newsletter is posted on our website and a link is distributed to members by e-mail.

Issue No.	Deadline	Planned publ. date	Actual publ. date
No 1: 2011	11 Feb	week 7 (<u>14-18</u> Feb)	
No 2: 2011	1 April	week 15 (<u>11-15</u> April)	
No 3: 2011	3 June	week 24 (<u>13-17</u> June)	
No 4: 2011	5 Aug	week 33 (15 -19 Aug)	
No 5: 2011	30 Sept	week 41 (10-14 Oct)	
No 6: 2011	2 Dec	week 50 (12-16 Dec)	



Working Groups

The secretariat has an important role in leading the work and activities of the EUROPARC Federation Working Group on Health and Protected Areas. Planning of the working group's 2010 activities are currently underway.

The secretariat supports and actively participates in the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (likewise under the auspices of the EUROPARC Federation). One important task this year is the development of a European Charter part II for Protected Areas in the Baltic Sea and Nordic-Baltic Region.

Funding

Together, Metsähallitus and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency will provide basic funding for the section's autumn seminar on volunteering in protected areas. The seminar will take place in Archipelago National Park, Finland. Dates to be announced.

Projects of cooperation

The Nordic-Baltic Section is a supporting partner of the Parks & Benefits project for sustainable tourism in the Baltic Sea Region.

Other

An important task in 2011 is to make preparations for the next presidency period and the handing over of the secretariat. This also includes planning of the 2012 Members Assembly (in February?) and seminars together with the 2012-14 secretariat (Keskkonnaamet).

An evaluation of the Swedish presidency and secretariat 2009-2011 will be carried out by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Hopefully it will provide some valuable conclusions regarding the efficacy of the working methods used, that can be useful to future secretariats.

2011-02-03 Lena Malmström,
coordinator EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section

[PTO for a list of important dates and activities →](#)



Important Dates and Activities

January		
February		
9-10	Members Assembly	Kristianstad, Sweden
March		
1	Official call for nominations for Council and President elections goes out to members	
21-24	Nature Tourism Conference	Riga, Latvia
25 - 27	Council meeting (TH)	Regensburg, Germany
28- 31	WG Health and Protected Areas meet (LM)	
April		
	(Youth in Parks?, Region Zeeland)	
20	Alfred Toepfer Scholarship application deadline	
May		
3-5	Seminar: Ecosystem Approach in PA management – TBC.	Sweden
22	International Day of Biodiversity	
24	European Day of Parks	
June		
17 - 19	Council, Sections, Working Groups Meeting (TH)	Mecklenburg - Vorpommern, Germany
July		
11 - 16	Siggen seminars	Gut Siggen, Germany
14	Deadline: Members' requests to the General Assembly agenda	
28	General Assembly invitations incl. agenda and list of candidates for Council/President, CVs and short movies	
August		
September		
20	Nordic-Baltic Section Meeting - TBC	
20	Council Meeting	Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, Bad Urach, Germany
21-24	EUROPARC Conference 2011	Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, Bad Urach, Germany
October		
	Seminar: Volunteering in protected areas	Archipelago National Park, Finland.
	TBC: Initial meeting: Hand over of secretariat.	
November		
2 - 4	EUROPARC Sections meeting - TBC (TH, LM)	
6-11	(Youth in Parks?, Region Zeeland)	
December		
	Reporting etc.	