



**Final report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Network  
(TransParcNet)**

**Luční bouda, Krkonoše/Karkonosze NP, 7-9 June 2011**



## Opening of Meeting

**Jakub Kašpar** (organizer, Deputy Director of the Krkonoše Mts. National Park) opened the meeting, introduced its programme and asked directors of hosting NPs, **Jan Hřebačka**, Director of the Krkonoše Mts. NP (CZ) and **Andrzej Raj**, Director of Karkonosze Mts. NP (PL), to welcome the participants. Both directors mentioned and stressed the importance of improving and strengthening common transboundary cooperation in the Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. in last years.

**Carol Ritchie**, Director of the EUROPARC Federation Office, introduced the position of TransParcNet initiative within the whole activities of the Federation and stressed the importance of transboundary cooperation between transboundary protected areas.

Presentation can be downloaded at

<http://www.krnapp.cz/data/File/vyzkum/konference/transparcnet/transparcnet-EUROPARC-intro-and-tb.pdf>

**Handrij Härtel (STEC)** read a message sent to participants by the Chair of STEC, **Martin Šolar**, who couldn't be present at the Meeting. His message follows in full text:

"Dear colleagues and friends!

In the name of the EUROPARC Transboundary STEC and in my personal name I would like to very warm welcome you here in Krkonoše NP at the 3<sup>rd</sup> TransParcNet meeting. Unfortunately I've been almost in the last minute not able to participate the meeting due to my business and private reasons!

I must say a very big thank to Jakub Kašpar and Krkonose NP who have worked and organized together with EUROPARC directorate this meeting!

Here I give you a brief report of the EUROPARC Transboundary STEC in which many things have changed since last year. STEC has met two times - during the EUROPARC conference in Abruzzo NP last September and in Regensburg on 1st of December. As you mainly know our friend Lassi Karivalo retired last year and he completely quit with the work for EUROPARC. After Abruzzo conference a longtime chair of the STEC Arnold Boer step down but he stay a member of the STEC. It was proposed that STEC is chaired further on by me - Martin Šolar. In meantime STEC member Kari Lahti has taken a "paternity leave" for a year and also Cornelia Ehlers - directorate staff member responsible for Transboundary has got a child and she is at maternity leave till September. Despite a big help of directorate we feel the gap due Cornelia's absence.

Last summer EUROPARC federation organized a very good workshop and working groups meeting in Siggen - Germany. Transboundary was one of the main topics and it was proposed and agreed that in the future STEC should be a "pure" technical and evaluation committee for transboundary and working group should be established. Due to some overlapping of the activities it was decided that the TB "group" consisted from 6 people work together but in a year time it should clearly split on STEC and WG. TransParcNet is for the time being part of the STEC activities.

The evaluation part of the work:

- in Abruzzo EUROPARC awarded the first pair of the TB parks with reevaluation certificate for TB based on reevaluation - Neusiedler See NP and Fertő-Hanság NP got it.
- 2 other pairs of the TB parks have been reevaluated. Krkonoše-Karkonosze NPs and Oulanka-Paanajarvi NPs. STEC has brought decision to deliver certificate to them because they are fulfilling criteria and we would like to propose EUROPARC directorate to award this 2 pairs of TB parks during next EUROPARC conference in Germany.

We are also very thankful to EUROPARC Federation directorate that this year will be organized training for transboundary verifiers and our colleague Arto Ahokumpu kindly agreed to be a trainer.

Last but not least - two important things concerning the network - TransParcNet:

- based on last year meeting, our ideas and work and with financial support of "Heidelberg stiftung" and Triglav NP a new EUROPARC TB brochure has been prepared and published - I do hope everybody from the TransParcNet members has got it. We must thank Sigrun Lange for her contribution too.

- and of course - last year we have accepted the invitation from Krkonoše NP for the third TransParcNet meeting - and we (you) are here!

Thanks a lot again and I wish you successful work!

Martin Šolar, EUROPARC TB STEC chair"

**Handrij Härtel**, STEC Member and Deputy Director of České Švýcarsko NP (CZ) introduced one of the main Meeting's topics: Future of EUROPARC transboundary initiative. He identified several possible topics to be discussed by TransParcNet members:

- Geographical scale of the initiative – whom should we invite more and where from?
- Encouragement of more TBPA's, not only NPs, but also other IUCN categories (esp. cat. V)
- Should we invite also Pas, which can never reach our certification criteria (e.g. its own administration) to participate on our work?
- Possible funding resources
- Institutional framework

Presentation can be downloaded at

[http://www.krnapp.cz/data/File/vyzkum/konference/transparcnet/introduction\\_europarc\\_2011.pdf](http://www.krnapp.cz/data/File/vyzkum/konference/transparcnet/introduction_europarc_2011.pdf)

**Marek Dobrowolski**, Karkonosze Mts. NP (PL) and **Petra Šťastná**, Krkonoše Mts. NP (CZ) introduced the second main topic of the Meeting: "Tourism Recreation and Sport: A transboundary challenge, a transboundary solution" based on example of Krkonoše/Karkonosze Mts. NPs, area of one of the most visited NPs in Europe.

Presentation can be downloaded at

[http://www.krnapp.cz/data/File/vyzkum/konference/transparcnet/europarc\\_2011\\_poprawki-z-3-06.pdf](http://www.krnapp.cz/data/File/vyzkum/konference/transparcnet/europarc_2011_poprawki-z-3-06.pdf)

**Carol Ritchie**, Director of the EUROPARC Federation Office, presented the most important facts about the EUROPARC Charter for Sustainable Tourism. Nowadays we have 77 protected areas in 9 European countries who signed the Charter. They cover 4.6 million hectares, welcome 60 million visitors a year and are inhabited by 75 million people. She invited all TPN members to become parts of the Charter community.

Presentation can be downloaded at

<http://www.krnapp.cz/data/File/vyzkum/konference/transparcnet/transparcnet-europarc-charter.pdf>

**All presentations**, list of participants, programme of the Meeting and other documents can be found at <http://www.krnapp.cz/transparcnet>.

Then participants divided themselves to two **working groups**, each heading to discuss one of the two main topics mentioned above. Reports from their work follow:

## Reports from Workshops

### **WG1: FUTURE OF THE TRANSPARCNET INITIATIVE; Ideas, conclusions and recommendations**

*Facilitator:* Hans Kiener

*Presenter:* Jakub Kašpar

**Language barrier** is problematic just in some cases or strength of barrier differs depending on how large is language gap in particular case (*weak barrier in case of Dutch/German or Czech/Polish, much stronger in case of Czech/German, Hungarian/German or Finnish/Russian*). English is usually used as “Esperanto” language, especially in communication between staff of NPs. On the other hand, English is not enough to be used for communication with tourists and local people from partner’s country.

**Recommendations** (*There is no one general solution. The right one depends on particular situation*):

- Joint guided tours both for locals and visitors.
- Hire people from other side of the border
- Language courses
- Short-term exchange of staff
- Working together on joint projects

### **Frequency of TPN meetings**

Advantage of **annual meetings** is that we can meet our members and see what they are about. It helps us to know more each other. So at least for the next few years it is very useful. Knowing each other is basis for working together.

We need some “**action plan**” from meeting to meeting

- we have to focus more and more for really *transboundary* issues, to split them from our everyday work which is to be done on our own (advantages of transboundary character, management issues with transboundary effects...);
- focus the meeting to certain topic (invite an expert...);
- “progress reports” needed;
- promote our network to candidates and potential candidates; we need more promotion, which could be made by members; AA: we need a clear message for them and materials to “sell” the initiative (like the brochure we have)
- *we would like to invite TBPA’s who are neither candidates nor members* (or never could be, because they are not able to meet certification criteria) to participate. We can also invite PA’s which are in one country but could be “internally transboundary” – e.g. Hohe Tauern NP. Invite them to participate already on transboundary meeting within the EUROPARC Federation annual conference in Germany in September 2011.

We ask (*Carol has already promised* :) *the EUROPARC Federation Office* to give us the list of potential candidates.

Transboundary certification – it is not only the award but also the commitment both for NPs and the ministries.

(HK: Should participants of TPN meetings be always the same people? E.g. directors are changing. What about to involve them into our issues? AA: This platform is not the right one for convincing directors about transboundary cooperation.)

(Šumava – in a current situation, there are legislative problems connected with the fact that after the Czech law zoning of national parks is just territorial, not focused on management);

Unanswered questions: **Where** will we have **the next meeting**? What should be its main *topic*?

## **WG2: Tourism, Sport and Recreation and Nature protection and transboundary solution**

*Facilitator:* Jan Štursa

*Presenter:* Rokšana Knapik

### **Outputs:**

1) To prepare joint tourism management plan (Action plan ) of TBAs with respect of

- Differences of zoning
- “ legal rules
- „ financing
- „ access regulation

If not possible for whole PA´s than only for core area

Joint offer of activities, which will be allowed and forbidden one philosophy, one policy for both partners (all stakeholders)

2) Needs of intensive communication and education towards visitors, local representatives, policy and decision makers, travel agencies and tour operators

3) Social and behavior education of Trans-Parks staff (i.e. sociological courses for rangers)

3) Intensive visitors flow monitoring and sort of impacts on nature and landscape – same methodology on both partners

4) Participate on land-use planning, if possible also on local price policy (owners and entrepreneurs)

5) To use all good practices from the Charter of Sustainable Tourism Project

6) If necessary (in some overcrowded hot spots) to use some tools of tourist regulation/limitation – firstly the monitoring must be done

The reports were briefly discussed later on and their reports were adopted by plenary.

### **Final discussion**

- Arto Ahokumpu asked: Do you mind if the reports from previous evaluation for the training course in July? NO – everybody agreed with it
- Jakub Kašpar: all presentations as well as other documents will be published on [www.knap.cz/transparcnet](http://www.knap.cz/transparcnet)

### **Next TPN Meeting**

2012 – organizers are not known yet, but pls. contact Martin Šolar with your offer to organize the next meeting, and also the main topics we should deal with, before the EUROPARC Federation Annual Conference in Naturpark Schwabische Alpen, Germany in late September 2011.

2013 – Leo Reylink offered that Maas-Swalm-Nette Border Park on the border of Germany and the Netherlands can organize our 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Closing of the official part of the meeting** by Handrij Härtel, Carol Ritchie and Jakub Kašpar