



WORKSHOP: 13- Governance

CHAIR: Mireille Jardin mireille.jardin@mab-france.org
Olaf Ostermann o.ostermann@lm.mv-regierung.de

RAPPORTEUR: Martin Price martin.price@perth.uhi.ac.uk

DATE: April 5th 2017

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 47

FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOP: Brief presentations by all participants and by EUROPARC

Introduction

Olaf Ostermann: representing the EUROPARC Federation. Council member of the federation. Comes from Germany, works for the Ministry in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (North Eastern Germany), responsible for 3 National Parks, 3 Biosphere Reserves and 7 Nature Parks.

The topic of governance is a very important one that has not always been with designated areas. 7-8 years ago, nobody was speaking about governance but during the last years the interest in this topic has grown. Maybe because designated areas like BRs are getting more and more pressure from environmental changes, from economic changes... And that's why the question of who is the governing body, who is taking the decisions in those areas is becoming more and more important.

Mireille Jardin: former UNESCO staff (jurist), retired, member of the French MAB committee. Spent many years at the MAB Secretariat, where she was in charge, among other things, of the Statutory Framework and transboundary biosphere reserves.

Participants were asked to answer 4 questions in their presentations: what type of mechanism? How are the participation of stakeholders and the diversity of objectives taken care of in the mechanism? How is the integration of the different zones organized? Is there a management plan or a policy plan and what is the role of the mechanism (decision/implementation/coordination)?

A draft typology (see annex) was projected and participants were requested to refer to it and to propose additions or changes.

Presentation of EUROPARC and contribution of EuroMAB to a project of a survey of European BRs, including governance, and aiming at improving links with EU policies.

Expected outcomes

- Elements on governance for BR operational guidelines
- Provide data for an eventual database on governance
- Contribution to joint EuroMAB/EUROPARC report on European BRs and how to link them to EU policies

Presentations

- **Simone Beck** (Luxembourg), president of the Luxembourg UNESCO commission. Working on the first BR of the country, here to benefit from the expertise and experience of the other participants.
- **Hélène Berthier** (Mont Viso TBR, France/Italy)
Mechanism: natural regional park on each side
Main difficulty on the French side: cooperation zone outside of the regional natural park boundaries, tricky to involve the municipalities within that zone in the governance.
Working on a framework to integrate the stakeholders
Study to propose a management plan for the Italian side, some disagreements on the French side
- **Bérengère Noguier** (Gorges du Gardon BR, France)
A young BR (less than a year old)
The governance structure has a direct implementation role
The main objective is to organise conciliation with the citizens and to convince them of the necessity to manage the area together (consultation, public meetings, 'at home' meetings hosted by the inhabitants)
- **Laure Bou** (Camargue BR, France)
2 coordination structures, working together to manage the BR
The main difficulty is the political problems linked to the situation of the BR, which is within two different administrative areas (2 French departments). It's complicated to bring together both local authorities to work at the BR scale. The coordinators are still looking for a long-term solution to achieve that. Another difficulty is to gather funding covering both departments.
The periodic review that has just been compiled by the BR was the occasion for both local authorities to really engage in the new management policy. The implementation of the management plan is shared between them as much as possible.
- **Eva-Lisa Myntti** (Involved in the candidate Vindelälven-Juhtadahka BR, Sweden)
Beginning of the process, governance still needs to be worked out
The BR should be an association, not sure what it means yet.
- **Laure Galpin** (Luberon-Lure BR, France)
The supporting structure of the BR is a Regional Nature Park
Two difficulties: 1- Working with communities not included in the park area (BR larger than the park). 2- Visibility of the BR, confusion between the park and the BR amongst local people, representatives and even in the managing team.

- **Ken Reyna** (Mont Ventoux BR, France)

The supporting structure is a public governing body. Consultation and conflict resolution have been in the DNA of the BR almost since its creation.

Creation of a management committee constituted of NGOs and public authorities representatives, working on the management plan.

Project of a Regional Nature Park
- **Maher Mahjoub** (IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation, Spain)

Some specific programmes have been developed to support management and governance of BRs in the Mediterranean, especially to build bridges between the two sides of the Mediterranean.

18 BRs concerned so far, most of them managed by central governments.

One of the main challenges: UNESCO designation considered as an added label, no specific action taken for the BRs (regarding the guidelines and principles).

In those BRs, each zone overlaps with a protected area. Difficulty to involve extra lands (private, local communities...)

No specific laws for BRs, only related to protected areas.
- **Barbara Engels** (German Agency for Nature Conservation, German MAB committee)

Even though Germany is a federal country, there is a national nature conservation law (BRs and protected areas established by law)

BRs put in practice at the level of federal states (Laender), 2 approaches: 1- the BR is a public conservation authority, like a national park (100% funding from the Lander government) 2- the BR is coordinated by an association of public authorities (similar to syndicats mixtes in France)

BRs are designated by law, which also defines the zoning. National BR criteria have been adopted in Germany.
- **Toomas Kokovkin** (Estonia)

The Estonian BR is not a nature conservation body, rather a sustainable development body. Paragraph devoted to BRs in the Estonian law regarding sustainable development.

As the zoning reflects protected existing areas, these are managed separately and the BR structure does not deal with conservation.

The coordinator of the BR receives a salary to manage the BR. Strategy body of the BR at the UNESCO commission.

During the past few years, the BR has become more and more project-oriented or programme-oriented, in particular through EU funding. To apply to EU Leader program, applicants (businesses or NGOs) must prove that their projects will enhance the BR
- **Martin Price** (Chair of the UK MAB committee)

All 6 BRs in UK have completely different governance structures, but none of them is based on a protected area.

A new project on BRs and regional parks in the North (Greenland to Finland), called SHAPE, will include a survey of the governance mechanisms in this region

- **Rhonda Loh** (Hawaiian Islands Biosphere, USA)
Private/public partnership with 2 dozen organisations. Four meetings a year. A management plan focusses on consensus areas, sustainable agriculture, education, conservation and water shed management.
- **Miri Tatarata** (Fakarava BR, French Polynesia)
Municipality with associations and a technical committee. The Committee meets once a year in one of the islands (rotation) and adopts an action plan.
- **Jean-Michel Martin** (Fontainebleau-Gâtinais BR, France)
Association with public and private members. No power of direct implementation. A scientific council and a citizen committee.
- **Leonard Kenny** (Tsa Tué BR, Canada)
The first BR governed by indigenous people who live in this large territory. All decisions are approved by the community and its chief. There is a board for natural resources and the area includes two large national parks.
- **Annette Schmid** (Entlebuch BR, Switzerland)
- **Fabien Boileau** (Iles et mer d'Iroise BR, France)
The BR is located on a portion of two parks, one terrestrial one marine. No specific governance but a coordination of the two park authorities.
- **Krisztina Koczka** (Hungary)
6 BRs. Nature conservation Act. Managed by Regional Parks, with Biosphere Fora including forestry communities and local farmers.
- **Ana Filipa Ferreira** (Paúl do Boquilobo BR, Portugal)
1st BR: the management unit is constituted by an executive council, NGOs, a conservation agency and 2 municipalities. There is also an advisory board. Meetings twice a year.
- **Israël Inaudible**
- **Timo Hokkanen** (North Karelia BR, Finland)
Steering committee: a melting pot for ideas. Any land use decision is discussed in the steering committee, which is not a managing body. It is independent but cannot directly implement. It concentrates on working with people.
- **Gordana Beltram** (National MAB committee, Slovenia) *Inaudible*

Conclusion

- Diversity of situations, divided into two main categories : structures with a competence for direct implementation and those with only an advisory or proposition mandate (coordinating role)
- All presentations showed efforts made to include stakeholders and different institutions
- A lot is done to develop public awareness
- A comprehensive survey of governance in European BRs would be useful, and the EUROPARC project could contribute to that, as well as the SHAPE project.
- A better link between BRs and EU policies should be made, starting with a compilation of EU funded projects in BRs.

ANNEX

Typology of mechanisms

Existing body of a protected area, extended or not, or of part of the area

For example, National Park, Regional Nature Park, cooperation Nature/Marine Park

Structure under a specific legislation on BR (Spain for instance)

Public governing body with an adaptation to the needs of the BR

For example a municipality with the addition of a management committee and associations

Governance of an Island (Minorca, Island of Man)

Ad hoc structure

Public such as grouping of public institutions including municipalities

Private, for example association

Public/private partnerships

Others