



13- Governance workshop - Abstract

Mireille Jardin proposed a typology of mechanisms for the governance of BRs.

Participants then presented the governance of their respective BRs, focusing particularly on:

- Governance structure
- Public participation
- Management/action plan/strategy
- Funding mechanisms

There were two general types:

- 1) Adaptation of an existing protected area, often to cover a wider area with multiple zones, with mechanisms to ensure participation of stakeholders, multiple objectives
- 2) Ad hoc structures, both with and without legal bases, to coordinate BR and implement activities.

All presentations showed efforts to include different types of stakeholders and institutions. (detailed notes were taken on these, and can be added to the report later).

Beyond the situation in individual BRs, more wide-ranging initiatives were mentioned, including:

- IUCN Mediterranean Programme project on the management/governance of BRs around the Mediterranean
- New project 'Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism' (SHAPE) funded by the EU Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme, involving BRs in Scotland (2) and Finland (1), candidate BR in Norway, as well as regional parks in Iceland and Norway and a candidate Cultural World Heritage Site in Greenland. The project includes a workpackage on governance that will start with a review of existing approaches (November 2017-May 2018). This, and all other outputs of the project will be included in an online e-service, to be completed in 2020.
- EUROPARC initiative, following a workshop at their last annual conference. A project is proposed, to bring together knowledge on the structure (including governance/management) and work on BRs across Europe, and to develop recommendations on how BRs currently contribute, and potentially could more effectively contribute, to the implementation of EU policies/strategies/directives/etc.

Conclusions:

- 1) There is a very wide diversity of governance structures/mechanisms for BRs across Europe.
- 2) Workshop participants generally accepted the typology.
- 3) A comprehensive survey of these types, using this typology (maybe slightly adapted) would be very useful both to widen understanding/knowledge and to assist both existing and emerging BRs in defining appropriate structures/mechanisms.
- 4) The review in the SHAPE project can be a first step in a Europe-wide review; it should be designed collaboratively with EUROPARC, to ensure that if the EUROPARC project is funded, the outputs can be combined.
- 5) The EUROPARC proposal to develop recommendations of how BRs could more effectively contribute, to the implementation of EU policies/strategies/directives/etc. should be supported.
- 6) A compilation of projects focusing on BRs that have been funded by the EU (e.g., via LEADER, FP/Horizon 2020, Interreg) would be a useful tool for showing recent/existing alignment of BRs with EU priorities.