
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK YOUTH COUNCIL

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Purpose

To seek the CNPA's support for the development of a youth council in response to the EUROPARC Youth Manifesto.

Recommendations

That the Board:

- a) **Note the successful outputs of EUROPARC Youth Manifesto Project to date;**
- b) **Agree that over the next 18 months we should support the development of a youth council through co-creation with young people.**
- c) **Agree a lead Board member to be involved in the project.**

Executive Summary

There is increasing interest and appetite to engage young people fully into the work of protected areas, nature, biodiversity and rural community development. There is a clear need to create a consistent approach that can be used by many organisations and communities across the whole of Europe. The creation of a EUROPARC Youth Manifesto has been developed to meet this need.

Young people are the future of Protected Areas in Europe; young people make up nearly 20% of Europe's population. They are the decision-makers of tomorrow. It is important they are given the opportunity to consider how the present management of our protected areas and rural communities will affect them, so they can express their thoughts, opinions and get involved in the issues and decisions that will eventually impact them.

The creation of a Cairngorms National Park Youth Council would create this opportunity and be an appropriate response from CNPA to the EUROPARC Youth Manifesto call to action.

CAIRNGORMS YOUTH COUNCIL – FOR DECISION

Strategic Context

1. There have been many studies and research projects involving young people on this topic. Annex I below shows extracts from a number of youth consultations, conferences, workshops and research that demonstrate the need for a clear, consistent and coordinated approach to engaging young people meaningfully in communities and the natural environment for the benefit of all and future generations.

Project Development

2. Youth council development sits within the wider EUROPARC Youth Manifesto Project a 2 year LEADER project that includes a transnational agreement with 3 LEADER groups in Finland.
3. The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto was launched at the EUROPARC 2018 Conference in Aviemore with a call to action. Youth council development is a natural progression of the Youth Manifesto Project being the CNPA's response to the call for action.
4. The main aims of the project are to –
 - a) Develop procedures and protocols for recruitment and management of a youth council.
 - b) Establish what areas of work the youth council will be involved with, for example; consultations, grant management for youth projects, and providing a youth voice and presence for CNPA.
 - c) Develop an appropriate model for interaction with the CNPA Board, its procedures and business.

Project Delivery

5. Project delivery will consist of a number of elements –
 - a) Internal working group including board input to decide on recruitment methodology and broad parameters for youth council development and remit. January 2019
 - b) Recruiting young people aged 16-30 to form a working group to develop a suitable model for a Cairngorms National Park Youth Council – February to March 2019.
 - c) Fact finding visit and workshop with Keskipiste LEADER Group in Finland – April 2019. Funded through LEADER.
 - d) Development workshop with transnational partners in Cairngorms National Park to finalise youth council model – May 2019. Funded through LEADER.
 - e) Cairngorms Youth Council established – June 2019.
 - f) Fact finding visit for CNPA and Cairngorms Trust staff with Ravakka LEADER Group in Finland to look at financial and budgetary governance models for youth council – August 2019. Funded through LEADER.

Discussion

6. Annex I demonstrates the need and demand for a clear, consistent and meaningful methodology for engaging young people in the governance and decision making processes of protected areas and rural communities.
7. The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto document (Annex 2) shows the passion and interest that young people have in being able to live, learn and work in their protected areas and rural communities.
8. The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto Project has been very successful in engaging young people and inspiring the interest of protected area managers. The involvement of young people at the EUROPARC 2018 Conference has considerably raised the awareness of the need to include young people in the future planning and decision making of protected areas and rural communities.

Implications

9. The full cost of developing a Cairngorms National Park Youth Council is covered through the EUROPARC Youth Manifesto Project funding from Cairngorms LEADER Action Group and partners in the transnational partnership project.
10. Ongoing funding in the region of £5 – 10k per annum from within CNPA budget would be required to cover administration costs and a grant fund for the youth council to allocate through an agreed procedure. This will come through as part of the Operation Plan discussion in March 2019.

Success Measures

11. The key measure will be the creation of a youth council that engages meaningfully with the governance and decision making processes of CNPA and develops a grant awarding function that sees the creation of innovative projects delivered by young people for the benefit of young people in the Cairngorms.

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Annex I Research and consultation on youth engagement.

The Cairngorms Youth National Park Manifesto 2001.

This Manifesto spells out what the young people in the area would like to see or gain from living in the proposed Cairngorms National Park, and how they would like to be involved in the establishment and management of it-

- Youth representation and participation at all levels will encourage continued interest, enthusiasm, learning and drive, and lead to successful initiatives.
- Young people should be given the opportunity to become involved in the decision making process on planning within Parks;
- A Young People's representative should sit on the National Park Board, together with a support mechanism.
- Young people should be encouraged to become involved in other community projects, e.g. school age people require an "innovative older young person" to lead them.

Insight Report by ReRoute, the SNH Youth Biodiversity Panel 2017.

Young people have a significant role to play in encouraging organisations and communities to adopt a more collaborative culture, focusing resources to effectively meet the needs of individuals and communities. To support this, Young Scot's co-design service involves young people systematically creating, designing and delivering solutions in collaboration with organisations.

This report presents insights from a survey which was conducted by ReRoute to explore young people's opinions and understanding of, and relationship with nature. ReRoute wrote the survey questions and supported the analysis of the results. It was hosted through Young Scot's Rewards programme, which is used by nearly 80,000 young people in Scotland, with the offer of Rewards points for completion. The survey was promoted through Young Scot's digital platforms and young.scot, Scotland's leading online information hub for young people. ReRoute members also encouraged their peers to fill in (c. 250) paper copies of the survey.

- 87 per cent of the respondents agree that we need to protect the natural environment.
- 50 per cent of the respondents are interested in taking action for the environment.
- The majority of respondents did not consider the impact of their decisions on the environment.

https://www.youngscot.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ReRoute_Insight_Report_G.pdf

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NPA Co-design workshop with young people on the Year of Young People 2018.

The Co-design Workshop was split into 4 guiding questions:

Getting out and Active – sample of responses -

- Need the skills and training to have the confidence to do more challenging activities
- Promote and work through intermediaries eg youth services
- Write family guides and 'budget busters' – what to do on a shoestring

Skills development support – sample of responses –

- Practical use of technology in the workplace
- Interpersonal skills through volunteering
- Technical / practical skills e.g. surveying or tool use

Involving Young People with decision making – sample of responses –

- Provide training opportunities
- Set up a youth board with board member mentors – could be advertised through partnerships – young people to decide Terms of Reference
- Clear links to exec / board members.

Communication with young people – sample of responses –

- There is not enough direct communication with young people
- They don't know how to use the park or how to get here
- Many may not even know how big the park is or what to do here
- Make more use of alternative communication methods – snapchat filter / Instagram –targeted posts / buzzfeed Scotland / share you tube videos not on website

Vision for Nature Report 2016.

“None of us own the natural world. We only hold it in trust for the next generation. It is a cause for hope that, as this report shows, so many of those who will inherit it feel the same.” Sir David Attenborough, 2016

This report is the product of a movement of young people who love nature. Our vision is of a United Kingdom (including its devolved nations) where wildlife returns to levels of abundance not seen for decades or centuries, where people in urban areas have free and easy access to green space, and where more land and sea are put aside for nature. We'd like to see children and adults alike connected to the outdoors as a space to continue traditions, maintain physical and mental health, and enjoy each other's company on a daily basis.

To achieve this, politicians, businesses and NGOs need to put nature far higher up the agenda for action.

Young people like those who have made this report, are also crucial to making this vision a reality. The international youth climate movement has played a key role in progress on climate change in the last decade. We hope that a UK and a global youth nature movement will achieve the same levels of support for wildlife.

Example recommendations -

- A legal recognition that UK governments are holding the natural environment in trust for young people and future generations, and that they have a duty not only to protect it, but improve it.
- Youth policy forums and hearings organised by Parliamentary select committees in order to ensure that young people's and future generations' concerns are part of all Government decision-making.

<http://www.afocusonnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Vision-for-Nature-report-1.pdf>

Youth Engagement in the National Parks 2015.

The findings from primary research focus groups has helped with some personal suggestions and recommendations to increase youth engagement in the National Parks;

- Being more interactive with young people by speaking their language. Web pages that are designed for young people, because Young people take in and also access information differently to an older generation
- Training staff within the National Parks who will be engaging young people. Youth proofing the organisation so young people will feel welcomed by the staff and they won't be put off or intimidated.
- Partner up with youth oriented organisations that will help engage youth in the National Parks through fun activities, but having a cross over so staff from the National Park go and teach the young people about the park and opportunities on offer.

<https://www.cnp.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploadsfiles/Youth%20engagement%20in%20the%20National%20Park%20-%202015%20report%20-%20Adam%20Philip-Phillips.pdf>

EUROPARC Youth Programmes

An increasing number of young people (aged 13-17) involved in Junior Ranger programmes turn youth (18+) and are keen, motivated and passionate about their PAs and want to stay involved. "We want to be heard" was the clear message from youth to PA managers at the EUROPARC Youth Conference 2013. Through contacts with PAs, Rangers and youth, the need for an innovative programme to involve youth in PAs became evident.

Such programme should offer to youth the opportunity to:

- **Keep learning about nature conservation in Europe**
- **Develop leadership skills and play an active role in supporting the work of the PA in the JR programme**
- **Develop advocacy skills and contribute youth perspective to governance and management of PA**
- **Develop communication skills to speak on behalf of the PA**
- **Network internationally with peers from PAs across Europe**

According to our Strategy 2015-2021, the EUROPARC Federation is developing a new programme dedicated to young people over 18.

<http://www.europarc.org/nature/young-people/>

EUROPARC Youth Conference 2013

Youth Declaration

1st EUROPARC Youth Conference

Summary

The Young People at the conference asked for three main things:

1: Greater youth representation. This includes representation on National Park boards and Youth Parliaments; more Junior Ranger opportunities; and the opportunity for an annual youth conference.

2: A network of Parks, (the) Public and Investors. It was felt that there needed to be greater communication between different parks, and between parks and those outside – i.e. the public and investors. This would have benefits for Parks, the public and investors.

3: Green Education. Delegates have asked that Parks and Protected Areas talk to their Governments to introduce green education into schools. The young people could then act as the representatives and assistants in implementing this.

They finished by saying: "If you do your bit, we'll do ours!"

<http://www.europarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Youth-Conference-Declaration.pdf>

EUROPARC Conference 2014 Workshop on Youth Engagement

- o Support youth participation in representative democracy and civil society - youth board members, participation in youth councils
- o Support youths' voluntary activities, promote cross-border mobility of young people - voluntary support of JR programme; give back what has been learned, enable participation in international events
- o Current crisis compounds need to nurture young human capital, concerns of youth are education, employment, social inclusion and health - new training possibilities, new competencies, better employability, youth included in park community and connected internationally, healthy activities outdoors.

Youth+ Workshop – Aiguestortes Declaration 2015

THE AIGUESTORTES DECLARATION

We are Youth +. A group of highly knowledgeable and motivated young people from all around Europe, who want to help and get more involved in our protected areas.

We are here because we want to give something back and the sooner we can help, the better.

But how can we do this?

We can be powerful and passionate advocates for nature and protected areas.

We can volunteer to support environmental education programmes.

We can work with protected areas and give a youth perspective on projects and policies.

We can be the voice of nature from and to young people.

And with your help, we can learn together and continue on to be the next leaders of nature conservation.

Too old is too late. We all need to do our part. Let us step in now to protect and improve our parks, so we can learn together, work together, and set a strong base for the coming generations.

By the participants of the 1st International Youth Camp

Aiguestortes National Park, 4th September 2015

http://www.europarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/The-Aiguestortes-Declaration_20151.pdf