

REPORT OF DISCOVERY TEAM

SUBJECT: EUROPARC YOUTH MANIFESTO- A CALL FOR CHANGE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND PROTECTED AREAS

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to Members on the 'Europarc Youth Manifesto- a call for change in rural communities and protected areas', recently launched at Europarc Cairngorm Conference Sept 2018, and the contribution of PCNPA Youth Rangers therein.

Aim: to inform action planning around next steps for the Authority

Introduction/Background

PCNPA has delivered a Youth Ranger scheme since 2013 for 16 – 25 year olds who meet monthly, tackle practical conservation and access tasks and take part in varied engagement activity outdoors. They have identified their role to include trying to engage other Young People in nature and the National Park. Youth Rangers is currently delivered as part of PCNPA Pathways project.

Whilst open to all, the project targets those with barriers to engaging in regular activity outdoors and has been successful in doing so. Over 40 Young People have been involved, however recruitment is an ongoing challenge that the Youth Rangers are very aware of. In part they attribute this to some of the issues covered in the Manifesto.

Three Youth Rangers have had the opportunity to be involved in 2018 in Europarc's Youth Manifesto project (funded by a joint Cairngorm / Finnish / Europarc LEADER bid). Workshops were held in Scotland (attended by PCNPA Youth Rangers) and Finland where 30 young people from across Europe came together to explore the issues they felt important to young people living in rural / protected areas, and to develop actions that will improve the situation.

In September, three Youth Rangers Cat, Ethan and Matt and 'mentor' Tom Moses, along with the Chair / Vice Chair of PCNPA attended the Cairngorm Europarc Conference which tied in with the Scottish 'Year of Young People' and was themed 'European Parks- inspired by the next generation' <http://www.europarc2018.com/>

The very successful conference, attended by over 650 people launched the Manifesto and generated much useful discussion between young people and decision makers. It was clear that in many ways change is necessary, but also that there are achievable ways forward.

Since their return the Youth Rangers have presented the Youth Manifesto to Haverfordwest High VC School 6th form, and are due to do the same with the Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly in January.

Initial conversation started with Snowdonia / Brecon around a joined up approach to development of this work.

Comparisons

There are a variety of Junior / Youth Ranger schemes in operation across Europe, although most are aimed at younger groups than PCNPA Youth Rangers, who are broadly comparable with the Europarc 'Youth+'

project <https://www.europarc.org/nature/young-people/youth/>

This scheme is aimed at 18+, and seeks to develop skills around leadership and advocacy for young people in protected areas as well as an element of exchange activity.

Financial considerations

Current cost to the Authority of delivering the Youth Ranger scheme as it stands is zero as covered by Welsh Government funding. This ceases in 2020, before which point consideration of other funding by the Authority will be desirable (possibly including refocusing of existing resources?). The Manifesto calls for some fundamental changes in the way Young People are involved in PCNPA so further funding may be required to realise some of the potential actions identified so far.

Risk considerations

The Authority will need to be clear that it agrees with the proposals included in the Youth Manifesto and is willing to deliver on the proposals. To support the manifesto without delivering on the proposals risks undermining our reputation and the work of Youth Rangers.

Compliance

Supports the NPA's duty to 'foster the social and economic well-being of local communities'. Youth involvement is a strong demonstration of the Authorities work towards WG directives, Wellbeing of Future Generation Act, Social Services Act etc. Contributes to PCNPA Engagement Action Plan, Corporate Plan, Equality plan, and is a strong demonstration of the Authorities commitment to Equality and Diversity etc.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

Young People as volunteers make a significant contribution to the conservation and access work of the National Park

Welsh Language statement

All work will need to take account of the relevant Welsh Language Standards.

Conclusion

The Youth Manifesto provides a useful tool supporting change towards greater involvement of Young People in the work of the Authority.

Recommendation

To note and support the principles of the Youth Manifesto and consider next steps and relevant actions.

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Consultees:

EUROPARC Youth Manifesto

A CALL FOR **CHANGE**
IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
AND PROTECTED AREAS

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK
SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM
SEPTEMBER 2018



**WE NEED TO CREATE MORE
SELF-SUFFICIENT, DIVERSE AND RESILIENT
RURAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS EUROPE.**

Protected Areas have a central role in this. This, we believe cannot be done unless we **ENGAGE** young people fully into the work of Protected Areas, biodiversity and rural community development.

Young people bring new and creative ideas to sustain our rural areas.

**WE CAN HELP BUILD COMMUNITIES TO
BECOME MORE CONNECTED, OPEN
MINDED AND ACTIVE.**

**WE WANT TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT,
TO DEVELOP A DEEP NATURE CONNECTION
THAT HAS POSITIVE IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.**

We must be given the opportunity to remain in rural areas and to prevent us losing touch with our **FAMILY ROOTS** and **CULTURAL TRADITIONS**. We can offset some of the problems associated with an ageing rural population and build resilient and sustainable communities.

**WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH EACH
OTHER, ACROSS THE GENERATIONS AND
WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND PLACE,
TO SHARE OUR IDEAS.**

This Manifesto is a source of **ideas and inspiration** for decision makers in Protected Areas and rural communities **to ensure the involvement and empowerment** of young people.

A clear, consistent and coordinated approach to engaging young people meaningfully in rural communities and the natural environment is needed for the benefit of all and future generations.

Rural communities suffer from depopulation; innovative projects and equal opportunities are required to enable independent living and to encourage a balanced and healthy economy, for all.

All young people have creativity and imagination, and these talents should be fostered to help us develop as the successors to inherit our rural landscapes.

1 YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

2 LIVING

3 LEARNING

4 WORKING

5 OUR CALL TO ACTION

We want to show we **CARE** for our nature and culture, to be a part of the community;

WE WANT TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH YOU TO CREATE OUR COMMON FUTURE.

**PROTECTED AREAS,
OTHER RURAL ORGANISATIONS
AND DECISION MAKERS MUST
LOOK TO THE FUTURE,**

**LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE
AND GIVE US THE CHANCE TO TAKE THE LEAD.**

1

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Young people are the future of Europe's Protected Areas and we CARE about sustaining our rural landscapes but we are **under-represented** in the decision making process.

We want to **CONNECT** with our **COMMUNITY** and are capable and willing to give input and implement change if given the chance.

We can **SHARE** our straightforward solutions to engage a technology based generation.

We can help **EMPOWER** the next generation to develop experience and skills that will prepare us for an **ACTIVE ROLE AS THE FUTURE LEADERS** in our Protected Areas and rural communities.

We want to be **HEARD** and **ENTRUSTED** with the opportunity for direct involvement in decision making.

WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO

- **ESTABLISH** youth councils to bring young people's ideas and needs to local and national decision makers.
- Provide a place on boards for one of the youth.
- **CREATE** a youth project fund for projects planned, implemented and reported upon by young people.
- Deliver an induction scheme that enables adult board members to **UNDERSTAND** youth representation.

COMMUNICATION

- Use of online platforms for consultations, surveys and referenda with face to face awareness raising sessions on issues to **CONNECT** with young people.
- **ENABLE** Youth groups to **SHARE** their achievements and express their views and concerns to reach an older audience through traditional media.



LIVING

Supporting young people to live in rural areas helps us to remain **CONNECTED** to our **COMMUNITY** and to share in developing its **FUTURE**.

Rural areas are often difficult to reach and to travel around. Young People need to **CONNECT** in the real and virtual worlds to thrive.

Society cannot afford for young people to continue to leave rural areas.

We need **SUPPORT** to be a part of the **COMMUNITY** and build its **PRESENT** and **FUTURE**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **PROVIDE TRANSPORT** throughout the year. Funded collaboratively by protected areas, national and local government, businesses and tourists.
- **IMPROVE** digital connectivity to allow innovative business and social models to develop.
- **CREATE** Active Travel networks and initiatives to encourage cycling and walking to aid health and well-being and offset climate change.

COMMUNITY

- Young people are part of the culture and history of the area. **CONNECT** with them and provide engaging activities and social opportunities for young people, that focus on learning about and **PARTICIPATING** in the cultural heritage and history of their common area.
- Develop intergenerational buddy schemes/ skill shares to combat rural isolation and build a sense of community. Young people can **SHARE** their understanding of technology and social media; older people can help them **LEARNING** rural skills.
- **CREATE** fun, safe places for young people to **CONNECT** with each other.

AFFORDABILITY

- Many young people want to stay in their communities. Introduce a scheme to allow young people to purchase goods and services at a reduced rate to fully harness an affordable existence in rural areas.
- Develop a housing scheme for individuals living and / or working in Protected Areas and rural communities on a low income. Short term and permanent options should be provided to cater for different employment opportunities.

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LEARNING

We want to create more self-sufficient, diverse and resilient rural communities across Europe, we want to learn about, care for, sustain and **SHARE** our local cultural and natural heritage.

Access to academic, practical and vocational education is an effective solution to empower young people and to spark our interest in rural careers.

Young People want to **CONNECT** to our PLACES and use that learning to stay and develop our **COMMUNITY**.

We need investment in training for the **FUTURE**.

Please pass on **WISDOM** and **INSPIRATION** to Young People.

MORE NATURE EDUCATION

• **CREATE** opportunities for young people from an early age to learn about their local natural and cultural heritage through volunteering, Junior Ranger Programmes and other nature based clubs.

• Make **CONNECTIONS** between local schools and Protected Areas to include teacher training, Ranger visits and educational trips.

• Develop educational resources about local natural heritage to help teachers take learning outdoors.

MORE SUPPORT

• **CREATE** more young people-led businesses by providing courses on entrepreneurship to learn about self-employment and how to create your own business.

• **CREATE** links between rural businesses and higher education establishments to inform young people about potential rural careers and to provide special training and work experience.

INSPIRE INTEREST

• **CREATE** a social platform and programme of events in Protected Areas and rural communities to help young people **SHARE** and **CONNECT**.

• Use social media effectively to inspire environmental awareness and use youth ambassadors to **ENCOURAGE** posts and content.

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WORKING

We BELIEVE that providing jobs and developing the local economy **SHOULD NOT** take place at the expense of the natural environment;

equally, the need for environmentally friendly practices should not compromise the standard of life for local residents.

Successful youth employment initiatives should therefore be creative, flexible, innovative, financially self-sufficient and create sustainable job opportunities.

All young people have **CREATIVITY** and **IMAGINATION**, and these talents should be fostered to help us develop as entrepreneurs.

NEED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

• Young people want to work. Businesses and organisations in Protected Areas and rural communities to provide opportunities that can realise the potential of young people through apprenticeships, internships with training and / or jobs tailored for young people in full time education *e.g. after school, evening and weekends.*

• **CREATE** partnerships between schools and local businesses to offer jobs for young people. These jobs should include progression, pay rises and offer references as incentives.

NEED MORE TRAINING

• Provide youth entrepreneurship schemes in schools and colleges that will help young people to build and create their own rural businesses by giving them support and encouragement.

• **SHARE** the wisdom of inspiring young people and successful rural entrepreneurs from across Europe, inviting them to give talks in schools, youth clubs and local cafés.

LOW WAGES

• Pay the living wage or equivalent to all rural workers at national age of majority, to counteract the high living and transport costs in rural areas.

• Employers provide incentives to counteract the high living and transport costs in rural areas *e.g. subsidised housing costs, opportunities for progression and training.*

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Let's put the
EUROPARC
Youth Manifesto
into action and
co-design a
sustainable
future - now!

OUR CALL TO ACTION

Connect with your local youth, visit schools and youth clubs. Encourage them to share their thoughts to inspire their peers to create a common initiative.

Apply for funding for projects to engage with young people if necessary and reach out for **community support**.

Monitor and **evaluate** your progress, **sharing responsibility** with young people.

Put your project plans into action – working out **leadership opportunities** and **governance involvement** in collaboration with your young partners.

Together, select the priority issues you want to address from the Manifesto, **start planning a project together**, work on a shared understanding of the local needs and solutions.

Report and **publicise** your ideas, progress and results via local and social media.

Stay in touch with EUROPARC to share your experience and your Youth projects at a European level – **learn and inspire!**

youth@europarc.org

facebook.com/europarcyouthmanifesto

europarc.org/youth-manifesto

#EUROPARCyouthmanifesto

We look forward to working with you to create a vibrant future

for young people, for nature
and for our rural areas.

All projects emerging from the EUROPARC Youth Manifesto must aspire to the highest environmental standards with regards to habitat protection, resource depletion and mitigating climate change.



EUROPARC Youth Manifesto

Taradh leat! Thank you! Kiitos! Merci! Aitäh! Dankeschön! Takk! Děkuji!
Paldies! Teşekkür! Hvala! Grazie! Dank je! ευχαριστώ! Tack! Дякую!
D'akujem! Diolch ichi! Dziękuję Ci! Mulțumesc! Taradh leibh!
Faleminderit! Köszönöm! Paaka péir fyrir! Хвала вам! Gracias!
Благодаря ви! Obrigado! Teşekkür! გზაჯობით!
Στηρησάμεν! Gràcies! ありがとう!
Buíochas a ghabháil leat! Асіў! Спасибо!
كل اركش
תודה

The EUROPARC Youth Manifesto Team



produced and designed by the EUROPARC Federation on behalf of the Youth Manifesto Project

EUROPARC
FEDERATION

Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK

LEADER

LEADER

LEADER

Rieska Ravakka Keskipiste

Scottish Rural Development Programme

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Young Scot

SRDP

The Scottish Government
Riaghaisas na h-Alba

Ugddarras Pàirc Nàiseantia
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

LEADER

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Lìonra Innealaidh Rùr

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EUROPARC Youth Manifesto



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