**Europarc Governance – Board Appointments**

**Purpose of Report**

As part of the process of good governance EAI is required to review the board structure to provide the skills required and to reflect, as much as possible, the broad range of the EAI membership. This process will be carried out on a regular basis, not just to ensure good governance but to address the issues around good succession planning.

For EAI there are numbers of areas that it is useful to take account of in any appointment: reflected:

* Geography
* Types of organisation
* Diversity
* Skills required

**What is Europarc Atlantic Isles?**

[EUROPARC Atlantic Isles](https://www.europarc-ai.org/) brings together organisations and individuals, who manage protected areas in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Republic of Ireland and is a section of the EUROPARC Federation. Our members bring with them a wealth of experience and expertise from national parks, regional parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, local authorities, government agencies and non-governmental organisations.

We aim to use our strong European and international connections to promote good practice and policy with a core principle of knowledge leadership in protected area management, for the benefit of the public.

**Role of Board Member**

The role of a board member is to carry out the responsibilities of a trustee of the charity **Europarc Atlantic Isles** (EAI). As a charity trustee there are certain legal responsibilities to be undertaken:

* Act in your charity’s best interests
* Manage your charity’s resources responsibly
* Act with reasonable care and skill

A board member is appointed for a term of three years and can be reappointed for another term. Some board members may have a specific role such as Treasurer.

As a board member we would expect trustees to:

* inform the debate around the activities of EAI
* develop certain areas of work from time to time
* represent EAI in their particular area (geographic/thematic)
* act as an Ambassador on behalf of EAI
* Encourage new members
* attend board meeting 4 times a year – 2 face to face and 2 conference calls

The details are current Board Members are set out [here](https://www.europarc-ai.org/about-us/)

**Process to recruit new board members**

* EAI will place a general or specific Role profile on its website in the newsletter and promote to member organisations inviting applications for the role.
* Role to commence 1 April 2020.
* Applications will be assessed via a CV initially. A follow up face to face meeting may be considered
* Applications will be assessed by a subgroup from the board. This subgroup may co-opt a non-Board Member to assist with the recruitment.
* EAI may actively go out and target potential board members.

**Skills required**

* Knowledge of Environmental bodies operating across the EAI area.
* Awareness and understanding of the issues facing these bodies in at least one of the Countries covered by EAI.
* Negotiation and advocacy
* Financial management, charity governance, company governance.
* Good interpersonal skills to deal effectively with a wide range of groups and individuals.
* Enthusiastic, self motivated, diplomatic and flexible.
* Knowledge of the political and strategic context in which Designated Areas operate.
* Interest in wider European environmental issues

**Geographic spread**

We would particularly welcome applications from NI and the Republic of Ireland.

**Types of Organisation currently under represented on the Board**

Universities

NGOs

AONB’s

**Diversity**

We would particularly welcome applications from Women and younger environmental professionals.