
APPENDIX 1

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

10 MAY 2002

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT NATIONAL PARK OFFICER – HEAD OF PLANNING

PART A

2. PROTOCOL WITH POLAND/PORTUGAL (A.9221/A9224/WER)

Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To give a progress report on the Protocol with Poland and Portugal and to propose a visit to Ojcow, Poland between 30 September to 5 October 2002.

Background

- 2.2 A Protocol was signed in 1997 by the Chair of the National Park Authority which linked the Peak District National Park with Ojcow National Park, Poland (Ojcow) and Serras de Aire & Candeeiros Parc Natural in Portugal (Serras).
- 2.3 All three areas are of limestone and have many common issues including visitor pressure, agricultural decline etc.
- 2.4 Since 1999 several Officers/Members have visited Ojcow and Serras and both Polish and Portuguese Officers have made return visits. In 2001, a joint study visit was made by Staff from both Ojcow and Serras, this was the first time all three had met together. This visit was partly subsidised by funding obtained from Europarc for the Polish visitors.
- 2.5 During the visit, agreement was reached between the three Parks that the existing Protocol should be revised, (Appendix 1), and that each Park should take responsibility to lead on the development of the following three areas for joint study:
1. Nature Conservation - Poland.
 2. Agricultural Change - Portugal.
 3. Sustainable Tourism - Peak.
- 2.6 It was also agreed that investigations, led by Portugal via Instituto da Conservacao da Natureza (ICN), the national Portuguese Government Conservation Agency, as to whether there was any European Funding of a longer term and more substantial nature which could be found to support the Protocol.
- 2.7 To date, progress has been slow, mainly because of Polish bureaucracy as to signing the Protocol, although Ojcow has recently obtained Government consent to sign the Protocol. The Portuguese too are now in a position to sign and working on the Protocol.

Proposals

- 2.8 To help develop and maintain momentum/relations between the three Parks a return study visit is proposed between 28 September - 5 October 2001 for up to twenty people. It is hoped to include a party of Portuguese in this number, confirmation of their interest is awaited. As previously it is hoped that equal numbers of Members/Officers will wish to attend, any subsequent 'spared places' being filled by other interested people.
- 2.9 Free accommodation and a group discount on flights has already been obtained, other sources of funding are currently being investigated. The estimated cost, for flights, food, hire of mini-buses is approximately £350-£375 per person.
- 2.10 The visit would be, in the main, a study tour, to discuss the joint work already undertaken, develop and plan future work and funding bids. However, part of the week would also include some social activities eg visits to Krakow, Wieliczka, Auschwitz etc.

Financial Considerations

- 2.11 Previous study visits have received varying Corporate support. Poland 1997 a maximum subsidy of £70 per head (National Park Authority Minute 6/97), Portugal 2000, Officers attending given 5 days authorised leave (Resources Committee Minute 94/99).
- 2.12 A request for up to £200 for Corporate costs funded from the Corporate Budget and 5 days, authorised paid leave for Officers.

Consultations

- 2.13 There have been consultations with the National Park Officer, Assistant National Park Officer, Head of Planning and Financial Services Officer.

2.14 RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That a study visit to Ojcow National Park Poland be an authorised visit for Members and officers at their own cost.**
2. **That invitations be made to Members and officers with the Chair and Vice-Chair making a selection of up to 8 Members and 8 officers, based on greatest benefit to the Authority.**
3. **That a subsidy of up to £200 for Corporate costs funded from the Corporate Budget and five days authorised paid leave.**
4. **That attendance be authorised, but the costs are paid by those attending with 5 authorised days leave for Officers attending.**
5. **That any vacant places be filled by interested parties at their own cost and time.**

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

Nil

APPENDIX

A PROTOCOL

between OJCOW NATIONAL PARK, POLAND and THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK, ENGLAND and SERRAS DE AIRE E CANDEEIROS PARK, PORTUGAL

1. This Record of Consensus is made between Ojcow National Park in Poland, with the authority of the Ministry of the Environment, the Peak District National Park in England, with the authority of the Peak District National Park Authority, and Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park in Portugal with the authority of the Secretary of State of Territory Management and of Nature Conservation from the Ministry of Environment and of Territory Management.
2. It is agreed between the park authorities that each will seek to exchange information, ideas and expertise for their mutual benefit and development, subject to the availability of finance or external grant.
3. Formal correspondence and documentation shall be addressed desirably to the recipient Park in its own language.
4. The Objectives and benefits of the Accord shall be
 - (i) the breaking of sectorial views to create a more global view;
 - (ii) the strengthening and analysis of activities;
 - (iii) the building up of projects and new possibilities for action;
 - (iv) the elimination of prejudices between countries;
 - (v) the stimulation of professional, cultural and community ideas;
 - (vi) the positive impact on economic programmes;
 - (vii) the financial support for work;
 - (viii) the political support;
 - (ix) the exchange of information and good practice.

5. The topics for study

It is part of the protocol that there should be further 'general visits' to improve mutual understanding of the three areas.

However, it is now the intention to develop three areas for joint study with each led by one of the Parks:

1. Nature Conservation – led by Poland.
2. Agricultural change – led by Portugal.

3. Sustainable Tourism – led by the Peak.

6. Operational Administrative issues

To seek equality of mutual learning and training and exchange opportunities research in these areas will be investigated by any of these parties with the prior knowledge of the others to a written terms of reference that has been agreed beforehand.

To provide a known contact person in each Park and a co-ordinating working group in the Peak.

To ensure communications of objectives and work programmes in each Park.

To provide progress reports to the partner Parks, desirably translated.

To ensure political support in each Park.

To provide opportunities for staff and members to make formal authorised study visits at their own expense.

7. It is understood that this Accord is agreed initially for a period of three years from the date thereof at the end of which it shall be reviewed.

May 2001

Signed on behalf of the Peak District National Park

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Signed on behalf of Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park

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Signed on behalf of Ojcow National Park

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