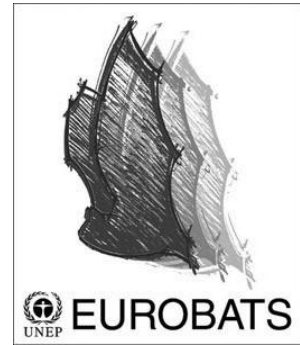


16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tbilisi, Georgia, 4 – 6 April 2011

Record of the Meeting



1. Attendance

This is listed at Annex 1 to the Record.

2. Opening Remarks

Mr. Peter Lina (Chair) welcomed the participants to the 16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee held in the easternmost venue so far. He expressed his gratitude to the Georgian government for hosting the Meeting this time. Subsequently, he invited the Minister for Environment Protection of the host country (Georgia) to make opening remarks.

The Minister for Environment Protection of Georgia, Mr. Giorgi Khachidze, welcomed the participants, wished them a pleasant visit as well as a fruitful meeting. Mr. Khachidze mentioned it was a great honour to host the meeting as there was a time when international conferences were quite rare in Georgia.

His Excellency further highlighted that Georgia was considered to be a biodiversity hotspot at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and despite being at a stage of rapid economic development, it was crucial to keep in mind conservation and the need for biodiversity of species. Mr. Khachidze expressed the importance of bats as an integral part of our ecological biodiversity and his wish to incorporate bat conservation in the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia. On a last note, His Excellency praised the UN's "Year of the Bat" and "International Year of the Forest" initiatives and reiterated his pleasure in hosting the 16th Advisory Committee Meeting in Georgia.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Lina, thanked His Excellency for his kind and encouraging words and the warm hospitality that made the wide variety of nations represented feel at home.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS, Mr. Andreas Streit, was honoured to see the Advisory Committee Meeting taking place in Georgia, a country so rich in terms of

biodiversity. He expressed his gratitude for the warm and outstanding welcome to the meeting and the organisation of a beautiful excursion to the Kakheti region. Mr. Streit also thanked the support of the German Government and its valuable contribution through the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

The Executive Secretary also noted that it was a pleasure to see forty countries united in Tbilisi and working towards the protection of bats, in this particular “Year of the Bat”. Mr. Streit welcomed Egypt that was represented for the first time, and transmitted apologies from Azerbaijan, Italy and Serbia, who had to cancel their participation on short notice. He then informed the Meeting that Montenegro had completed the accession to the Agreement and invited the delegate to take her new seat among the Parties. Lastly, Mr. Streit took the opportunity to encourage the countries neighbouring Georgia to join the Agreement.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously adopted.

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were adopted by consensus.

5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Sweden nominated Mr. Peter Lina for re-election as Chair. This was seconded by Slovenia, Ukraine and Germany. Mr. Lina was then re-elected by consensus.

Nominated by Portugal and seconded by the Republic of San Marino, Poland and Sweden, Dr. Ferdia Marnell was elected for the position of Vice-Chair by consensus.

6. Report on “Year of the Bat” Activities

The Chair invited all delegates to report on any “Year of the Bat” activities conducted in their countries.

Albania informed that it aimed to focus on public awareness as bats are not well known across the country. Plans for 2011 include the development of posters with the “Year the Bat” logo, which will be distributed in schools. Cooperation with the Ministry of Education on an awareness-raising programme across schools in September is also in the pipeline.

Belgium reported that thanks to a good collaboration with volunteers and NGOs, the monitoring of bat populations was undertaken. Unfortunately, a few positive cases of *Geomyces destructans* were observed this winter. The winter census also revealed a

decrease in population numbers of *Myotis nattereri*, probably due to adverse meteorological conditions last autumn. With regard to the “Year of the Bat”, Belgium informed of its plans to raise public awareness and to celebrate the “Year of the Bat” and the “International Year of the Forest” in joint efforts. European Bat Nights are to be expected.

Bulgaria shared its active involvement in the “Year of the Bat” campaign by having translated the “Year of the Bat” flyer into Bulgarian and by setting up an internet site. Planned activities include lectures on bats in two Bulgarian cities in May, bat workshops for young people, and the celebration of the European Bat Night in six cities across the country.

Croatia informed of its plans to organise many “Year of the Bat” activities. Several of events already took place and included participants such as the State Institute for Nature Protection, Ministry of Culture, NGOs (Croatian Biospeleological Society, Association for Bat Conservation Tragus, Biology Students Association BIUS – Bat Group), and Public Institutions for Protected Areas. For the “Year of the Bat”, a booklet on “Bats of Croatia” and a poster for the general public were published by the State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP), which are available in *pdf* on the SINP webpage (www.dzzp.hr).

Two Meetings with bat experts have been conducted since November 2010 on the standardisation of monitoring procedures for bats in over ground and underground roosts. The criteria for the important underground sites for bats should be finished by the end of the year taking into account the data from bat experts in Croatia. The designation of Natura 2000 sites has been under way and is being conducted by the State Institute for Nature Protection.

The IPA Project “Development of faunistic and speleological databases (CRO fauna and CRO Speleo)” started this year. All data on bats should be entered and stored there from 2012 and onwards.

The Croatian Biospeleological Society had conducted a lecture on the White Nose Syndrome for the Annual Bat Cavers Meeting in November 2010. No records of the disease have been reported yet. Lastly, the finding of a live specimen of *Nyctalus lasiopterus* on the Kornati Archipelago was published in the journal *Mammalia* in 2011.

With regard to “Year of the Bat”, the **Czech Republic** reported that it printed bookmarks with bat species found in its territory, samples of which were distributed during AC16. The

printing of further awareness raising material is in progress. There are several ongoing projects: "The bat is our neighbour" project provides information on bat-friendly renovation of houses. "The wonderful world of bats" is devoted to the "Year of the Bat" and will include public lectures with specialists, poster displays, and bat drawing competitions for children; the exhibition has started and it will be traveling across the country for two years. Future "Year of the Bat" activities will be announced in the CBCT web pages (www.ceson.org), which plans to hold sixty five (65) public events. In addition, a research publication series and interview with foreign scientists conducted by scientific radio Leonardo during the 15th International Bat Research Conference in 2010 in Prague are available at http://www.rozhlas.cz/leonardo/priroda/_themeline/1093 and http://www.rozhlas.cz/leonardo/priroda/_themeline/1093?pos=10&mode=10; The latter will be continuously updated.

This year, **Estonia** informed of its engagement in finalising the renewal of the national bat Action Plan and the establishment of the new monitoring system. For the "Year of the Bat", extra bat talks and walks have been planned for the public and attention will be given to bringing bats to media. Also, a travelling poster exhibition has been introducing Estonian bats to the public. For 2012, a national drawing competition is planned for school children, as well as bat workshops for the public occurring outside major cities. Extended media coverage and other smaller events to bring attention to bats and their protection are also planned.

As reported by **Finland**, the "Year of the Bat" campaign is being co-ordinated by two NGOs: the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and the Finnish Chiropterological Society. These have formed a group, which prepared an Action Plan and a schedule of press releases for the year. The main event of the year, a bat seminar with an interesting programme on bat research and conservation, took place in March 2011. It was very successful and gathered lots of attendees. Also, a leaflet on bats has been updated. A bat monitoring scheme has been drafted and will be launched as a pilot project in 2011. The European Bat Night will take place in August with several bat walks. Lastly, a theme exhibition on bats is planned for the Finnish Museum of Natural History in early 2012.

The **French** Ministry in charge of ecology has been fully involved in supporting public awareness in the frame of the "Year of the Bat" 2011-2012. In association with the "International Year of the Forest", three successful days of conferences and exhibitions

were organised in February at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. Some special support will be given to actions scheduled during the year, including the first European Bat Night in Paris.

Germany informed that its foreseen support for the whole “Year of the Bat” campaign (2010-2012) will be around 100,000 Euro in total and will support the EUROBATS Secretariat and national events and publications. The EUROBATS Secretariat already acknowledged the receipt of the German contribution and explained how it was used.

In addition, three major activities aim to contribute towards the “Year of the Bat”. The first, which coincides with the beginning of the 16th Advisory Committee Meeting, is a national event for “Year of the Bat” that took place in Benediktbeuern/Bavaria and was organised by the German NGO NABU with the support of the German Nature Protection Agency (BfN). The second activity entails the launch of a German publication in April, which will introduce the campaign and highlight the resolutions of the last two EUROBATS MoPs and respective National Reports. Its aim is to help guarantee the implementation of the respective EUROBATS resolutions.

Lastly, at the CMS COP November 2011 an English publication will be available using a brochure already produced in German (the English translation was already improved thanks to the kind help of the UK and the BCT); this publication will begin with a foreword by the Executive Secretaries of UNEP/CMS and UNEP/EUROBATS and the German Environment Minister, and will give support to the worldwide campaign.

During the “Year of the Bat”, **Georgia** informed of its wish to raise children’s awareness through the organisation of drawing exhibitions and concerts. The “Year of the Bat” flyer will be also translated into Georgian to help disseminate information. Planning is still at an initial stage and information on bat conservation activities will be advertised on www.campester.org.

In **Ireland**, there will be collaborative work with the National Roads Authority to investigate the effectiveness of mitigation measures for bats. Further work will be undertaken together with the Forest Service to update guidelines for foresters on bat habitat management. The national bat NGO (Bat Conservation Ireland) will be organising special events for “Year of the Bat”.

In **Luxembourg**, several public awareness events have been planned for the duration of the “Year of the Bat”: two Bat Nights and various guided bat tours around the country, the

publication of bat brochures in both German and French, as well as a bat exhibition in the National Museum for Natural History. Further important actions will be the campaign and call to the public to detect bat colonies thus far unknown and the creation of a link with the “International Year of the Forests” (namely on the importance of old and dead wood for bats).

For the “Year of the Bat”, a European Bat Night event is to be organised in the Former Yugoslav Republic of **Macedonia**.

Moldova included the celebration of the “Year of the Bat” in the Ministry of Environment’s Action Plan for 2011. In February of this year, a national competition on bat drawing and poems entitled “Bats in our houses and gardens” was launched. This was aimed at children and teenagers from first to twelfth grade all over the country. In addition, the “Year of the Bat” logo was posted onto the website of the Ministry of Environment, where the public is able to find bat-related information; a link to the “Year of the Bat” website is also available. Finally, to increase the level of awareness, television programmes were organised and several articles on the importance of bats have been published in newspapers.

Montenegro was represented for the first time at the EUROBATS 4th Meeting of the Standing Committee and 15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee as an independent country. The Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development ratified the EUROBATS Agreement in December 2010.

On 16th January 2011, the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro began the implementation of the Project “Nature for future“, financed through the IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession in EU) funds in the Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) programme with Croatian partners, concerning research, protection and presentation of cave fauna in the Skadar Lake National Park. A survey of potential underground roosts has been planned. Focus has been placed on underground habitats, however, buildings and other potential roosts will also be checked. Promotional activities with a special focus on the “Year of the Bat” will also be included. The duration of the project is two years.

Wind farms have become a significant problem since more and more companies apply for construction permits. Some pre-construction studies are planned but there is pressure for them to be done in a shorter time than it is recommended in the EUROBATS guidelines.

Research and literature data on bats in Montenegro are very scarce. So far, twenty-five species were recorded, but with a large diversity of habitats and climate, and a lot of

suitable roosting sites, at least several more species are expected to be present.

Bat workers from Public Enterprise for National Parks, National History Museum and the NGO for Nature Research and Conservation "Plecotus", in cooperation with colleagues from Serbia and Slovenia, prepared a poster with an overview of bat species in Montenegro with the title "Materials for an Atlas of Bats (Chiroptera) of Montenegro". It was presented at the 15th International Bat Research Conference in Prague from the 23rd to 27th of August 2010. The paper is in preparation and submission of any data on bats in Montenegro would be greatly appreciated.

In the **Netherlands**, most of the "Year of the Bat" activities were organised by the Dutch Mammal Society, which will report on it.

Norway reported that currently, it has no plans for nation-wide coordination on the "Year of the Bat". There are, however, several ongoing activities aimed at the public that could be united under a common logo, and steps will be taken to achieve this.

To raise awareness and promote the need for bat protection many events were held in **Poland**. Examples of such initiatives were: panel meetings concerning protection of bats and birds in the towns, several educational campaigns, art competition for elementary schools, as well as photography exhibition concerning implementation of Horseshoe bat protection. Especially dedicated coins with a picture of the Lesser Horseshoe bat were created by the State Mint Facility. For 2012, a national conference devoted to improvement of cooperation in bat protection and research between state administration, science and NGOs is planned.

The **Portuguese** "Year of the Bat" campaign was launched in March by the Secretary of State of Environment. A very detailed website was prepared and can be found at: <http://www.wix.com/anodomorcego/icnb>. The website includes information on bats, a Portuguese version of the EUROBATS forestry leaflet, *PowerPoint* presentations with support texts for different ages, and many activities for teachers. Several activities already took place and many more are planned.

An atlas of bats occurring in the mainland of Portugal is about to developed, and for the training of participants several courses on morphological and acoustic identification are being conducted. An illustrated simplified identification key based on external characters was prepared and a key of vocalisations is currently under preparation.

San Marino informed that it is working on its bat atlas and on the protection of underground sites thanks to the activities of the Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese. The major conservation problems are still related to the idea of re-use of the old tunnels for tourism and other activities. The support provided by the EUROBATS Secretariat in writing a letter to the State supporting conservation initiatives was extremely valuable. Concerning the “Year of the Bat”, an opening conference was held in the Centro Naturalistico Sammarinese. Moreover, the creation of web pages, activities such as Bat Nights and other educational programmes with schools are being organised.

In **Slovenia**, summer bat monitoring revealed the alarming state of maternity roosts in buildings. Approximately 10% of 113 roosts surveyed were destroyed and a further 8% were damaged. Therefore, for the first time a team comprising of regional representatives of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation and members of Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora as contractors of state bat monitoring scheme was assembled. A highly productive meeting and later consultation, together with joint field work, consequently contributed to many practical conservation actions. The success of such actions will be assessed after the 2011 summer monitoring.

Initiated by the association Dark Sky Slovenia, a Life+ project has taken off in Slovenia “*Življenje ponoči - Life at night - Improving the conservation status of nocturnal animals by reducing the effect of artificial lighting at cultural heritage sites.*” The project is being carried out by several partners and led by Euromix Ltd. The impact of illumination on bats is an integral part of the project and research will be conducted by University of Ljubljana in cooperation with Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation.

The latter also coordinated growing numbers of European Bat Nights which is becoming the European “month” of bats.

Sweden informed of its plans to carry out several Bat Nights during the year, apart from the official one on August 27th, to celebrate the “Year of the Bat”. There will be information on the campaign on the web sites of several national nature conservation organisations, and those NGOs also plan to pay extra attention to bats during the “Year of the Bat”.

Apart from that, a national program for monitoring bats is planned to start in the south of Sweden (Götaland) during 2011 and an atlas for the south of Sweden (Götaland) is also in progress. Census work has been carried out in all counties of Götaland with many thousand investigated areas. The main method used is the "Species richness method".

Distribution maps are now being upgraded to be published this winter. In Svealand and Norrland only a few areas have been surveyed. A more detailed report on this was included in the Report of the 6th Meeting of the Parties.

In Sweden and Denmark a field guide for identification of bats is being prepared. This work is also based on cooperation with experts from all over Europe. Last but not least, a new bat species has been confirmed to be present in Sweden: *Myotis alcathoe*. This is Sweden's nineteenth bat species.

In **Ukraine**, a standard set of methods for promoting bats is being used with information on the "Year of the Bat". Campaign stickers were developed, printed and distributed around the country. The world wide web is the main method for the dissemination of information and it has been observed that several bat related articles have been re-posted and re-printed. The campaign has so far been very well received.

The **United Kingdom** will continue with research projects including bats and wind farms, bats and roads. There are new projects starting on bats and single medium-sized wind turbines, on bats in historic buildings (particularly *natterer's* bats in churches) and on the fate of *pipistrelle* bat colonies excluded from houses.

The "Year of the Bat" will be promoted in publicity relating to research and other projects and events. There is continued funding for the Scotland and Wales bat project officers through the Bat Conservation Trust.

Bat Conservation Trust's approach to the "Year of the Bat" is twofold:

1. Publicising key bat conservation campaigns, following a campaign calendar (circulated to EUROBATs). Campaign themes include Bats and Buildings, Bats and Woodland, Bat Helpline (in the baby bat season) and the launch of BatLife Europe.
2. Launching new online educational resources and promoting awareness of bats through social media including Facebook (6000 fans) and Twitter; and through video camera hire to encourage volunteers to make YouTube clips of events. Our interactive "Bat Trail" launched in March (www.bats.org.uk), and videos of events to engage people for audiences new to bat conservation will be launched later this year. UK bat events can be added to our website database of events, which will display events by location on the Big Bat Map. BCT are also organising a bat weekend with the Natural History Museum in London in June.

The key messages promoted by BCT are:

- Celebrating the beauty and diversity of bats.
- Bats as indicators of biodiversity change.
- Celebrating 20 years of BCT in “Year of the Bat”.

Non-Party Range States and observers were also invited to share their activities on the “Year of the Bat” and progress made in acceding to the Agreement.

Armenia reported its plans to develop a poster and brochure on bat conservation to be published and disseminated during the “Year of the Bat”.

In **Austria** no progress on accession to the Agreement was reported. Regarding the “Year of the Bat” campaign, NGOs on bat conservation are planning to organise projects in schools and European Bat Nights with public attendance.

Twenty-seven bat species have been registered in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. The number of bat research projects has remained the same since last year. However, governmental ratification of the Agreement was initiated by the responsible department. For the “Year of the Bat”, the Speleological Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina started with several workshops about bats for cavers, and concluded a book: “Bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

Egypt was very pleased to be represented for the first time at the 16th Advisory Committee Meeting in Tbilisi. It was reported that to date, twenty-two species of bat have been recorded in Egypt. However, the real number is expected to be higher as additional species are present in neighbouring countries (e.g. Libya, Palestine/Israel and Arabian Peninsula).

The majority of bat research conducted in Egypt was dependent on the basic techniques of surveying and mist-netting. In order to obtain a real assessment of Egypt’s bat fauna, it is crucial to use a number of new techniques, such as acoustic surveys using bat detectors and regular bat monitoring programs.

Myths, superstition and misinformation are the source of the threats faced by bats. For example, the Egyptian fruit bat, *Rousettus aegyptiacus*, is perceived by many as an agricultural pest. In order to successfully contribute towards bat conservation, it is necessary to raise public awareness, particularly with the younger generation. A group named “Chiroptera” was launched on Facebook and in Flickr in order to reach millions of Egyptians.

Egypt will celebrate the “Year of the Bat” by promoting bat conservation through “Chiroptera” groups. Relevant information and other important links with articles, events and bat websites are currently being shared through such web pages.

With the support of EUROBATS, Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE) plans to launch several “Year of the Bat” activities.

In 2010, research and surveys were carried out on the **Greek** islands of Crete and Skyros (Aegean Sea) and the southern Peloponnese focusing on species inventories and distribution, as well as the localisation of important roosts and key feeding habitats. Similarly, in July 2010 an intensive survey was conducted on the Greek side of the Prespa Lakes basin by researchers and naturalists from Greece and France, coordinated by the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP).

In 2010, the first official transboundary collaboration was established between scientific and conservation bodies from Greece, Albania and FYR of Macedonia. This was in the framework of a project for the development of a Transboundary Monitoring System (TMS) in the Prespa Park area, implemented by the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) under the GEF/UNDP Transboundary Prespa Park project in collaboration with Galicica National Park (FUROM). A TMS workshop on bats including roost surveys in Albania and the FYR of Macedonia was held at Stenje, in Galicica NP in July 2010, leading to the production of the first guidelines for future bat monitoring in and around the TPP. The results of all bat research and surveys from 2004 to 2011 in the area, the future prospects, and research and conservation recommendations are included in the “Status survey and conservation action plan for the bats of Prespa” currently being produced by the SPP. This is the first action plan produced for bats in Greece.

In March 2011 a new law on “The Conservation of Biodiversity” was adopted by the Greek Parliament. This law foresees (among others) the establishment of Management Plans and the elaboration of Action Plans for the conservation of protected wildlife species and habitat types and prioritises the attainment of favourable conservation status for them not only in protected areas but in the entire territory of Greece. In addition, the new law enacts the National Biodiversity Inventory and Scientific Monitoring Plans of important species and habitat types. Finally, it foresees the undertaking of urgent measures for the confrontation of any human activity or natural disaster that threatens wildlife and the restoration to its previous status.

Israel reported that a taxonomic survey is being conducted all over the country, and will include morphological and genetic identification of cryptic species.

The first "Day of bats" occurred on April 2nd, with more than 2,000 visitors (children and adults). Eight hundred signatures were collected and sent to the Minister for the Protection of Environment in order to persuade the minister's office to sign the EUROBATS agreement. At least two such activities are planned for this year.

Twelve army bunkers along the Jordan border were fully converted into bat houses and are inhabited by twelve species. During the spring of 2011, an infrared online camera will be operating in one of the *Asellia/Rhinolophus clivosus* mixed maternity colonies. Three more bunkers will be modified on 2011. Tel-Aviv is also the 5th city in Israel to join the bat box project we have been running for the last four years. Lastly, a bat population survey will be made yearly during July in the Mediterranean region of the country.

For six months, studies on monitoring and surveys on bats with rangers and nature reserves were conducted in **Jordan**. Furthermore, a workshop for the training of regional authorities on IUCN Red Listing was also organised.

In **Lebanon**, twenty-three new bat sites were identified, and the surveillance of additional sites are in progress. Winter monitoring was conducted during January-April 2011, and seven species were documented (four *Rhinolophus spp.*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *Pipistrellus kuhlii*, and *Rousettus aegyptiacus*). Several threats were identified mainly quarrying, fire in caves, and closing cave entrances.

An awareness program has been running since February towards the conservation of bats, which is funded by a Ford Award for Environmental Programme. Also, an awareness pamphlet was produced to be distributed during lectures on the topic.

Regarding the "Year of The Bat", several activities were carried out including media coverage (newspapers and TVs), through the "Animal Encounter - Educational Center for Wildlife Conservation" participation in the Beirut International Marathon.

Morocco indicated the existence of plans to develop together with a university, a programme on the importance of bats, their conservation and species data collection.

Russia reported no progress on the accession to the Agreement and little to no support for the "Year of the Bat" campaign. However, several NGOs and many bat workers plan to organise events and hope to publish in Russian the EUROBATS publications soon.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS thanked the Russian delegate for his outstanding commitment to bat and nature conservation, who frequently suffered the consequences for his engagement. Mr. Streit expressed his strong support for the delegate's work and invited him to contact both the UNEP/EUROBATS and UNEP/CMS Secretariats, who are ready to intervene whenever such need should arise.

Since **Syria's** last report in the Prague meeting, several field trips were conducted to collect more data about the roosting sites and bat populations in the coastal region and northern Syria. New caves were added to the previous list of known roosting sites. A cave monitoring programme to follow up on the status of the main colony of the Egyptian fruit bat, *Rousettus aegyptiacus*, is ongoing and several new roosting sites were recorded. New localities for the Lesser Horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros* were recorded. A new small colony of *Rhinolophus blasii* was documented in Idlib, northern Syria. Further localities for *Myotis myotis* were recorded.

A conservation project aiming to identify and protect important bat caves in **Turkey** started last year. Up to now more than 40 important sites were identified and 30 caves will be surveyed in the summer of 2011. Identified bat caves will be reported to the Cave Conservation Unit in Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey to assess legal protection status.

BatLife Europe shared its plans to launch in "Year of the Bat", in August 2011, at the European Bat Research Conference in Lithuania. An invitation to the first Partnership Meeting on the 23rd of August at 17 30h in Vilnius was extended to all participants.

BatLife Europe has six Founding Trustees and a number of NGOs interested in becoming partners. The BatLife Europe poster was displayed at the Irish, Spanish and UK national bat conferences over the winter. The trustees have held three Skype meetings since January to agree the constitution documents for charity registration, the partnership agreement documents and the trustee election process.

In April/May emails will be sent to bat conservation NGOs, inviting them to join as partner organisations. This will be followed by invitations to consider becoming long-term trustees.

The first cooperative venture resulted in the successful return to France of thirteen Nathusius's pipistrelles accidentally transported to the UK, with help from volunteers at BCT and SFEPM. Further information is available on www.batlife-europe.info.

The **Dutch Mammal Society (DMS)** thanked the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, whose "Nature Carrying Capacity Fund" (RDN) facilitates the organisation of a number of activities. The planned activities include a bat seminar with presentation of the Dutch translation of the "Handbuch der Fledermaeuse Europas" by Dietz, von Helversen & Nill by Peter Lina, sunrise surveys all over the Netherlands, a 'bat' cam in a *Myotis dasycneme* roost, the publication of a brochure on making gardens bat-friendly, the promotion of bat boxes and of course many excursions during the Bat Night.

The DMS distributed the logos and information on the "Year of the Bat" to State forestry and local natural history and nature conservation groups, who are now organising additional activities. Nationally famous children's book author Paul van Loon is the "Year of the Bat" ambassador. Activities can be followed on twitter (@Zoogdierverenig, in Dutch).

For the "Year of the Bat", the **French Mammal Society (SFEPM)** planned many activities. The organisation hopes to go beyond the number of 160 events reached last year for the European Bat Night in Bourges.

On the SFEPM web site contains a page dedicated to the "Year of the Bat" where the different bat groups are invited to list their events; this can be found at: <http://www.sfepm.org/anneechauvesouris.regions.htm>. On April 5th, the web site had already registered thirteen planned events, some of them lasting a few months (e.g. exhibition at the Natural History Museum of Bourges).

To focus on the slogan "Together with bats" or bats as nice neighbours, SFEMP will also link the "Year of the Bat" to the launching of their new campaign "Refuges for bats". It aims to encourage the public to protect the bat roost located on their property by signing an agreement with the local NGO taking over the campaign - usually the regional bat group. For more information on this initiative, please visit the website: <http://www.sfepm.org/refugepourleschauvessouris.documents.htm>.

Through its convention with the ANSES (ex-AFSSA Nancy), the SFEPM is involved in the surveillance of bat rabies; active surveillance is developing and has been performed in five (5) regions in 2010.

A technical and scientific coordinator has been engaged to work on the National Action Plan and to prepare the evaluation of the conservation status of Natura2000 species for 2013.

Members of the SFEPM are also deeply involved at a regional level in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Bats. They are mainly concerned by the protection of roosts, surveillance and monitoring of priority species, evaluation of mitigation measures for roads and high velocity railways, telemetry studies on forest bats and public awareness of bats.

IUCN's Co-Chair of Species Survival Commission, Prof. Racey, delivered a plenary lecture at the International Bat Research Conference in Prague on "Bat conservation: past, present and future". This lecture was written up as an article for the spring issue of the BCI magazine "Bats". The article also makes reference to the "Year of the Bat" campaign.

The **Vincent Wildlife Trust** (VWT) reported that it manages over forty key horseshoe bat roosts in the UK and Ireland. The populations in these roosts continue to thrive, although higher than normal levels of mortality have been recorded during the extreme conditions of the past winter.

The Fund completed the second year of a landscape scale project for conserving the horseshoe bats around the VWT reserves with four radio-tracking projects being undertaken in England, Wales and Ireland.

In April the VWT started a three year community-based bat project in Wales focusing on the needs of lesser horseshoe bats. The aims of this project are to engage with local landowners and communities, to improve foraging and commuting habitats for lesser horseshoe bats. The VWT bat reserves in the area will be a focus for education and interpretative work and events this summer will celebrate the "Year of the Bat".

The Vincent Wildlife Trust has continued to run workshops on horseshoe bats for SNCOs and professional ecological consultants.

The Chair remarked that bats are becoming more popular and in order to further promote them with the public, a compilation of all bat species in all European languages is being carried out. For an even wider distribution, Arabic bat names should be included. Short biographies of the original describer and a glossary of bat-related terms are also being included. The Chair invited all participants to provide input to this publication and expressed the wish to make it available to the public in 2012.

7. Secretariat Report

The Executive Secretary referred to the written report and commented orally on the following issues:

- Staff changes in the Secretariat

Mr. Andreas Streit informed the Meeting that Christine Boye had left her part-time post of Administrative Assistant. Since January 2011 the vacant post has been temporarily filled by Ana Ferreira da Silva until a new incumbent is recruited.

- Agreement Membership

In terms of agreement membership, Montenegro completed the accession procedure. The Executive Secretary also highlighted that other countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Switzerland, were actively preparing the accession and/or are at an advanced stage. In addition, encouraging signals were received from Spain. Mr. Streit urged all other Non-Party Range States to begin the accession procedure and emphasised that the UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat is ready to provide support in any possible way.

- “Year of the Bat” and other Publicity

The EUROBATS Publication series has been extremely successful and it is necessary to continue reprinting to meet the demand. The Executive Secretary was very grateful to the Advisory Committee and individual experts, who contributed towards the contents of the excellent publications.

Mr. Streit reported that since the launch of the joint CMS/EUROBATS “Year of the Bat 2011-2012”, the Secretariat has been extremely busy with the campaign’s strategy and the establishment of strong partnerships all around the globe. The enthusiasm and positive reception of the initiative caused the “Year of the Bat” to go global since day one.

During the Meeting, a brief “Year of the Bat” presentation was given, highlighting all the activities undertaken. These included the creation of the campaign’s website, Facebook page and blog, as well as flyers in seven different languages, a brochure, photo stickers and a twenty-picture postcard series. Future activities include the development of an online quiz together with Planet Science and the long distance educational programme “Bats Live” in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Mr. Streit thanked the German and French governments for all their support, without which it would have been impossible to accomplish so much. Lastly, the Executive Secretary shared the available “Year of the Bat” material with all the delegates and invited them to place orders for future dissemination of the material.

The Executive Secretary also mentioned that significant progress on bat conservation and public awareness in Africa has been made. FAO made efforts to organise capacity-building

workshops on “Wildlife Health and Human-Animal-Environmental Interface” in four different regions of Africa. UNEP/CMS and UNEP/EUROBATS supported the first of these workshops in South Africa, which dedicated a full day to bats. Mr. Streit thanked Prof. Racey, Mr. Hutson and Mr. Lina for the excellent lectures given at the workshop.

- EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

Mr. Streit emphasised that many projects became possible through the EPI and expressed his gratitude to all the members – Germany and Luxembourg on a regular basis, but also Finland, France, Italy and the United Kingdom - who made voluntary contributions to make the initiative possible. The outcomes of these projects were very successful and there is already a long waiting list for the projects. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary was pleased that the MoP6 provided a formalised structure and procedures to the EPI so as to allow the EPI Selection Working Group to begin work immediately.

8. Election of Chair and members of the EPI Selection Working Group

The Committee elected Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France) as Chair and Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan) , Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands) and Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia) as additional members of the EPI Selection Working Group.

9. Reports from Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) of the past quadriennium

a. Conservation of key underground habitats (previously: Transboundary Programme- Habitats: Data Compilation)

Ms. Jean Matthews (UK) confirmed that a compilation of underground sites is being completed by Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones. It was proposed that Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France) would become the IWG’s new convenor and that the group would continue with its work.

b. Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

Ms. Jean Matthews (UK) reported that the leaflet on bats and forestry was completed, but the group would still need to reconvene as additional actions need to be undertaken. One of these actions is the review of information that was the basis of the publication in 2005.

c. Pan European Monitoring

The convenor of the group, Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS), proposed merging the IWG on Pan European Monitoring with the IWG on Bat Indicators, convened by Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT). This merge would seek to reduce the number of participants in the group so as to

reach the level of efficiency necessary to put into practice plans agreed during previous AC Meetings.

d. Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats (previously: Bat Migration)

The convenor, Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), informed that the IWG would meet during the Meeting.

e. Autecological Studies for Priority Species

This IWG would reconvene under Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France).

f. Impact on Bat Populations of use of Anti-Parasitic Drugs for Livestock

The convenor of the group, Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), informed that the working group had concluded its work and proposed to disband it.

g. Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), the convenor of the group, prepared an updated report and stated work still needed to be concluded. She proposed a gathering of the group during the Meeting to decide on future action.

h. Light Pollution

In the absence of Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino) convened the group. It was noted that the problem persists and that the IWG would convene during the Meeting to develop new ideas.

i. Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

The convenor, Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), expressed the need to finalise the group's objectives and to work in close cooperation with the IWG on the Impact on Bat Populations of use of Anti-Parasitic drugs for Livestock in order to meet the resolutions.

j. Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts

Since the IWG was only set up during the last Advisory Committee Meeting, the convenor, Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT), confirmed it would meet again to pursue its objectives.

k. Bats as Indicators

Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), convenor of the IWG, agreed to merge Bats as Indicators with the IWG on Pan-European Monitoring to form an IWG on Monitoring and Indicators. The convenor hoped the merger will attract participants with monitoring experience and prepared to contribute trend information.

l. Impacts of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

The group would reconvene as there are actions outstanding, including the creation of a publication on best practice for road construction. The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS transmitted Ms. Marianne Courouble's apologies for not being present and being unable to continue to convene the group. For this reason, Ms. Jean Matthews would become the new IWG convenor.

m. Year of the Bat

The convenor of the group, Mr. Oliver Schall, informed that the IWG concluded its task and the "Year of the Bat" campaign will be handed over to UNEP/CMS during the COP in November, in Norway. However, Mr. Schall kindly asked the other delegates to continue promoting further "Year of the Bat" activities in their countries.

n. Code of Ethics for Field Work and Related Activities

The convenor of the group, Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), believed work was concluded on Resolution 6.5 and proposed the working group to be disbanded.

o. EUROBATS Projects Initiative

Mr. Peter Lina, the convenor of the IWG, reported that an interim working group was established during the MoP6 as there were projects that still needed assessment.

p. Lethal Fungal Infections (previously: WNS)

Prof. Paul Racey, convenor of the IWG on WNS shared a paper confirming, by molecular analysis, the presence of *Geomyces destructans* in eleven European countries, and photographic evidence of its existence in further four. Evidence revealed that the disease has spread beyond the nose and can now, in some cases, be found in the wings, feet and occasionally abdomen of bats. The new evidence highlighted the need to maintain a monitoring system and that the IWG should continue its work.

10. Review of implementation activities outstanding from the past quadriennium and before

A working group was set up to review the implementation of the Agreement.

11. Discussion on work plan priorities and future operation of the AC and IWGs taking into account outstanding activities and resolutions adopted by the MoP6

This issue was covered under other agenda items and by individual IWGs.

12. Establishment of IWGs

Two new working groups were established based on the recommendations of the MoP6. The first is to review the format of the National Reports and the second to focus on the

implementation of the Agreement. The working group on Bat Indicators and the working group on Pan-European Monitoring merged to form the IWG on Monitoring and Indicators.

13. Reports from working groups established at the Meeting (Annex 2)

a. IWG on the Conservation of Key Underground Sites (previously: Transboundary Programme- Habitats: Data Compilation)

Members (present at IWG meeting): Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (France)*, Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Zoltàn Bihari (Hungary), Dr. Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Dr. Martin Cel'uch (Slovak Republic), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Dr. Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Carmi Korine (Israel), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Dr. Eran Levin (Israel), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (UK), Dr. Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Andrea Pauly (Germany), Mr. Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN), Prof. Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Mr. Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Dr. Davit Yavruyan (Armenia), Ms. Maša Ždralović (Montenegro).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting (present at IWG meeting): Dr. Mounir R. Abi-Said (Lebanon), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine), Mr. Wael M. Shohdi Elsheikh (Egypt), Ms. Anna-Nele Herdina (Austria), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Adwan Shehab (Syria), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

To clarify the aims of the group, the members agreed that more a suitable name for the IWG would be “On the conservation of key underground habitats”.

To finalise the work done previously, as expressed in Resolution 6.16 and in order to publish on the EUROBATS website a list of important underground sites for bats, the quality of data would need to be improved as required by the resolution.

The group would prefer to have this list published before further work is initiated in order to be able to draft a resolution for the MoP 7 urging Parties to protect the sites of the list.

For the future, the group recognised the necessity of having new criteria for ranking the sites; in its present state, the list is considered a national rather than an international list. It would also be necessary to ascertain a process to take into account important sites for species at the limit of their range.

It was also proposed to evaluate the ranking of sites according to biogeographical zones instead of on a national level.

France presented its national estimation system for ranking sites, which will be circulated to the IWG members for testing at different countries levels. Poland proposed to test its scheme as well. All members agreed to test the schemes and comment on the effectiveness of these.

Working plan:

- As soon as possible, Mr. Primož Presetnik would check the countries which have to complete their lists.
- The conveners will send the list to the national focal points so they can check their data and add the missing elements (such as species in the sites). The dead line for this work should be June 30th, 2011.
- Mr. Boyan Petrov will ask the Parties and Range States (especially new ones) which have not yet provided their data about key underground habitats and state of their conservation to send the information for May 31st, 2011. The form will be supplied by Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones to the new Range States.
- Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones will receive the completed list of sites and will correct the maps, if necessary.
- After all possible corrections the list should be published on EUROBATS website no later than early January 2012.
- The conveners will adapt French and Polish ranking systems at European level and circulate them within the group for further evaluation.

New conveners for the IWG were proposed: Dr. Lena Godlevska and Dr. Zoltàn Bihari. Dr. Danilo Russo who could not come to the present meeting agreed to help with data analysis if necessary.

b. IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

Members (present): Ms. Jean Matthews, (UK)*, Ms. Amy Abido (Syria), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Sandra Balzer (Germany), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine), Dr. Martin Cel'uch (Slovakia), Ms. Zrinka Domazetović (Croatia), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Julia Hanmer (BCT), Dr. Karen Haysom, (BCT), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Mr. Johnny de Jong (Sweden), Mr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Dr. Eran Levin (Israel), Ms. Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Dr. Aleksander Rachwald (Poland), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Mr. Andrei Ursache (Moldova), Dr. Davit Yavruyan (Armenia).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting (present at IWG meeting): Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey) Mr. Abdellah El Mastour (Morocco), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Laurent Schley (Luxembourg), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

Actions arising from MoP 6 Resolution 6.12:

Urges Parties and Range States to:

- 1. Develop their own national guidance** appropriate to their bat communities, forest ecosystems and forest management practices based on the principles in the EUROBATS Bats and Forestry leaflet;
- 2. Share best practice forestry guidance** via the EUROBATS website;
- 3. Instructs** the Advisory Committee to **consider whether it would be timely to update the review on bats and forest management** undertaken by Boye and Dietz and published as Boye, P. & Dietz, M. (2005): *The development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats*, English Nature Research Report Number 661.
- 4. Calls upon** the Secretariat and the Parties to **explore possibilities for using the UN International Year of the Forest 2011 to bring joint issues of bat conservation** in forests forward.

Re. **Action 1.** The Group recognised its need to obtain more information on the following topics: which Parties and Range States have developed national guidance, where the information was/will be published; if countries have not yet produced guidance, when do they plan to do that. This information will be obtained through a questionnaire.

Re. **Action 2.** The Group requested the Secretariat's advice on how to best publicise the

guidance on the EUROBATS website (e.g. possibility to have a page on different subjects)

Re. **Action 3.** The Group did not have a copy of the 2005 report to consider at the meeting, but considered that there was sufficient new information since the report was published that some sort of review would be appropriate. The report can be found at <http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/R661>

This included research in the UK on *Myotis bechsteinii*, *B. barbastellus* and *M. mystacinus* and *M. brandtii*, new information on the distribution of *Myotis alcathoe* in Europe, studies of the importance of forest dwelling ants in the diet of *Myotis myotis* in Israel, foraging habits of *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* in the west coast of Norway.

The Group asked for information on how the previous review was funded and what would be the procedure for commissioning such work, if an update of the report needs to be undertaken.

Re. **Action 4.** The Group suggested that all Parties and Range States should be encouraged to contact their forestry sectors to ensure that they use the EUROBATS blog to publicise events, research and conservation action relevant to bats and forestry.

The Group has requested short case study summaries to illustrate examples of success in relation to forestry management and bats. A format with an example will be circulated to encourage others to provide similar studies. Case studies were promised by UK, Belgium, Poland and Sweden. (Information may include country, region, habitat, bat species, action, results, who will be undertaking and funding, pictures, maps, published reports or references, though it is not essential that all these are included.)

The Group proposed to use a questionnaire to obtain information on all the above. A small group will produce the questionnaire to send out to all Parties and Range States by the end of July. The questionnaire can be promoted at the European Bat Research Symposium in August.

c. IWG on Monitoring and Indicators

Members present: Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT)*, Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS)*, Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine), Dr. Martin Cel'uch (Slovak Republic), Ms. Marina Đurovic (Montenegro), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Serbia, not present), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms.

Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK).

Not permanent members present: Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Mr. Abdellah El Mastour (Morocco), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakarkis (Greece), Ms. Monika Lesz (Poland), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Mr. Per Ole Sylvertsen (Norway).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting: Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Dr. Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Dr. Viktor Dzimianchyk (Belarus), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Dr. Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Mr. Andrei Kandaurov (Georgia), Dr. Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia)

The IWG first reviewed the aim of the IWG's PEMBUS and IWG Indicators and the work done since AC15. The goals of the IWG's were laid out in Resolution 5.4: monitoring bats across Europe and in Resolution 6.13. The previously agreed aims have been to initiate a Pan-European monitoring scheme, bringing together existing monitoring schemes and starting up new monitoring programmes in countries that have none. In 2008, a feasibility study was done, and it was decided to start with trends from hibernacula counts, as these are most similar across Europe. The indicators group originally established to share knowledge on opportunities for incorporating bat data in biodiversity indicators, and to create a framework that would support the development of a Pan-European indicator based on bat population trends. Resolution 6.13 undertook to promote the use of bat indicators and take forward the development of a Pan-European indicator.

After the AC15, the conveners of the IWGs, Dr. Karen Haysom and Dr. Jasja Dekker, visited Statistics Netherlands, who have developed Pan-European trends and indexes for butterflies and birds. Statistics Netherlands informed us that the quality of data being gathered on bats is at least as good as was available for butterflies and birds when these indicators were initiated. In their opinion, bat data already available (e.g. hibernation counts) would be suitable for the development of a Pan-European indicator. Also, their experiences in these projects helped the conveners to further identify possible pitfalls but also new approaches and challenges. An important issue in the past was data sharing, data ownership, publication rights, etc. Statistics Netherlands have developed free analysis software TRIM which enables participants to produce and contribute their own national

indices for calculation of Pan-European trends. Using this approach avoids the need to share the raw census data to the collective (although sharing raw data also opens other opportunities). Statistics Netherlands can be hired to assist in future analyses of the Pan European data. Plecotus (Wallonie), Natuurpunt (Vlaanderen), Dutch Mammal Society (Netherlands) are now combining their hibernacula counts in marl mines as a pilot study. This is a discrete piece of work which allows some technical issues of trend combining to be highlighted and resolved, before bringing together a bigger group (6-8) of countries to develop a prototype European index. Dr. Karen Haysom has recently made contact again with European Environment Agency which is responsible for the SEBI 2010 indicators that measure progress against CBD objectives. SEBI2010 is beginning the process of refocusing its indicators on the recent CBD targets from Nagoya and emerging European Biodiversity Strategy, but is still interested in the possibility of using bat trend data. KH has been asked to indicate which countries would be in an immediate position to contribute data to an indicator (time series analysed using TRIM). EEA may be able to help signpost us towards funds that could help take forward an indicator.

As the work and goals of IWG PEMBUS and IWG Bats as Indicators overlap, the conveners of these two IWG's proposed to establish one new IWG, working towards the goals of the two 'old' IWGs. This proposal was agreed at the AC.

As funding the whole PEMBUS in one project was unsuccessful, the IWG proposes to separate the work into three smaller parallel projects:

1. Development of a prototype pan European bat population indicator based on existing data. The plan for this will be to host a workshop aimed at those running hibernacula counts to agree approaches to combining data. Contributors to the index would use the statistical package TRIM to produce national trends, and these would be combined by a central statistical team to create pan European trends. The first contributors to the index are likely to be those groups who already use TRIM, but the workshop will also include training in TRIM to make wider participation possible.
2. Build capacity for monitoring in countries which do not currently have national monitoring schemes.
3. Develop a data sharing structure for census data, with statistical tools to calculate pan-European and regional (and if participants want them, national trends), managed by Batlife Europe for ongoing data sharing, as layout out in the feasibility plan written for

EUROBATS, that was agreed by AC14.

For project (1), the IWG will update the list of existing hibernacula monitoring schemes, look for funding for one or more workshops in which people are trained in using TRIM, and where the weighting of country data, the combination of sibling species etc., are discussed. Outcome: first trends and indices across Europe. A good opportunity would be to do that back to back with the conference in Vilnius, or if too soon other similar events which bring participants together to minimise travel costs. Alternatively the workshop(s) could also be held at a country where hibernacula counts are not yet in place in order to raise awareness in local bat workers and government. Convener Dr. Jasja Dekker will circulate TRIM link and its manual among those interested. The outcomes will then be used as a showcase, to acquire further funds for expanding the number of countries taking part in the trend analysis.

For project (2), every country with a need to build monitoring capacity will look for funding possibilities, as will countries with funding programmes for building capacity. In the following months, volunteers from the IWG will research funding opportunities, such as Dutch and Swiss funds aimed at Natura2000 in new EU member states, funds for non-EU states, etc. The group strongly request parties wanting to build capacity to inquire at their own governments about possible funds.

Project (3) will be most complex to fund. In the following months, members of the IWG will research funding opportunities.

The IWG notes there will be species that will not be covered by hibernacula counts, but defers this issue for now. The long-term aim would be to expand the process to be more comprehensive, but starts with hibernation data because this is the most widespread monitoring practiced among countries.

Four year action plan:

- To update the list of countries needing capacity to establish monitoring.
- To establish capacity programmes.
- To update the list of countries/NGOs already monitoring and willing to contribute to Pan-European trends.
- To organise at least one workshop for those countries/NGOs that are currently monitoring to agree technical aspects of data combination and train in using TRIM.
- To build a data sharing and analysis database for ongoing management, sharing, and

analysis of monitoring data.

d. IWG on Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats

Members (present at the IWG meeting): Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino)*, Ms. May Abido (Syria), Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Dr. Sandra Balzer (Germany), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine), Dr. Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Dr. Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Dr. Martin Cel'uch (Slovak Republic), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Ms. Marie-Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Mr. Wael M. Shohdi Elsheikh (Egypt), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Ms. Julia Hanmer (UK), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Dr. Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Carmi Korine (Israel), Dr. Hubert Krättli (Switzerland), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Dr. Eran Levin (Israel), Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Dr. Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Andrea Pauly (Germany), Mr. Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Prof. Paul Racey (UK), Prof. Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues_(Portugal), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK), Dr. Adwan Shehab (Syria), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Mr. Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Mr. Jens Trasberger (Germany), Dr. Davit Yavruyan (Armenia), Ms. Maša Ždravević (Montenegro).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting (present at IWG): Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway)

After recalling the Resolution 6.8 on “Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats”, the group discussed the necessity to continue to work on this topic with an appropriate IWG and, if yes, what would be the working time table.

The group also recalled that a lot of information should still be collected particularly with regard to possible movements among the new boundaries and taking in account new species present in the geographical borders of the Agreement. It was accepted that the group would have to continue and it was programmed that next year new information on bat movements would be collected from among the colleagues.

The group will seek to prepare a new questionnaire for scientific focal points so as to revise the available information on bats movements. New evidence, mostly related to the use of modern genetic techniques, has revealed the existence of movements between European populations and Near East localities, thus opening new perspectives. Moreover, the use of isotopes is considered very promising.

Also, as migration and transboundary movements are the fundamentals of the agreements, it was suggested that this should be taken into account when judging EPI projects.

e. IWG on Autecological Studies for Priority Species

Members (present): Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France)*, Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), Mr. Peter Kanuch (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic of San Marino), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Dr. Nikola Tvrtković (Croatia).

Attended meeting, but not permanent members: Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Mr. Wael M. Shohdi Elsheikh (Egypt), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Dr. Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Dr. Eran Levin (Israel), Mr. Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria).

Two main issues have been considered by the WG: (1) revising the list of priority species, (2) publishing a synthesis of the current knowledge on the three previous top-priority species.

The list of priority species, that proved to be useful for fund raising to carry on autecological studies, will be revised. This list has not been updated for a long time despite the successive additions of new species to the list of the Agreement. It will include species of the European (and possible Mediterranean) red list as well as species with status 'data deficient'.

The project of publishing the current knowledge on autecology of the three species, *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Miniopterus schreibersii* and *Myotis capaccinii*, including many unavailable results at the international level, has been discussed. This should not overlap with the publication prepared by the WG on critical feeding areas by the coverage and the format. Both the revised list and a synopsis of the publication will be discussed at the next AC meeting.

f. IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Members (present): Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal)*, Lothar Bach (Germany), Mr. Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Dr. Martin Cel'uch (Slovak Republic), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM), Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis (Cyprus), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Lauri Lutsar (Estonian Fund for Nature), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting: Mr. Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Ms. Julia Hanmer (BCT, UK), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Mr. Oliver Schall (Germany), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Ms. Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Ms. Marie Nedinge (Sweden)

The group decided to implement the following work-plan:

Sub-group	Coordinator (c) and members
Update/reorganising of the list of references	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage Laurent Biraschi
Compilation of data on bat mortality per country	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (c) Lothar Bach
Updating of tables on monitoring studies done in Europe and on bats' behaviour in relation to windfarms	Anna Nele Herdina (c) Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage Laurent Biraschi
Mitigation and compensation measures	Luisa Rodrigues (c) Lothar Bach Martin Cel'uch Dino Scaravelli
Estimation of mortality rate taking into consideration predation, efficiency and controlled area; choose of best estimator for Europe	Lothar Bach (c) Luisa Rodrigues Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen Martin Cel'uch Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis (to be confirmed)
Impact of mortality rate on populations	Martin Cel'uch (c) Lothar Bach Luisa Rodrigues Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis (to be confirmed)
Deterrents	Lothar Bach (c) Luisa Rodrigues Dino Scaravelli

Table on maximum foraging distances of species	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (c) Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen Jacques Pir (to be confirmed)
Collect national guidelines (including information on feathering/stopping WTs)	Andrzej Kepel (c) Branko Mićevski
Use of dogs vs humans during carcass searches	Martin Cel'uch
Update of guidelines	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage Luisa Rodrigues Lothar Bach Martin Cel'uch Andrzej Kepel Branko Mićevski

g. IWG on Light Pollution

Members (present in IWG meeting): Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino)*, Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium)*, Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Dr. Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Ms. Marianne Courouble (France), Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Mr. Pascal Hirsch (BAFF, Germany), Dr. Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Carmi Korine (Israel), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Ms. Monika Lesz (Poland), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK), Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (UK), Dr. Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Ms. Andrea Pauly (Germany), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN), Dr. Laurent Schley (Luxembourg), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT, UK), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Mr. Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Dr. Davit Yavruyan (Armenia), Ms. Maša Ždravčić (Montenegro).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting: Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia).

The group reviewed the indications coming from the past work and the need to arrive at a resolution for the next MoP.

The task of the IWG remains to collect information and evidence on the direct and indirect impact of lights on bat populations. It was proposed also to collect information on the legal

or social necessity of lighting and information on which power levels and spectrum are used e.g. on roads, settlements or agricultural working areas.

Since the last AC Meeting, new projects investigating the impact of light pollution on bats were started. In Italy, an EPI funded project is producing a report on the lighting of cultural heritage buildings; in Netherlands a project on light of different wave lengths has started; while in Poland the lighting of buildings is an important part of a project on bats and churches. An important LIFE project on light pollution and fauna will begin this year in Slovenia. Evidence from literature was also presented on the direct problems caused to roosts and commuting routes by light.

The group discussed and approved the idea to build up a publication for the EUROBATS series on this topic in the next four years. It will include the results of the ongoing projects and provide general guidelines and examples of best practice. A work programme and time table for the publication will also be prepared before the next AC.

The IWG will also cooperate with other stakeholders such as insect and astronomy discussion groups, as these are considered important allies to create a strong lobby for this problem.

h. IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

Present (permanent members): Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland)*, Prof. Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France) Dr. Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ms. Jean Mathews (UK), Prof. Branko Micevski (Macedonia), Dr. Laurent Schley (Luxembourg), Mr. Per-Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

Permanent members of the group not present at the IWG meeting: Danilo Russo (Italy), Henry Schofield (The Vincent Wildlife Trust).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting: Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Mr. Wael M. Shohdi Elsheikh (Egypt), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino).

First, the convenor of the group gave a short introduction on the group's work, which

started with a literature review and then continued by writing species accounts for a guidance document on the conservation and management of critical feeding areas, core areas around colonies and commuting routes. The group reread Resolution 6.7. Referring to the working group, the resolution “encourages the Advisory Committee to complete their work on this important area and to publish generic guidance as soon as possible”.

The group discussed the guidance document; species accounts and the structure of the other chapters based on the working documents in googledocs. The list of species and responsible authors for the species accounts was checked. Most species for which information available are now covered. The convenor will update the list according to the species list adopted at the MoP. Some changes were made to the index of the other chapters of the guidance document, for example to the best practice section. The IWG now has representatives from the working groups on the impact on bat populations of the use of antiparasitic drugs for livestock, autecological studies of priority species and bat conservation and sustainable forest management. These group members will be able to check that topics arising from their groups’ work are included in the guidance document, where appropriate. The group also agreed on a work plan which is presented in the following table:

Task	Deadline
Writing the missing species accounts	15.5.2011
Writing chapters of the guidance document	15.6.2011
Updating the literature review and the reference list	15.9.2011
Commenting the draft	31.12.2011
First draft ready	AC17

i. IWG on Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts

Members (present): Dr. Henry Schofield (UK)*, Mr. Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Dr. Martin Cel’uch (Slovak Republic), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Ms. Julia Hanmer (BCT), Dr. Christine Harbusch (Germany), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Mr. Pascal Hirsch (Germany), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Dr. Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Dr. Eran Levin (Israel), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Aleksander Rachwald (Poland), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), Mr. Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Mr. Andrei Ursache (Moldova), Ms. Maša Ždravević (Montenegro).

Not members but to be informed of IWG activities after the meeting: Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS), Dr. Laurent Schley (Luxembourg), Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN).

The IWG discussed the contents and structure of the questionnaire to be sent out to gather information on successful designs for bat houses. This will be sent to the Scientific Focal Points but also to key individuals or organisations involved in designing and constructing purposed-built roosts.

A draft of the questionnaire will be sent out to all IWG members for comment following the AC16. This will then be submitted to the Secretariat for distribution.

Dr. Martin Cel'uch, Dr. Andrzej Kepel, Dr. Eran Levin and Dr. Henry Schofield will process and carry out the initial analysis of the contents of returned questionnaires prior to AC17. The results of this analysis will be presented to the IWG at AC17.

The work plan for the IWG is the following:

Year 2011

- Develop the questionnaire- AC 16.
- Draft of questionnaire sent to IWG members- June 2011.
- Draft revised and final questionnaire completed and submitted to Secretariat- July 2011
- Martin Cel'uch, Andrzej Kepel, Eran Levin and Henry Schofield to carry out initial analysis of returned questionnaires and prepare report to IWG in time for AC17.

Year 2012

- Presentation of results of questionnaire analysis to IWG- AC17.
- Review of case studies submitted with questionnaires to select appropriate examples for publication- AC17.
- Production of outline structure for publication and assigning responsibilities for the various sections- AC17.
- Writing of first drafts of publication sections- March 2012.
- Publication draft compiled in time for IWG at AC18.

Year 2013

- Review of draft publication by IWG- AC18.
- Revisions completed and final document in time for AC19.

j. IWG on Impacts of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

Members (present): Ms Jean Matthews, (UK)*, Dr. Mounir Abi-Said (Lebanon), Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine), Dr. Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Dr. Martin Cel'uch (Slovak Republic), Dr. Aurora Dibra (Albania), Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Ms. Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Ms. Julia Hanmer (BCT), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Dr. Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Dr. Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Prof. Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (UK), Ms. Andrea Pauly (Germany), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Danilo Russo (Italy), Ms. Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Mr. Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Dr. Davit Yavruyan (Armenia).

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Resolution 6.14

Requests the Advisory Committee to develop and publish a EUROBATS booklet highlighting the effects of roads on bats and providing guidance on minimising the impact of infrastructure projects on bats.

There have been changes in personnel with this group and progress has been slow. Some countries did not respond to the questionnaire, however the responses received have been summarised and a chart produced analysing the responses. The work to update the table of references has continued. The Group requests that any new information on the impacts of roads on bats is forwarded to Slovenia or to the UK as convenor. An updated list will be sent round to members of the Group by the end of May 2011.

The publication structure was agreed at the AC15 and different chapters were allocated to various coordinators. This was reviewed by the IWG in the light of changes in personnel. The UK will co-ordinate the work overall. A copy of the structure of the publication and the list of those responsible for each section will be sent to members of the IWG. Requests will

be made to other EUROBATS colleagues for contributions, such as examples of good working practices in respect to road construction, including bat survey and monitoring and for photographs. Draft text will be produced by the end of November 2011.

k. IWG on Lethal Fungal Infections

Members (present): Prof. Paul Racey (IUCN)*, Mr. Emrah Çoraman (Turkey), Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS), Ms. Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM), Ms. Marina Đurović (Montenegro), Mr. Abdellah El Mastour (Morocco), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Ms. Julia Hanmer (BCT), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Ms. Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Dr Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Ms. Monika Lesz (Poland), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK), Dr. Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Aleksander Rachwald (Poland), Dr. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Republic San Marino), Dr. Schley (Luxembourg), Dr. Henry Schofield (VWT), Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia)

This meeting was attended by 27 delegates with the primary purpose of assessing the extent to which actions recommended by Resolution 6.6 were being addressed.

1. Awareness of threat of lethal fungal infections among bat conservation and caving communities: There was extensive evidence from delegates that information had been widely disseminated on websites, translated where appropriate, and in articles in the press and other media.
2. Awareness of threat among those visiting caves in North America acting as vectors of lethal fungal infections to Europe: Caves and mines in infected areas of North America have been closed to visitors and there has been wide publicity about White Nose Syndrome.
3. Raise awareness among operators of tourist caves in Europe of the potential threat from those who have visited caves in North America acting as vectors: It was felt that more needed to be done in this respect, for example by approaching the International Show Cave Association.
4. Encourage surveillance: There has been greatly increased surveillance throughout range states for the presence of fungal infections.

5. Identify laboratories with facilities to identify skin fungi: Several laboratories were receiving and processing samples, and a list of such laboratories will be posted on the EUROBATS website.
6. Planning for the contingency that a lethal fungal infection becomes established in Europe: Governments were reluctant to address this issue in the absence of widespread bat mortality.
7. Make best use of the scientific and technical findings that can improve knowledge of lethal fungal infections: the key paper on the situation in Europe will appear shortly on the open-access PLOS ONE website, and will include a useful list of references. Search for Puechmaille.

I. IWG on the Implementation of the Agreement

Members: Mr. Anthony Hutson (IUCN)*, Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland)*, Dr. Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Dr. Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Ms. Monika Lesz (Poland), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Mr. Oliver Schall (Germany), Ms. Jean Matthews (UK). The group was joined by the Executive Secretary for part of the meeting.

This new IWG was established to address Para 1b of *Resolution 6.16 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014)*. The paragraph states that 'The Advisory Committee should establish an Intersessional Working Group to review the implementation of the Agreement and relevant Resolutions and assess setting up a system to review requests for advice concerning the implementation addressed to the Secretariat from MoP6 onwards'.

The group's aims are:

1. To survey all resolutions adopted by the Agreement. It was agreed with the Secretariat that, as a first step, a list of all resolutions relevant to the Conservation and Management Plan would be compiled by the Secretariat with an annotation as to whether they are still valid, or are now invalid, or have been replaced by another resolution (and which one).
2. To review the obligations to Parties, to the AC and to the Secretariat.
3. To produce a simple checklist of obligations for incorporation into National Reports.
4. To discuss with the Chairmen of AC and Standing Committee the possibilities to develop a system to assess performance by Parties to meet obligations, and to establish an Implementations Committee to address special needs or cases, e.g. clear breaches of

obligations where these cannot be settled through the relevant Focal Points.

5. To produce by the next MoP, and using the above information, a 'guide' or 'handbook' to the Agreement and its adopted obligations, with some background and guidance on the expectations within those obligations.

Meanwhile, the IWG suggests that Parties concentrate on the development of implementation of the activities identified in the current Conservation and Management Plan (Resolution 6.16).

m. IWG to Review the Format of National Report

Members: Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France)*, Dr. Jasja Dekker (DMS), Mr. Abdellah El Mastour (Morocco), Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT), Dr. Andrzej Kepel (PTOP Salamandra), Ms. Monika Lesz (Poland), Ms. Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Dr. Laurent Schley (Luxembourg), Ms. Triinu Tõrv (Estonia).

According to the request of Resolution 6.10 the Advisory Committee is instructed to review the format of National Reports under four aims. The WG mainly examined the first aim in relation to the fourth that is "reducing the work load connected to reporting in general".

The proposals are to replace most of the text by synthetic tables, keeping three sections: (A) General Information, (B) Status of bat populations on a Party's territory, and (C) Actions taken to implement the Agreement.

Section B should be restricted to one table providing the status, habitat and roosts of each species and trends of their populations (the threats are shared by most countries and they are already known) and the paragraph "Collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data" that should include the "Research activity" (§11) due to redundancy.

Section C will be prepared by filling up the table that will be prepared by the WG on the implementation activities, including public awareness and cooperation with other states.

These tables could be completed by annexes including a list of recent publications and any other information that Parties would add.

The content of paragraph 7 should be evaluated through several reports in order to better explain what is requested.

Concerning the second and third aims of the resolution, it seems to the WG that the EU reporting obligations are far more complex than EUROBATS ones, and that harmonising

the contents and time schedules of National Reports with other international reporting obligations would not reduce the work load.

The WG suggests working again on the new format of National Reports in parallel with the WG on the implementation activities.

14. Date and venue of the 17th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Ireland offered to host the AC17 Meeting in 2012 in Ireland. The invitation was unanimously welcomed and accepted with much appreciation.

15. Any other business

Luxembourg heartily invited all delegates to the 85th Annual Meeting of the German Society of Mammalogy, to be held in Luxembourg, UNESCO world heritage site, from 13th-17th September 2011. More information can be found under <http://www.symposium.lu/dgs2011/>.

The Chair pointed out that as this was the first meeting after the MoP6, it would be appropriate to review the working relations between the Standing Committee and the Advisory Committee. Comments were requested.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS said that from the Secretariat's perspective, the establishment of a Standing Committee to deal with administrative and financial issues has proved to be very useful. However, he recognised that more efficient working arrangements could be developed particularly in their joint meeting before the MoP when resolutions are being prepared. Mr. Streit suggested the Standing Committee would meet one day earlier to allow them to conclude their discussions on administrative and financial matters. This would then allow the draft resolutions to be discussed in plenary. Several Parties supported this suggestion.

16. Adoption of the record of the Meeting

The record was adopted by consensus.

17. Close of the Meeting

The Executive Secretary thanked the participants for their strong commitment and progress achieved and the Secretariat team as well as the Georgian hosts for their excellent support.

The Vice Chair, Dr Ferdia Marnell thanked the delegates for their patience and hard work and said he looked forward to welcoming everyone to Ireland for AC17 in 2012.

The Chair expressed his thanks towards the Georgian hosts for the great hospitality and the support of the Secretariat with the selection of the venue and the organisation of the Meeting. He also thanked the Executive Secretary, Mr. Andreas Streit, and his staff members Ms. Tine Meyer-Cords and Ms. Ana Ferreira da Silva for their excellent team work that had made the Meeting so successful and wished them also much success with the still necessary post-meeting work. Furthermore, the Chair expressed his gratitude to the newly elected Vice-Chair, Dr. Ferdia Marnell, for his substantial input in the Meeting. The Chair thanked once more the resigned Vice-Chair, Dr. Luisa Rodrigues, for all the work she did for the Agreement so far. Finally, the Chair thanked the Conveners of the Intersessional Working Groups and the other participants for their fruitful contributions carrying forward the work of the Advisory Committee.

There being no further business the AC16 Meeting was closed at 18:49 hrs.

16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tbilisi, Georgia, 4 – 6 April 2011

List of Participants



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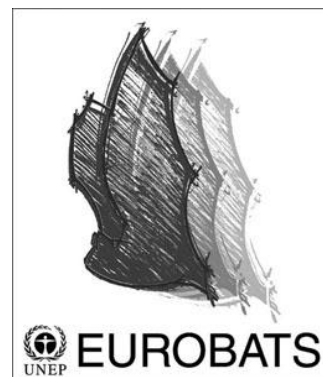
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16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tbilisi, Georgia, 4 – 6 April 2011

Updated List of Intersessional Working Groups

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