

20th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Budva, Montenegro, 23 – 25 March 2015

Report of the Intersessional Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators



The aims of the group and the work undertaken since the last Advisory Committee (see IWG report on the EUROBATS website) are:

1. Develop, and periodically update, a pan European population indicator based on existing data;
2. Build capacity for monitoring in countries which do not currently have national monitoring schemes;
3. Develop a data sharing structure for monitoring data;

A scientific paper based on the prototype bat indicator that was developed in 2011, and incorporating some previously unpublished analyses was accepted in a special edition of *Mammalian Biology* which focuses on indicators. It is currently available on early view online (see Meij et al. (in press) Return of the bats? A prototype indicator of trends in European bat populations in underground hibernacula, *Mammalian Biology* [doi:10.1016/j.mambio.2014.09.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mambio.2014.09.004)). We expect the journal volume will be published in full early this spring.

Aim 1: The conveners have discussed participation with several NGOs that were not in the prototype indicator. For aim 1 (develop a population indicator) the plan is to include more countries, more species and more monitoring methods. In the coming year a proposal for a project to do this will be submitted to several funding bodies by BatLife Europe. To keep momentum, the prototype bat indicator will be updated this summer.

Aim 2: A capacity workshop was organised by Vincent Wildlife Trust and BatLife Europe after the European Bat Research Symposium in Croatia, and hosted by Croatian colleagues. This provided training in both field skills and the analysis of monitoring data with TRIM/Birdstats. New opportunities to organise similar workshops (possibly within national or regional conferences) are welcomed.

Aim 3: no progress was made on aim 3.

We propose to retain this IWG in order to continue the work programme on the European indicator and provide support to all those with interests in monitoring. Much of the work will continue to be done outside the AC, and we will convene the group at ACs periodically as needed. We do not need to convene the IWG at this AC, as informal discussion will be held among the participants.