

22nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Belgrade, Serbia, 27 – 29 March 2017



Report of the Intersessional Working Group on 'Bats and Light Pollution'

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The aim of the group is to assess the potential impact of artificial light on bats in Europe and to develop guidelines for the bat-friendly application of artificial light at night.

The subgroups reviewed the literature related to the topic of the IWG and finalized a report that was sent to all IWG members in advance of the 22nd AC meeting.

Co-convenor of the IWG, Christian Voigt, organized a workshop at the IZW in Berlin, Germany, in November 2016 that was financially supported by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and by EUROBATS via money from the German BMUB. During the first day of this event, invited speakers reported the latest findings about the effect of artificial light at night on bats. Presented data was partly unpublished so that IWG members learned about the most recent advances in the field. This first day was open to the public.

During the two-day, non-public work following the scientific symposium, speakers and some IWG members met to discuss and file a first draft version of guidelines related to the bat-friendly use of artificial light at night. Further, the participants of this workshop finalized a draft for a resolution. Many thanks go to the participants of this event: Clementine, Azam, Jasja Dekker, Joanna Ferguson, Marcus Fritze, Franz Hölker, Gareth Jones, Noam Leader, Daniel Lewanzik, Fiona Mathews, Jens Rydell, Henry Schoefield, Kamiel Spoelstra, Maja Zagmajster (in alphabetical order).

After the workshop, the participants of the workshop continued their work on the guideline draft, which was submitted in conjunction with the resolution draft to the IWG members shortly before the meeting in Belgrade.