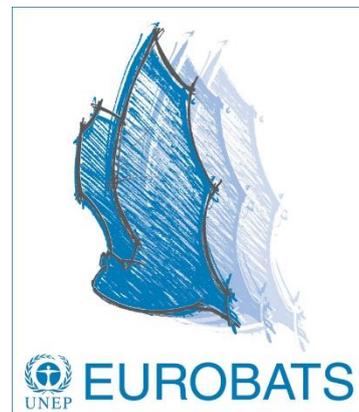


8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

Secretariat Report



Staff

There have been no staff changes in the reporting period.

Agreement Membership

Since the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties Israel has acceded to the Agreement, raising the number of Parties to 36. The accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be considered imminent since the national ratification process is completed and only the Instrument of Accession remains to be deposited. Serbia has informed that the accession is in an advanced stage. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

Outreach

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series and Leaflets continue to be highly demanded:

- The General Leaflet about EUROBATS has been revised and reprinted. 5,000 copies in English, 5,000 in German and 2,500 in French.
- Design and print of Publication Series No.6 (Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects – Review 2014), 2,000 copies in English. Launch at AC20.
- Layout and Publication of the EUROBATS Implementation Guide. Launch at AC20.
- The French and German versions of Publication Series No. 6 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects” were printed and disseminated.
- Publication Series No. 7 “Common Names of European Bats” was printed and disseminated.
- In 2017 reprints were made of the Forestry leaflet and of Publication Series No. 2, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 7. A total number of 11.000 copies were reprinted.

- 3673 publications were sent out by the Secretariat from the beginning of March 2017 to the beginning of April 2018.

For celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement and the 20th anniversary of International Bat Night in 2016, a special poster was designed and made available. The International Bat Night continues to be extremely successful. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website.

Special Projects

In 2014/2015 the Secretariat was able to finance and co-ordinate the following projects through EPI funding:

- Developing Monitoring Programmes and Analysing Trends in Bat Populations in the Dinarics – capacity building workshop, Skradin Croatia
- Trans-border collaboration in bat migration research in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region. The pilot project (Ukraine);
- Free-of-charge dissemination of scientific knowledge to European bat specialists through the World Bat Library (Geneva) and the EUROBATS network;
- Capacity Building for bat species monitoring in Northwest Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).
- “Let’s all be Bat-Men” – awareness raising in Bulgaria;
- Capacity Building for bat species monitoring in Northwest Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)
- *Plecotus sardus* on Sardinia – from knowledge to conservation
- Workshop for conservationists and foresters: Improving forest management for bats in the Netherlands;

These projects become possible thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Furthermore the Secretariat has supported the 4th Berlin Bat Meeting in March 2015.

The publication of the book “Bats in the Anthropocene: Conservation of Bats in a Changing World” has been financially supported by EUROBATS through a voluntary contribution from Germany.

For 2016/2017 the Secretariat was able to finance and co-ordinate the following projects through EPI funding:

- Survey of distribution and conservation status of bats in Armenia
- *Plecotus sardus* on Sardinia
- The “Carol” line: Assessing importance of at least 150 deserted bunkers for the conservation of the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border bat fauna

- *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the far north? Population size and habitat use of a maternity colony in the Pripiat floodplains in the South of Belarus
- Bats across borders: Study of south-eastern bat migration way in Eastern Europe in Ukraine and Russia
- Capacity building for the development of the guidelines for wind farm construction based on field study in Macedonia

Three projects were selected for funding in 2018 by the EPI assessment group, namely:

- Promoting awareness and capacity building for the conservation of bats in Northwest Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia). The project will be funded from the regular EUROBATS budget
- Bats of eastern Europe: Challenges for conservation (A thematic conference in Armenia), supported by the German voluntary contribution
- Migration in European bat populations: Estimating genetic relationships between French and Spanish populations of the endangered Greater noctule bat, funding is not yet secured

These projects become possible thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

In addition, the Secretariat has provided support to the 5th International Berlin Bat Meeting.

Joint EU-EUROBATS Species Action Plan on Bats

Already in 2013 the development of a joint Species Action Plan on Bats has started between the European Commission and EUROBATS. After further consultations among the experts and consultation with EU member states, the SAP is expected to be adopted by the EU Habitats Committee in the near future.

CMS Family Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

For the first time a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species for the entire CMS Family has been adopted at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS in November 2014.

Online Reporting System for National Implementation Reports

The online reporting system is fully operational and available for submitting National Implementation Reports which are due for MoP8 at <http://cms-ort.ort-production.linode.unep-wcmc.org/>.

EUROBATS at international bat conferences and collaboration with other Conventions and international bodies

The Scientific and Project Officer Dr. Suren Gazaryan has taken part in two major European scientific events. In February 2017, he took part in the 5th International Berlin Bat Meeting in Berlin with a poster presentation on EUROBATS. He was also invited to be a member of the Scientific Committee for preparing the 14th European Bat Research Symposium, held in Donostia, Spain from 1 to 4 August 2017. At the event, he presented results of his joint German-Georgian-Russian project conducted in 2010 - 2015.

Since 2017, the Scientific and Project Officer has been engaging with the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group as the European authority for helping with new listings and re-assessments of European species, which are planned for 2018.

Also since 2017 EUROBATS is a formal member of the CMS Renewable Energy Task Force and has participated in the second meeting of this expert group (Bonn, Germany, September 2017).

EUROBATS was also represented at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS (CoP12, Manila, Philippines, October 2017) where it was co-organiser of a side event on Bats and Wind Turbines.

At the UN Climate Change Conference (CoP23, Bonn, Germany, November 2017) The Executive Secretary represented the CMS Family in a side event on renewable energies and gave a presentation on Bats and Wind Turbines.