

Reports of Intersessional Working Group meetings that were convened during the AC Meeting

Report of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on the transboundary programme – habitats: Data compilation

The IWG met during the course of the Meeting and discussed the draft guidance on the protection and management of underground sites for bats. Comments received will be incorporated into the text by the convenor and the final draft will be presented to the MoP for approval and subsequent publication. The draft Resolution was also discussed and it was agreed that this should go forward with an alteration that reports on underground sites would be needed every second biennium (a six yearly [or 8 yearly] reporting cycle).

Report of the IWG on the Geographical Scope of the Agreement

The IWG met during the course of the Meeting. With reference to Doc.EUROBATS.AC11.10, the group confirmed that it felt that there should be no change to the Geographical Scope of the Agreement as defined at MoP2 (Doc.EUROBATS. MoP2.8.AnnexAFin).

The group urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to check the entries for their country in Annex 2. Similarly, Annex 1 should be checked (this annex provides a list of European species occurring in 13 range states that have territory within 500km of the Agreement area). It was noted that there is considerable overlap of species with countries adjacent to the Agreement area (Annex 1). With reference to the new book *Bat Migration in Europe*, it was noted that there is movement of bats in and out of the Agreement area recorded in the East, but that data is lacking for the South. There was discussion about whether to weight species with reference to their migratory tendency and also to their Red List status, but it was decided that this should not be done.

It was agreed that for MoP5 a Resolution should be prepared which would encourage the Secretariat to approach focal points in all 13 range states identified in Annex 1 with a view to encouraging collaboration.

It was noted that there is the potential for an African bats Agreement to be developed and that this may have bearing on the future geographical scope of the European Agreement.

Report of the IWG on Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels

The IWG met during the Meeting and drafted a Resolution for monitoring bats across Europe.

Report of the IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

The IWG met during the Meeting. Draft guidelines will be prepared through email correspondence and submitted to MoP5.

Report of the IWG on Impact on Bat Populations of Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock

The IWG met during the course of the Meeting. The group considered whether antiparasitic drugs for livestock are likely to be a problem for bats. It concluded that they have potential to be a problem, for example if used close to a maternity roost of Greater horseshoe bat, but that they are not currently the greatest threat to bats. Additional information is needed to understand the potential impacts. For example, more knowledge is required of variability of species' diets across their range. It was suggested also that AC members could ask other organisations, for example those working on birds (such as Birdlife International) and insects, and veterinary officers with a sympathy with the concerns, to share their experiences of this problem. A bibliography of over 280 publications has been compiled.

The group considered linkage with the IWG on critical feeding areas, which will produce guidance on conservation and management of feeding areas.

A report will be produced for MoP5 containing the following items:

1. Analysis of questionnaire responses
2. Details of which bats might be affected (begun in Annex 2 of Doc.EUROBATS.AC11.14 by Christine Harbusch) and suggestions as to methods to alleviate the concerns
3. List of recommended research priorities (Tony Hutson)
4. Bibliography and literature review of papers referring to bats (Dino Scaravelli)

Parties and Non-Party Range States are requested to send any information or updates on any of these items to the appropriate person listed above.

Report of the IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

The IWG met during the Meeting with other delegates and a discussion took place on comments received concerning the draft guidelines. A new document will be drafted for MoP5.

Report of the IWG on the Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

In the meeting of the IWG the list of references collected so far was checked. Several new contributions were made during AC11. The provisional list of elements to be included in the guidance for national guidelines (see Doc. EUROBATS.AC11.16) was discussed and the group agreed to include karstic landscapes to the section dealing with the conservation of different types of environments important for bats. The responsibilities for the sections of the guidance were decided.

Plan of action

After AC11 Meeting the convenor will send an updated version of the list of references with marks on the articles not reviewed yet. Also the literature review Excel sheet will be sent to the group. The drafting of guidance for national guidelines will be started based on the revised list of elements. A draft version of the guidance will be submitted to the Meeting of Parties.

Report of the IWG on Bats as Indicators

This new IWG met to discuss the range of interests in this theme. Twenty-five delegates attended and the meeting benefited from the contribution of guest Dr. James Williams (JNCC and Chair of SEBI2010 Expert Group on Species). Dr. Williams provided information on background to the development of indices for birds and butterflies.

The general aim of the group was established:

- To investigate and take forward opportunities to use bats as biodiversity indicators
- To circulate information on opportunities for participation in index initiatives
- To connect with other relevant IWGs recognising areas of common interest.

As a first step the convenor has been requested to send background information and a list of key reference materials to participants. She will draw up and circulate a short questionnaire to capture the opinions of the group and to identify potential sources of existing data that could support the aims of the group. Information will be collated prior to the next IWG meeting.