

14th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tochni / Larnaca, Cyprus, 11 – 13 May 2009

Progress and future operation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)



Since its launch in August 2008, EPI has had an impressive start. The Secretariat has received 25 project proposals until March 2009 and was able to raise additional 25.400 EUR in voluntary contributions on top of the usual yearly 30.600 EUR. Some of the projects are already in the implementation phase or their start is imminent. For some other proposals partial funding has been secured, but matching funds are still required. And for a large number of projects no funds could be secured until now. An overview of all EPI project applications is attached at Annex 1).

In view of the large number of project applications, the surprisingly high level of funds being made available by Parties and the first experiences gained in the day to day EPI management, the Secretariat has come to the conclusion that the EPI framework needs to be further refined and formalised to ensure its continuing success. Based on comments received from donor countries concerning the nature, geographical target areas as well as the quality of the project applications, it appears necessary to establish an initial filtering and prioritisation procedure on the basis of refined criteria before the applications are transmitted to the potential donors.

For this purpose the Secretariat would like to suggest that the Advisory Committee establishes a sub-committee that will carry out the filtering and prioritisation as described above. Ideally this new sub-committee would start its work already during AC 14. The Standing Committee has strongly supported this proposal at its 3rd Meeting (Bonn, 31 March 2009) and has authorised the use of accrued interest income from the Trust Fund for voluntary contributions. This means that the sub-committee will be in the position to make recommendations for the use of expected additional 15.000 EUR.

Annex 1 (EPI applications and status as per 05.05.2009)

1. Projects that are already fully funded

- Raising awareness of bats and the necessity for their protection in **Cyprus**
- Bat Survey and Public Relation Project in Strandja Nature Park / **Bulgaria**
- Bat rabies workshop (**Ukraine**)
- Research of forest dwelling bat species with special respect to *N. lasiopterus* (**Hungary**)
- Bats and pesticides (**Germany**)
- Pond bats (*Myotis dasycneme*) around Saint-Petersburg (**Russia**)

2. Projects for which matching funds are still required

- Bats of **Albania** (planned project duration 3 years, full amount 10,000 €; received 3,000€ from France for 2009)
- Bats and lightning of monumental buildings (**Italy**) (3,000€ received from France, still to raise 7,000€)
- Habitat use of pond bats in northern **Poland** (planned project duration 3 years, full amount 20,705 €; asked EUROBATS for 10,000 € and received 2,640€ from BCI)

3. Projects for which no funds are available until now

- Bats of the Bou Hedma National Park (**Tunisia**) – 3,900 €
- Project for the conservation of tree roosting bats (**Portugal**) – 11,100 €
- Stories for children as a method of awareness raising (**Hungary**) 3,900 €
- Habitat selection and preferences of Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*) (**Slovakia**) – 5,000 €
- Helping children to become fond of bats in relation to learning English (**Hungary**) – 10,000 €
- Behaviour of a Pond bat colony between spring and autumn (**Hungary**) – 10,000 €
- Conservation aimed inventory of *R. euryale* effectives in South-Western **Romania** – 10.00 €
- Completion of the proposed Sites of Community Interest in **Romania** with bat data – 10,000 €
- Bat monitoring in the karst region of the *Colli Berici* hills (north-east of **Italy**) – submitted by Poland – 10,000 €
- Survey of Vezzena plateau bat fauna (**Italy**) – 6,100 €
- Forest bats and forest management (**Italy**) – 7,000 €
- Detecting cryptic species and evolutionary significant units (ESU's) in bats from central and southern **Italy** – 10,000 €
- Distribution and consistency of the *R. hipposideros* population in the Maritime Alps (**Italy**) – 10,000 €
- Importance and Special Protection Area of Valle Scurosa (**Central Italy**) – 10,000 €
- Survey and conservation of Bat roosts in the karstic caves of Rio Garrafo (**Italy**) – 10,000 €
- Bat biology and active conservation in primary and secondary schools (**Italy**) – 10,000 €