

Report of the Scientific Working Group

The Working Group met on the 4th and 5th September, being chaired by Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands).

List of those present: Dr. Nikola Tvrković (Croatia), Dr. Josef Chytil (Czech Republic), Ms. Kaja Lotman (Estonia), Ms. Eva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Prof. Stephane Aulagnier (France), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Dr. Peter Boye (Germany), Mr. Johannes Treß (Germany), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Dr. Gunars Petersons (Latvia), Prof. Dainius Pauza (Lithuania), Ms. Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Prof. Branko Micevski (Macedonia, FYR), Dr. Dumitru Murariu (Romania), Dr. Lubomira Vavrová (Slovak Republic), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Ms. Maja Zagmajster (SDPVN, Slovenia), Ms. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Dr. Jane Goodwin (UK), Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (UK), Mr. Robert Raynor (UK), Dr. Friederike Spitzenberger (Austria), Ms. Solmaz Mammadova (Azerbaijan), Prof. Irina Rakmatulina (Azerbaijan), Mr. Jasminko Mulaomerovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Dr. Milan Paunovic (Serbia), Mr. Branko Karapandza (Mustela, Serbia), Ms. Marie-José Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Italy), Ms. Amy Coyte (BCT, UK), Dr. Katie Parsons (BCT, UK), Mr. Tony Hutson (IUCN/SSC, UK), Dr. Jessamy Battersby (JNCC, UK).

Relevant Draft Resolutions were discussed, amendments made where appropriate and then taken forward to the Plenary for adoption. Where further discussion was required, Intersessional Working Groups met and reported back to the Scientific Working Group on the outcomes of their discussions.

Draft Resolution 5.2: Bat Rabies in Europe (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.8.Rev.3)

Mr. Peter Lina introduced the Draft Resolution, which was accepted after some minor amendments to the wording of the Resolution text and the attached Annexes. The document was passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 5.3: Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.9 and Inf.EUROBATS.MoP5.9.Rev.1)

Mr. Tony Hutson introduced the Draft Resolution, which was accepted following minor amendments to the text of the relevant information document. Germany wished to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Tony Hutson and the others on the Intersessional Working Group for their hard work in producing such a helpful and clear summary of the taxonomic situation for European bats. The documents were passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 5.4: Monitoring Bats across Europe (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.10)

The Draft Resolution was accepted without change and passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 5.5: Amendment to Resolution 4.6: Guidelines for the issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.11.Rev.2)

The Draft Resolution was accepted following minor amendments to the text and passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 5.6: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations. (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.12.Rev.3)

The Draft Resolution was accepted following minor amendments and the addition of a request to the Advisory Committee. It was then presented to the Plenary by Germany.

Draft Resolution 5.7: Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance. (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.13.Rev.1)

Dr. Ferdia Marnell introduced the Draft Resolution, which was based on a draft report that had been produced by the Intersessional Working Group. He noted that Range States needed to address some factors that were highlighted in the report. He drew attention to the fact that the report was biased towards Western Europe and requested further case studies from eastern and southern Europe in order to make the report recommendations relevant across the EUROBATS range.

The Draft Resolution was accepted following minor amendments to the text and passed to the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 5.10: Establishment of the EUROBATS Implementation Advisory Board (EIAB)

A small working group was set up to look at the issue and report back to the Scientific Working Group. The group comprised Dr. Peter Boye (Germany), Ms. Amy Coyte (BCT, UK), Dr. Jane Goodwin (UK), Mr. Tony Hutson (UK, IUCN), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands), Ms. Kaja Lotman (Estonia), Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (UK).

After discussion the group proposed the setting up an Intersessional Working Group under the EUROBATS Scientific Advisory Committee to:

- Approach UNEP/CMS to consider a central mechanism for all the Agreements to deal with requests for advice.

- Approach the Bern Convention and ask how they currently operate their mechanism in dealing with requests for advice concerning implementation and to ask to be informed of all bat cases. To liaise closely with the Bern Convention Secretariat.
- Develop criteria for assessing cases.
- Review how to approach measuring progress of Parties against commitments.
- Make recommendations on how to proceed in the future.
- Review the requests for advice communicated to the Secretariat from MoP5 onwards.

These recommendations were reflected by a paragraph added to the Conservation and Management Plan 2007 - 2010.

The representative from the Council of Europe expressed her interest in cooperating with the UNEP/CMS Agreements on this subject.

The approach was agreed by the Group and taken forward for discussion at the Plenary.

Draft Resolution 5.11: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.17.Rev.2)

Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones introduced the Draft Resolution, which was accepted following minor alterations to the text and with the addition of a paragraph concerning reviewing the implementation of the Agreement.

Draft Resolution 5.12: Geographical Scope of the Agreement (Doc.EUROBATS.MoP5.20.Rev.1)

Mr. Tony Hutson introduced the Draft Resolution, which was accepted with minor amendments to the Annex. Germany was concerned that the Draft Resolution might restrict the involvement of countries outside the designated geographical scope of the Agreement. After some discussion it was noted that the Articles of the Agreement do not preclude countries outside the geographical scope from acceding to the Agreement. The example of the Bern Convention, which has a similar geographical scope and which has African countries as Parties, was cited.

Agenda item 13: Protecting and managing underground sites for bats

Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones advised that a draft of the manual had been supplied for the Meeting. He was anticipating that the draft would be agreed for publication and requested any final comments on the draft. He informed the Group that English and French versions of the manual would be available. All Parties agreed to the draft after minor amendments and Germany advised that a German version will also be available in the near future. The MoP recalled that the guidelines shall be published in English, French and German. It will be checked whether a publication in Russian is possible.

Agenda item 14: Impact on bat populations of the use of antiparasitic drugs for livestock

The Intersessional Working Group met to discuss this subject and reported back to the Scientific Working Group. Registered members of the group attending were: Mr. Tony Hutson (Convenor), Ms. Marie-José Dubourg-Savage (SFPEM, France), Dr. Jane Goodwin (UK), Dr. Christine Harbusch (Germany), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands), Ms. Kaja Lotman (Estonia), Dr. Katie Parsons (BCT, UK), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Italy).

A draft interim report was discussed, particularly in relation to the results of a questionnaire that had been distributed to all Parties and Non-Party Range States, to potential research projects, to potential means of alleviating the impact of these drugs and to the further gathering of relevant information and external contacts. The work of the group will continue into the next four years period.

Taking Forward a Pan-European Monitoring Project for Underground Sites

In connection with Draft Resolution 5.4, Monitoring Bats across Europe, BCT provided the Group with background information on workshops that had taken place and development of a way forward to implement a pan-European Monitoring project for Underground Sites (Inf.EUROBATS.MoP5.58). A feasibility project is proposed with the aim of producing a detailed project proposal to submit to EU Life Plus and other potential funders in September / October 2007. If successful the full project would commence in the Global Year of the Bat in 2008.

BCT noted that expressions of interest in participating in the project had previously been made by the UK and The Netherlands and requested further support.

The Republic of Ireland supported the project and confirmed that the Irish government will be able to financially contribute. The government can justify this commitment because the project will help to EU Habitats Directive obligations.

Germany supported the tremendous collaborative project and reported that the Ministry in Germany responsible for the development of the Life Plus programme had indicated that the concept met with the Life Plus criteria. However, Life is only 50% funding and further funding would need to be secured. The feasibility project will need to investigate this.

Further support was also offered by Estonia and symbolic offers were made by the NGOs Wildlife Conservation Society, MUSTELA (Serbia), Gruppo Italiano Ricerche Chiroteri (Italy), the Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation and CAMPESTER (Georgia).

The need for long-term government commitment to such work was highlighted.

BCT advised that it will continue to work to secure further funds to take forward the feasibility project.

Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels

The Intersessional Working Group met to discuss progress with drafting the guidelines, which have relevance for Draft Resolution 5.4, Monitoring Bats across Europe.

Present: Dr. Jessamy Battersby (UK, Convenor), Prof. Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Dr. Peter Boye (Germany), Dr. Josef Chytil (Czech Republic), Ms. Amy Coyte (BCT, UK), Ms. Marie-José Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Ms. Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Dr. Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Ms. Tony Hutson (UK, IUCN), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Mr. Branko Karapandža (WCS Mustela, Serbia), Ms. Eeva-Marie Kyheröinen (Finland), Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Dr. Anthony Mitchell-Jones (UK), Dr. Dumitru Murariu (Romania), Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Dr. Milan Paunović (Serbia), Prof. Danius Pauza (Lithuania), Dr. Gunārs Pētersons (Latvia), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Mr. Rob Raynor (UK), Dr. Friederike Spitzenberger (Austria), Dr. Lūbomíra Vavrová (Slovak Republic), Ms. Maja Zigmajster (Slovenia).

The group met and discussed the revised guidelines. The original intention was to have final draft guidelines for adoption by the Parties at MoP5. However, although the latest draft was close to finalisation there was still some work to be done. The guidelines include information on reasons for carrying out surveillance and monitoring, factors to consider when developing surveillance schemes, a list of surveillance methods, a list of all European species with appropriate methods and some examples of surveillance

schemes in operation in different countries. The guidelines will be published in due course on the EUROBATS website and will be updated periodically. The completed draft guidelines will be presented to AC12 for adoption.

Bats as Bioindicators

The Intersessional Working Group met to discuss development of this topic.

Those present: Dr. Katie Parsons (UK, BCT, acting Convenor), Ms. Maja Zagamajster (Slovenia), Mr. Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dr. Josef Chytil (Czech Republic), Ms. Kaja Lotman (Estonia), Dr. Suren Gazaryan (Russia), Prof. Stephane Aulagnier (France), Ms. Eeva-Maria Kyheroinen (Finland), Ms. Edmeé Engel (Luxembourg), Dr. Lůbomira Vavrová (Slovakia), Dr. Dumitru Murariu (Romania), Dr. Nikola Tvrtković (Croatia), Dr. Dino Scaravelli (Italy), Mr. Branko Karapandža (Serbia), Ms. Marie-José Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Mr. Jasminko Mulaomerovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Dr. Friederike Spitzenberger (Austria), Mr. Tony Hutson (UK, IUCN), Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland).

The Bats as Bioindicators IWG had its inaugural Meeting during AC11. During that Meeting the group's convenor, Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), agreed to provide some background information on biodiversity indicators, suggested sources of more information, and questions to capture the interests of the IWG. This information was provided in a document circulated to members of the AC11 IWG by email at the start of MoP5 and also in hard copy to members of the brief IWG meeting during the morning of 5 September at MoP5. The proposed aims of the IWG were presented for discussion and group members were requested to supply answers to the questions given in the information document to aid the future development of the IWG at AC12. The information document will be circulated via e-mail to the group to permit electronic return of answers. Group members were kindly asked to please send their responses as soon as possible to Dr. Karen Haysom and to Dr. Lůbomira Vavrová who between them will collate responses.