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11th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Rome, Italy, 28 April 2015

Secretariat Report

Staff

Since MoP7 there have been no changes in the Secretariat staff.

Agreement Membership

Effective 14 January Israel has become the 36th Party to the Agreement and the 1st Party from the extended Agreement Area. 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 Englisch, 5,000 in German and 2,500 in French.
- Reprint Publication Series No. 5, 500 copies in English.
- 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. French and German versions will be prepared after AC20 and StC11.
- Layout and Publication of the EUROBATS Implementation Guide. Launch at AC20/StC11.

The International Bat Night continues to be successful and growing every year again all over the Agreement area. 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).

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

In addition to the projects the Secretariat has supported the 4th Berlin Bat Meeting in March 2015.

A number of new project applications are under review by the EPI Project Evaluation Group.

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.