

11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

City of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 8 – 10 May 2006

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



Members

Stéphane Aulagnier (France); Jessamy Battersby (convenor- UK); Zoltán Bihari (Hungary); Peter Boye (Germany); Colin Catto (UK); Eva Cepakova (Czech Republic); Viktor Dziamianchyk (Belarus); Daniela Hamidovic (Croatia); Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany); Melanie Hardie (United Kingdom); Tony Hutson (IUCN); Branko Karapandza (Serbia and Montenegro); Andrzej Kepel (Poland); Herman Limpens (Netherlands); Lauri Lutsar (Estonia); Ferdia Marnell (Ireland); Matti Masing (Estonia); Edvardas Mickevicius (Lithuania); Dumitru T. Murariu (Romania); Jaques Pir; Primoz Presetnik (Slovenia); Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal); Dino Scaravelli (Italy); Yrjo Siivonen (Finland); Friederike Spitzenberger (Austria); Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania); Lubomira Vavrova (Slovakia); Bronislaw Woloszyn (Poland).

Draft guidelines

At AC 10 (Bratislava, April 2005), several actions were agreed.

- The group agreed a list of specialists to provide information on surveillance methods for each species. The convenor has contacted species specialists providing details of the information required. Many specialists have provided information, which is still being incorporated into the guidelines.
- The group has collated a great deal of information on different methods available and decided on the methods that should be recommended for general monitoring use.
- The structure of some parts of the guidelines has been considerably revised since the last AC meeting and the group is still making the necessary amendments.

The structure of the guidelines now:

1. Introduction – Why carry out surveillance and monitoring; international and European obligations etc.
2. Surveillance and Monitoring methods.
 - Factors to consider when setting up a surveillance programme. Detail on recommended methods, detail on other methods, detail on new methods. Mention of ringing, but not as a method for bat surveillance.
 - A summary list of species and methods
 - A section on technical issues, including bat detectors and netting – with reference to the EUROBATS ringing and netting resolution
 - Best practice guidelines when carrying out surveys
3. Data management, including collection, collation and analysis. Whether to use professional surveyors or volunteers, how to set up networks of volunteers etc. Also information on health and safety issues to consider.
4. Species accounts – including distribution maps for each species in the EUROBATS Agreement range, provided by IUCN (Tony Hutson) and adapted by Tony Mitchell-Jones, and recommended methods for each species, including other relevant information which might affect the use of the methods in different countries.
5. Examples of surveillance programmes from different countries including the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania.
6. References and bibliography
7. List of contributors

The guidelines will be approximately 80 -100 pages, possibly less if designed for publication. The work is ongoing, and is behind schedule, but it is intended that a final draft should be presented to MOP 5 for agreement.

Meetings

The IWG has met twice since the last AC. Members of the IWG who attended the 10th European Bat Research Symposium in Galway, Ireland in August 2005, met and discussed the content of the guidelines. The IWG is also very grateful to the UK government {Defra}for providing funding for a two day workshop that was held in the UK

in April 2006, run by the Bat Conservation Trust, and which was attended by many members of the IWG, as well as selected specialists.

Proposed future activities for EUROBATS

The group has considered a proposal for a pan-European surveillance project. The project would use the guidelines as a basis to produce standardised surveillance methods across Europe and incorporate the good work of the IWG on the Transboundary Programme – Habitats: Data compilation, in providing a database of important underground sites. A draft resolution recommending this future work will be presented to AC 11 for consideration to go forward to MOP 5.