

14th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tochni / Larnaca, Cyprus, 11 – 13 May 2009

Report of the IWG on Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods



Update

At AC 13 the IWG met and agreed a process to revise certain aspects of the guidelines, following concerns and comments at the AC from several Parties. The comments have now been incorporated into the guidelines as follows:

- The Site Species Richness (SSR) method has been incorporated in Chapter 3.
- The Danish example of using the SSR method has been incorporated in Chapter 3, excluding the data sheet diagram, which did not add much information and could not easily be formatted to fit in the document.
- The examples of bat monitoring programmes for Germany, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia have been included in Chapter 5 as per the text provided by specialists.
- All comments have been addressed where possible. The main exception is that ringing has not been included as a recommended method as requested by one Party. This is because the IWG had previously decided that ringing was not suitable as a monitoring method, would not provide information on population trends and was likely to cause too much disturbance to bats. Information is contained in the guidelines on how ringing can be used and the information it is likely to provide, but it is seen much more as a research tool than a surveillance or monitoring method.
- The resolution of the maps has not been increased nor the political borders removed. The skills and information required to do this work were not available to the Convenor. The maps were provided by the IUCN Global Mammal Assessment and it is recognised that they are already out of date. They should be revised properly in three years time when the guidelines are reviewed (see below) and the desired changes made at that time. The maps have been

correctly referenced in the text and comment on their accuracy has been included.

- Photos have not been included as yet none were sent to the Convenor as requested, but it is possible that the Secretariat has a library of photos for all European species and these could be incorporated into the guidelines.

Future steps

- The IWG requests that the guidelines are adopted by the Advisory Committee, with the possible inclusion of a photograph for each species in Chapter 4. The guidelines should then be placed on the EUROBATS website as a pdf.
- The guidelines should be reviewed regularly, every three to five years, to assess whether they need updating.
- The AC needs to consider whether the guidelines should be available in print. They are likely to be revised quite regularly as new methods are used or additional Parties/Range States want to include their monitoring schemes as examples and the maps also need to be updated. In such circumstances it is easier and cheaper if they are only available in pdf format on the website and this is the recommended course of action.
- If the guidelines are adopted, then the work of this IWG has been completed. However, the project to develop Pan European Monitoring of Bats in Underground Sites is gathering momentum and needs a focus at EUROBATS AC to provide information on progress with the project and to seek guidance and expert advice. The 'Monitoring Guidelines' IWG has the expertise to perform that role. It could also carry out the periodic revisions of the guidelines.