Doc.EUROBATS.AC16.8

16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tbilisi, Georgia, 4 – 6 April 2011

Report of the IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Members

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Subgroups

To simplify the work, several sub-groups were created:

Sub-group	**Coordinator (c) and members**
Preparation of a list of references	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage
Compilation of data on bat mortality per country	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (c) Lothar Bach
Evaluation/comparison of the 2 questionnaires (2005 & 2009)	Laurent Biraschi (c) Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen Lauri Lutsar Jacques Pir Martin Celuch Branko Mićevski Elvana Ramaj Per Ole Syvertsen Helena Jahelkova
Updating of tables on monitoring studies done in Europe and on bats´ behaviour in relation to wind farms	Christine Harbusch (c) Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage
Mitigation and compensation measures	Luisa Rodrigues (c) Lothar Bach Martin Celuch

Estimation of mortality rate taking into consideration predation, efficiency and controlled area	Lothar Bach (c) Luisa Rodrigues Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen Martin Celuch Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis
Impact of mortality rate on populations	Christine Harbusch (c) Lothar Bach Luisa Rodrigues Martin Celuch Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis
Deterrents	Lothar Bach (c) Luisa Rodrigues
Table on maximum foraging distances of species	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage
Collect national guidelines (including information on feathering/stopping WTs)	Andrzej Kepel (c) Branko Mićevski

Results

Results are presented by sub-group. Tasks of some sub-groups were already completed in previous reports.

Preparation of a list of references

Annex 1 is the update of the list of references which had been presented for the AC15 (Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.22.Rev.1). It includes new monitoring reports, scientific papers and regional/national recommendations.

Compilation of data on bat mortality per country

The following table updates the data per species and per country regarding bat fatalities found both accidentally and during post-construction monitoring studies. The IWG recalls the countries to send their data to complete the table.

Species	**A**	**CH**	**CR**	**CS**	**D**	**EST**	**F**	**GR**	**N**	**NL**	**P**	**S**	**SP**	**UK**	**Total**
R. ferrumequinum													1		**1**
R. mehelyi													1		**1**
M. daubentonii					4						2				**6**
M. dasycneme					1										**1**
M. brandtii					1										**1**
M. mystacinus					2										**2**

M. emarginatus							1						1		**2**
M. bechsteinii							1								**1**
M. myotis					2		1						2		**5**
M. blythii													4		**4**
Myotis sp.													3		**3**
N. lasiopterus							2				3		21		**26**
N. leisleri		1		1	65		27	42			104		15		**255**
N.noctula	3			3	467		12	8			2	1	1		**497**
Nyctalus sp.											5		2		**7**
P. pipistrellus				3	274		206	15		1	136	1	5		**641**
P. pygmaeus					28		61	3			20	1		1	**114**
P. pipistrellus/pygmaeus											24		484		**508**
P. nathusii	1			2	345		74	28		1		5			**456**
P. kuhlii			4		0		74				17		28		**123**
Pipistrellus sp.		1		2	22		74	12			50		13	3	**177**
H. savii			3		1		11	16			33		34		**98**
V. murinus				2	53			1				1			**57**
E. serotinus				7	32		12				7		1		**59**
E. isabellinus/serotinus													128		**128**
E. nilssonii					2	2			1			8			**13**
B. barbastellus							1						1		**2**
P. auritus					4										**4**
P. austriacus	1				6										**7**
M. schreibersii							3				1		2		**6**
T. teniotis							1				9		20		**30**
Chiroptera sp.					28	1	39				53	30	152	7	**310**
Total	**5**	**2**	**7**	**20**	**1337**	**3**	**600**	**125**	**1**	**2**	**466**	**47**	**919**	**11**	**3545**

Updating of tables on monitoring studies done in Europe and on bats´ behaviour in relation to wind farms

It was not possible to update these tables, but they will be updated in the near future.

Mitigation and compensation measures

A scientific paper based on the experiments regarding the effect of cut-in speed at 5.0 and 6.5 m/s already referred in last report was published (Arnett *et al.* 2010). Observed bat mortality at fully operational turbines was, on average, 5.4 and 3.6 times greater than mortality associated with curtailed (ie non-operating) turbines in 2008 and 2009, respectively. Relatively small changes to wind-turbine operation resulted in nightly reductions in bat mortality, ranging from 44% to 93%, with marginal annual power loss (< 1% of total annual output). Findings suggest that increasing turbine cut-in speeds at wind facilities in areas of conservation concern during times when active bats may be at particular risk from turbines could mitigate this detrimental aspect of wind-energy generation.

Arnett EB, MMP Huso, MR Schirmacher & JP Hayes. 2010. Altering turbine speed reduces bat mortality at wind-energy facilities. Front Ecol E-nviron 2010; doi:10.1890/100103.

Estimation of mortality rate taking into consideration predation, efficiency and controlled area

A scientific paper on the need to adjust raw carcass counts for imperfect detectability to produce unbiased estimates of fatality was published (Huso 2010). The paper includes the formalization of a conceptual model of fatality and the factors that lead to imperfect detection, primarily removal by scavengers before searches can be carried out and inability of searchers to find all remaining carcasses. It proposes an estimator of fatality that adjusts for imperfect detectability. Through simulation it evaluates the statistical properties (bias and precision) of this estimator and two others commonly used to estimate fatality at wind power facilities, when sources and magnitudes of imperfect detectability vary. None of the estimators was always unbiased under all conditions. Bias in the proposed estimator never exceeded ±27% whereas bias in the other two estimators was always negative and exceeded that of the proposed estimator in 98% and 93% of the simulated conditions, respectively. The proposed estimator was relatively robust to variation in sources and magnitudes of imperfect detectability, but was sensitive to distributional assumptions regarding carcass removal rates and searcher efficiency. It offers significant improvement over two current estimators and provides relatively unbiased estimates of fatality that can be applied under a variety of conditions and survey protocols.

Huso MMP. 2010. An estimator of wildlife fatality from observed carcasses. ENVIRONMETRICS. DOI: 10.1002/env

Impact of mortality rate on populations

Kiefer & Wöhl (2010) wrote a small unpublished paper and modelled the possible impact of different rates of bat mortality due to different population sizes of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. They suspect a negative impact if a population is stable (not increasing) and a mortality of at least 2 bats/Wind turbine (population size: 20.000 Ind., number of wind turbines: 200). For a population size of 5000 Pipistrelle bats and a mortality of 2 bats/WT (number of wind turbines: 200) they also suspect a negative trend, although the population is increasing with 5% each year.

Kiefer, A. & S. Wöhl (2010): Grundlegende Überlegungen zu der Tabelle „Zwergfledermäuse und WEA“. – unpulb.paper.: 5pp.

Deterrents

In USA a BWEC study (Bats and Wind Energy Cooperation) was carried out since 2009 (BCI 2010). The aim was to study the possibility to deter bats at wind turbines by ultrasound and by that reduce the number of bat fatalities. It was a study at fully operational wind turbines at Iberdrola Renewables´Loucust Ridge II Wind Project in Pennsylvania. The first results showed a reduction of 20-53 % of bat fatalities compared to wind turbines without deterrent devices during the first year.

BCI (2010): Bats & Wind Energy. – Bats Fall 2010: 6.

Table on maximum foraging distances of species

In the framework of the Environmental Impact Assessment of wind farm projects, it is important to know the range of the different species encountered in the vicinity and the height at which they can fly. The following table updates the information for the different bat species which have been killed by wind turbines (new information in bold). For most species the information comes from radiotracking studies and the mentioned references are listed below the table.

Species	**max foraging distance (km)**	**Height of flight (m)**	**References**	**Radio-tracking studies**
Nyctalus noctula	26	10 to a few hundred meters	1, 7, 30	Yes
Nyctalus leisleri	17	above canopy	5, 6, 30, 32, 42, 45	Yes
Nyctalus lasiopterus	90	1300m (telescope & radar)	2, 3, 4, 30	Yes
Miniopterus schreibersii	40	2-5 (foraging) and open sky (transit)	8, 30, 41, 40	Yes
Pipistrellus nathusii	12	1-20 (foraging); 30-50 (migration)	43, 45, 46, 47,30	Yes
Myotis myotis	25	1-15m (direct flight in open sky in transit)	26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Yes
Myotis blythii	26	1-15	22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30	Yes
Myotis emarginatus	12,5	no information	17, 18, 30, 33, 36, 38, 39	Yes
Myotis bechsteinii	2,5	1-5 and in the canopy	12, 30, 31, 38, 39	Yes

Pipistrellus pygmaeus	1,7 (mean radius)	up to the rotor	20, 30	Yes
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	5,1	up to the rotor	21, 61	No; chimioluminescent tags
Pipistrellus kuhlii	no information	1-10; up to a few hundreds	30	Yes
Eptesicus serotinus	12	50 (**up to the rotor**)	13, 14, 15, 16, 30, **62**	Yes
Barbastella barbastellus	10	above canopy	11, 12, 30, 34, 35	Yes
Tadarida teniotis	>30 (Portugal), 100 (Switzerland)	10-300	44, 9, 10, 30	Yes
Hypsugo savii	?	>100	33, 37	No
Vespertilio murinus	6,2 ♀; 20,5 ♂	20-40	48, 49	Yes
Eptesicus nilssonii	30	> 50	51, 52	Yes
Myotis dasycneme	**34**	2-5	53, **63**	No
Myotis daubentonii	10 ♀; >15 ♂	1-5	57, 58	Yes
Myotis brandtii	10	up to the canopy	49, 54, 55	?
Myotis mystacinus	2,8	up to 15m in the canopy	55, 56	Yes
Plecotus auritus	2,2-3,3	up to the canopy	59	Yes
Plecotus austriacus	**regularly up to 7 km**	?	60, **Bach pers comm**	Yes

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Collect national guidelines (including information on feathering/stopping WTs)

Few countries sent information on national guidelines and no specific information on feathering/stopping of turbines was received.

Several regional guidelines exist in Germany and they are being used for the “Bundesländer”, e.g. in Lower Saxony (NLT 2006, 2011) and Brandenburg (not finally ready yet, but recommended already).

The IWG recalls the countries to send their data to complete the table and to allow the preparation of an assessment of the use of feathering/stopping in Europe.

Country	National guidelines exists		EUROBATS guidelines officially recommended	Copy of national guidelines provided to IWG
	unofficial	officially recommended		
Belgium, Wallonie			+	
Bulgaria	+			+
Croatia		+		+
Czech Republic			+ (*with some local adaptations*)	
France	+		+	+
Germany	+			+
Lithuania		+	+	
Poland	+	(*in preparation*)		+
Portugal		+		+
United Kingdom		+		+

Final remarks

Available results continue to show that mortality is highly variable between different sites and between different wind turbines within one wind farm. Besides that, mortality varies between years.

We consider that this IWG should be re-established in 16AC Meeting.

Doc.EUROBATS.AC16.8.Annex1

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(Bold: References added since March 2010)

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