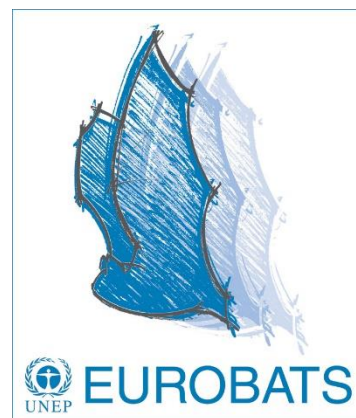


## 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Skopje, North Macedonia, 1 – 3 April 2019

### Secretariat Report



#### **Staff**

Since AC23 there have been no changes in the Secretariat staff.

#### **Agreement Membership**

Serbia has completed the accession to the Agreement and is a Party since 10 March 2019. Bosnia and Herzegovina had submitted an instrument of accession but needs to resubmit a new one to meet certain formal requirements. This is expected to happen in the near future.

#### **Outreach**

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series and Leaflets continue to be in high demand.

In October 2018 Publication Series No. 8 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects” was released and 2,000 copies were printed.

The new EUROBATS Publication Series No. 9 titled “Guidance on the conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes for bats” was finalised and published by the Secretariat in March 2019 (2,000 copies were printed).

3825 publications were shipped by the Secretariat from the beginning of April 2018 until the end of March 2019.

The International Bat Night continues to be extremely successful. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website. In 2018 a total of 3242 Bat Night Posters were sent out to organisers to help them promote their events.

#### **Special Projects**

In 2018, following projects were selected and funded within the framework of the Eurobats Project Initiative (EPI):

- Promoting awareness and capacity building for the conservation of bats in Northwest Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia).
- Bats of eastern Europe: Challenges for conservation (a conference in Armenia), supported by the German voluntary contribution
- Migration in European bat populations: Estimating genetic relationships between French and Spanish populations of the endangered greater noctule bat, supported by the voluntary contribution of Luxemburg

Several new proposals were selected by the EPI evaluation group in 2018, but their funding entirely depends on prospective voluntary contributions. Therefore, definite project titles subjected to funding in 2019 will be announced later.

### **European Action Plan on Bats**

The joint EU-EUROBATS Action Plan (2018 - 2024) for all Bat Species has been approved in November 2018 and is in force.