

25th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Videoconference 30 April 2021

Secretariat Report



Staff

As of 1 April 2020, Kate Horn has left the Secretariat for taking up another post. The Secretariat has reorganised the tasks and this post will be left vacant to allow increasing the post occupancy of the Scientific Officer, Suren Gazaryan, to 80%.

Agreement Membership

Since AC24 no new Parties have joined the Agreement. The deposit of the instrument of accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina is still pending. This is hoped to happen in the near future.

Outreach

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

In the second half of 2019, the Publication Series No. 8 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects” was translated into German and 2,000 copies were printed. The Secretariat is now aiming to produce a French version as well.

In 2020, the Secretariat funded a portion of the print and took over most of the dissemination of the German version of the comic “Bono’s adventures”, a story about the migration of bats, written and designed by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin (IZW). In close collaboration with the IZW, the Secretariat translated the comic into English and the printed version was produced in 2021.

In the beginning of 2021 posters, postcards, and stickers upon the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Agreement and the 25th International Bat Night were widely distributed, financed by a voluntary contribution of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety.

Special Projects in 2019 and 2020

In 2019, following projects were selected and funded within the framework of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI):

- Exploring and mitigating the threat of Lloviu virus re-emergence in Central European *Miniopterus schreibersii* populations / Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, conducted by Nature Conservation Foundation of Tolna County (TMTA), Hungary.
- Bats and vaults: search and inventory of underground bat shelters in Belarus, conducted by the State Scientific and Production Amalgamation, «Scientific and Practical Center for Bioresources» of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus in collaboration with the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine.

In 2020, the following projects were selected and funded within the framework of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI):

- Advancing transboundary bat conservation in Romania and Moldova, conducted by the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- Survey and Monitoring of Bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2021, conducted by the Center for Karst and Speleology in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Several new proposals were selected by the EPI evaluation group, but their funding entirely depends on prospective voluntary contributions. Therefore, a definite list of projects to be funded in 2021 will be published at a later stage.