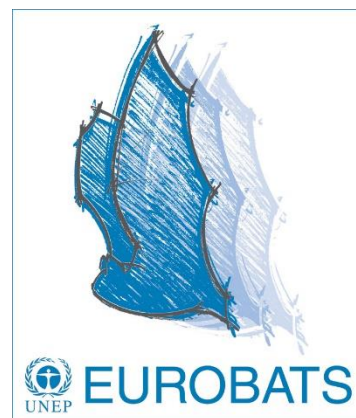


## 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Videoconference 30 April 2021

### Report of the Intersessional Working Group on Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health



The IWG met online on March 11.

Prior to the meeting two recent papers (Bonilla-Aldana et al. and Platto et al.) containing serious and damaging errors about bats were circulated.

The convener described what had been done to protest about the errors in the circulated papers, and encouraged members of the IWG to be vigilant and take action over similar misrepresentations. It was clear from the subsequent discussion that this had been happening. In some cases, it may be appropriate to circulate letters of protest to other IWG members so that they can add their voices.

In contrast, in some countries there were very positive relations with the media.

There was a lot of discussion about the IUCN guidelines for Researchers and particularly for Rehabilitators (and the guidelines had been translated into Polish). Last year attempts were sometimes made, without success, to discourage Rehabilitators from accepting more bats. However, they were encouraged to wear masks and gloves and to change gloves between bats.

Sampling of bats for coronaviruses (with oral and rectal swabs) was continuing.

An important question remains unanswered: Can vaccinated people transmit SARS-CoV-2 to bats?