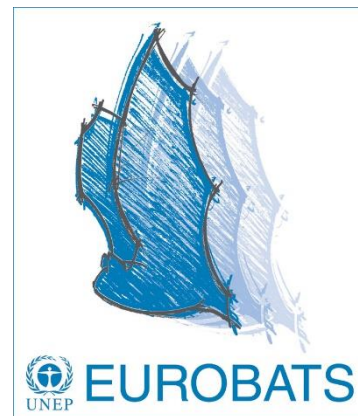


28th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Online meeting, 8-11 April 2024

Secretariat Report



Staff

There have been no changes in the Secretariat staff since AC27. As per decision of MoP9, starting from the 1st of January 2023, the Scientific Officer is working on 80 percent post occupancy. The Administrative Assistants are working alternatively on 80 and 50 percent post occupancy until a long-term equitable solution can be implemented.

Agreement Membership

There has been no news regarding Spain's accession to the Agreement.

Outreach

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series, leaflets – in particular the leaflet on bats and forestry, both language versions of the comic “Bono’s adventures”, as well as the material produced for the anniversaries in 2021 continue to be in high demand. Especially for the celebration of the International Bat Night, which continues to be extremely successful, more information material is being sent out. Reports on the IBN events held during the last years are available on the EUROBATS website. The Secretariat encourages the IBN organisers to make use of the EUROBATS website to announce their events.

Special Projects 2023

In 2023 the following projects were implemented:

- “Monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 in European bat species” in Austria conducted by the Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology, University of Veterinary Medicine – continuation of the project from 2022.

- “CHIROHUB: a multi-tool for bat research and conservation in Romania and Moldova” conducted by the Romanian Centre for Bat Research and Conservation, together with several partners in Romania and Moldova. This project will continue in 2024.
- “Identification of critical habitats for the conservation of the highly endangered Madeira pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus maderensis*)” conducted by the Madeira Fauna & Flora, Biology & Conservation. This project will also continue in 2024.