

14th Meeting of the Standing Committee
23rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tallinn, Estonia, 14 – 17 May 2018

Secretariat Report



Staff

Since AC22 and StC13 there have been no changes in the Secretariat staff.

Agreement Membership

Bosnia and Herzegovina as well Serbia are in an advanced stage of the accession procedure and are hoped to be Parties at the time of MoP8. The Secretariat continues to lobby for accession among Non-Party Range States.

Outreach

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

In 2017 reprints were made of the Forestry leaflet and of Publication Series No. 2, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 7. A total number of 11.000 copies were reprinted.

3673 publications were sent out by the Secretariat from the beginning of March 2017 to the beginning of April 2018.

The International Bat Night continues to be extremely successful. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website. In 2017 a total of 2604 Bat Night Posters were sent out to organisers to help them promote their events.

Special Projects

In 2017, following projects were completed since the last AC meeting, thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland

- Capacity building for the development of the guidelines for wind farm construction based on field study in Macedonia
- The “Carol” line: Assessing importance of at least 150 deserted bunkers for the conservation of the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border bat fauna
- *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the far north? Population size and habitat use of a maternity colony in the Pripiat floodplains in the South of Belarus

- Bats across borders: Study of south-eastern bat migration way in Eastern Europe in Ukraine and Russia

Three projects were selected for funding in 2018 by the EPI assessment group, namely:

- Promoting awareness and capacity building for the conservation of bats in Northwest Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia). The project will be funded from the regular EUROBATS budget
- Bats of eastern Europe: Challenges for conservation (A thematic 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, funding is not yet secured

Online Reporting System for National Implementation Reports

The online reporting system is fully operational and available for submitting National Implementation Reports which are due for MoP8 at <http://cms-ort.ort-production.linode.unep-wcmc.org/>

EUROBATS at international bat conferences and collaboration with other Conventions and international bodies

The Scientific and Project Officer Dr. Suren Gazaryan has taken part in two major European scientific events. In February 2017, he took part in the 5th International Berlin Bat Meeting in Berlin with a poster presentation on EUROBATS. He was also invited to be a member of the Scientific Committee for preparing the 14th European Bat Research Symposium, held in Donostia, Spain from 1 to 4 August 2017. At the event, he presented results of his joint German-Georgian-Russian project conducted in 2010 - 2015.

Since 2017, the Scientific and Project Officer has been engaging with the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group as the European authority for helping with new listings and re-assessments of European species, which are planned for 2018.

Also since 2017 EUROBATS is a formal member of the CMS Renewable Energy Task Force and has participated in the second meeting of this expert group (Bonn, Germany, September 2017).

EUROBATS was also represented at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS (CoP12, Manila, Philippines, October 2017) where it was co-organiser of a side event on Bats and Wind Turbines.

At the UN Climate Change Conference (CoP23, Bonn, Germany, November 2017) The Executive Secretary represented the CMS Family in a side event on renewable energies and gave a presentation on Bats and Wind Turbines.