



18th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Sofia, Bulgaria, 15 – 17 April 2013

Progress report of the IWG on

“Monitoring and Indicators”

Progress report of the IWG on Monitoring and Indicators 2012/2013

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The four year action for this IWG is:

- A) To update the list of countries needing capacity to establish monitoring;
- B) To establish capacity building programmes;
- C) To update the list of countries /NGOs already monitoring and willing to contribute to pan-European trends
- D) To organize at least one workshop for those countries/NGOs that are currently monitoring to train in using TRIM and agree the technical aspects of data combination.
- E) To build a database data for ongoing management, sharing and analysis of monitoring data.

At AC16, the IWG proposed to separate work into three parallel projects, as and when funding could be obtained for each work area:

1. *Development of a prototype pan European bat population indicator based on existing data.*
2. *Build capacity for monitoring in countries which do not currently have national monitoring schemes.*
3. *Develop a data sharing structure for census data, with statistical tools to calculate pan-European and regional trends, managed by BatLife Europe for ongoing data sharing, as laid out in the feasibility plan written for EUROBATS, agreed by AC14.*

Progress since AC17

Project In 2011, a pilot project for developing a pan-European indicator was done. The European Environment Agency (EEA), who commissioned the report, is in the process

of publishing the report in their technical report series. In winter 2012 we undertook some revisions to the draft report in response to comments from the EEA technical panel, who commissioned the report. These comments were in the main very positive, and we are sure the statements of direct support and willingness to participate in the next revision will not have gone unnoticed. We are hoping that the proof may reach us soon after AC18.

Tom van der Meij (Statistics Netherlands) gave a talk on the development of the indicator at the International Symposium on Bats as Bioindicators near Barcelona (http://es.amiando.com/bats_as_bioindicators_symposium_2012.html) in December 2012, and Karen Haysom presented the work at the the Spanish Batworkers Conference which followed it in Barcelona.

At this conference Tom also led a training session in using Birdstats/Trim, the software Statistics Netherlands uses to calculate the pan-European trend, teaching NGOs to independently perform such analyses. Jasja Dekker presented the work at the annual hibernation count workshop at Nietoperek, Poland. At both meetings we received requests from monitoring groups in new countries to participate.

Since the last AC, we have also had offers from NGO's from Spain, Italy, and Poland to be included in the indicator. We have now an extensive list of countries willing to participate.

Ad 2)

One of the action points from the last IWG meeting in Dublin was all delegates with information on strategic European stakeholder contacts for whom indicators are relevant to inform conveners or assist with introductions. The conveners did get some nice leads and suggestions and are following up on these, but the conveners still welcome information and suggestions.

Separately, but complementary to the work of this group, BatLife Europe have been doing a questionnaire of members to understand activities, help needed and help offered among the different partners. This will provide additional and more up to date information on monitoring and related needs.

Ad 3)

We cannot report of any progress on the development of an international monitoring data structure.