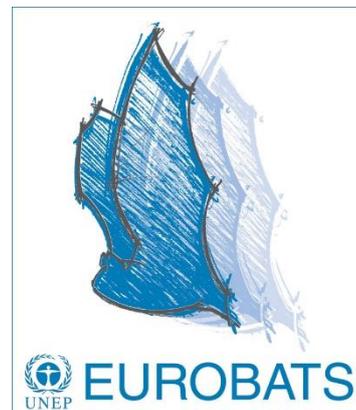


## 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

### Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee



#### **Introduction**

This report summarises the activities of the Advisory Committee between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Meeting of Parties. Full details of the Advisory Committee meetings held during this period are available in the respective Records of these Meetings. Four AC meetings were held since the last MoP:

- 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Budva, Montenegro, from 23 - 25 March 2015. It was attended by 56 participants from 40 countries.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Zandvoort, the Netherlands, from 18 – 20 April 2016. It was attended by 61 participants from 40 countries.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 27 - 29 March 2017. It was attended by 66 participants from 41 countries.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Tallinn, Estonia, from 14 - 17 May 2018. It was attended by 72 participants from 44 countries.

#### **Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee**

At the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee Dr. Ferdia Marnell (Ireland) and Dr Danilo Russo (Italy) were elected to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee respectively.

#### **Intersessional Working Groups**

The Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) are the main mechanism for carrying forward the work of the Advisory Committee, as outlined in the Conservation and Management Plan. At the first AC meeting after the MoP (i.e. the 20<sup>th</sup> AC Meeting in Budva), a review of the Conservation and Management Plan 2015-2018 was undertaken to identify the priorities for the Advisory Committee. To help implement the

work identified, the following IWGs were (re-)formed and worked actively during the reporting period:

- Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management
- Monitoring and Indicators
- Monitoring Seasonal and Long-distance Movements of Bats
- Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- Light Pollution
- Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes
- Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts
- Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats
- Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health
- Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Bats and Building Insulation
- Education
- Quality of Assessments and Experience and Skills of Experts
- Overground roosts for bats

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> AC meeting an additional IWG on Bats and Climate Change was proposed. It was discussed and agreed that this was an important emerging issue for bats and that useful work could be done by a dedicated IWG.

In each case, the first objective for every IWG was to agree a clear set of aims and to produce a realistic timetable of actions. Time was then allocated at each AC for these groups to convene and progress their work-plans.

There was a further proposal at AC 23 for an IWG on Insect Decline as a Threat to Bats. A draft Resolution was prepared to ask the MoP to bring this topic forward in the next Conservation and Management Plan.

#### *Ad hoc Working Groups*

In addition to the IWGs which met at every AC, a number of Working Groups were active on an ad hoc basis over the last four years and met and reported as required on the following topics:

- Geographical Scope of the Agreement
- Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement.
- Autecological Studies for Priority Species

- Conservation of Key Underground Sites
- EPI assessments

The full lists of members for all of the IWGs are available in the meeting reports on the Eurobats website. I would particularly like to acknowledge the hard work of all the conveners and co-conveners in pushing and progressing their IWG work-plans over the last four years. Significant progress was made in all groups with several completing their work programmes successfully. In certain cases the IWGs are addressing ongoing issues and further work for these groups will be incorporated into the next Conservation and Management Plan.

### **Scientific Officer**

The appointment of a Scientific Officer to the Eurobats Secretariat has greatly facilitated the work of the AC and in particular the working groups. The continuation and indeed the expansion, of this role to full-time would further improve and enhance the productivity of the AC.

### **Resolutions**

Draft Resolutions were prepared by the Intersessional Working Groups at AC 23. These Resolutions were discussed, amended as necessary, and agreed at the plenary session of that meeting and will be submitted to the 8th Session of the Meeting of Parties. They cover the following topics:

- Monitoring of seasonal and long-distance movements of bats
- Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- Light pollution
- Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts
- Bats and Building Insulation
- Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Quality of assessments and experience and skills of experts
- Climate change and bats
- Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement
- Conservation and Management of Important Underground Sites for Bats

In addition, the Chair and Vice-Chair, together with two senior advisors, met at AC 23 to draft the next Conservation and Management Plan (2019-2022) and the associated

Resolution. Significant progress was made on preparing the text for the Plan, which can only be finalized at MoP 8 once the other relevant Resolutions are adopted. It is recommended that a similar drafting group meets during the last AC before the next MoP.

### **Participation of the Chair of the AC in the Meetings of the Standing Committee.**

The Chair of the Advisory Committee attended as observer ex officio the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee which was held in Rome on 28 April 2015. It was useful for the new Chair of the AC to meet with the StC, to see how the StC operates, to provide a report on the work of the AC to the StC, and to participate in discussions on the ongoing priorities for Eurobats. Written reports were provided by the AC Chair to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the StC

Finally, I'd like to thank the Vice-Chair, Dr Danilo Russo, for his assistance during AC meetings and also in the preparation and after-math of meetings throughout the last four years. I further commend the ongoing support of the Secretariat. The smooth planning, organization and running of the Advisory Committee meetings has itself been a testament to their excellent work. However, Andreas and each member of his team demonstrate great competence in all aspects of their work and since taking over the role of Chair of the AC I have found them to be unfailingly helpful at all times.

**Dr Ferdia Marnell**

Chair of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee, 2015-2018

September 2018