

9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brijuni, Croatia, 10 – 13 October 2022

Secretariat Report



Staff

As of 1 April 2020, the staff member Kate Horn (Secretary) has left the Secretariat and has taken up a new position. It is not intended to fill this vacancy in the foreseeable future. The tasks have been redistributed between the two Administrative Assistants while more administrative responsibilities related to EPI projects and publications were assigned to the Scientific Officer. After consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee, the post occupancy of the Scientific Officer has been increased to 80% as of 1 April 2020. In preparation for MoP9, the Scientific Officer, Suren Gazaryan, is working at 100% post occupancy as of 1 April 2022.

Agreement Membership

Serbia has completed the accession to the Agreement and is a Party since 10 March 2019. Bosnia & Herzegovina has also acceded to the Agreement and formally became a Party on 21 August 2021. Spain has informed about new efforts for accession.

Outreach

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series and leaflets continue to be in high demand. 4,484 publications were shipped by the Secretariat from the beginning of April 2018 until the end of April 2019 as well as 4,642 publications (including leaflets and publications) from the beginning of April 2019 until mid-June 2020.

In October 2018 Publication Series No. 8 “Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects” was released and 2,000 copies were printed. In the second half of 2019, the Publication Series No. 8 was translated into German and 2,000 copies were printed. As the demand for the English version of that issue was very high, it was reprinted (500 copies) on that occasion. The Secretariat is now aiming to produce a French version as well.

The new EUROBATS Publication Series No. 9 titled “Guidance on the conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes for bats” was finalised and published by the Secretariat in March 2019 (2,000 copies were printed).

In the beginning of 2021 posters, postcards, and stickers upon the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Agreement and the 25th International Bat Night were widely distributed, financed by a voluntary contribution of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. It continued the whole year of 2021 that the demand for information material was very high. Two reprints of stickers (39,000 in total), postcards (12,000 in total) and species posters (4,500) were produced and disseminated.

In 2020, the Secretariat funded a portion of the print and took over most of the dissemination of the German version of the comic “Bono’s adventures”, a story about the migration of bats, written and designed by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin (IZW). In close collaboration with the IZW, the Secretariat translated the comic into English and the printed version was produced in 2021. The German version of the Comic was reprinted already in 2022.

The International Bat Night continues to be extremely successful. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website.

Special Projects 2018 – 2022

The joint EU-EUROBATS Action Plan (2018 - 2024) for all Bat Species has been approved in November 2018 and is in force.

The following projects were selected and funded within the framework of the Eurobats Project Initiative (EPI):

- In 2018
 - Promoting awareness and capacity building for the conservation of bats in Northwest Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia).
 - Bats of eastern Europe: Challenges for conservation (a 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, supported by the voluntary contribution of Luxemburg.

- In 2019:
 - Exploring and mitigating the threat of Lloviu virus re-emergence in Central European *Miniopterus schreibersii* populations / Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, conducted by Nature Conservation Foundation of Tolna County (TMTA), Hungary.
 - Bats and vaults: search and inventory of underground bat shelters in Belarus, conducted by the State Scientific and Production Amalgamation, «Scientific and Practical Center for Bioresources» of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus in collaboration with the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine.
- In 2020:
 - Advancing transboundary bat conservation in Romania and Moldova, conducted by the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
 - Survey and Monitoring of Bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2021, conducted by the Center for Karst and Speleology in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- In 2021 and 2022:
 - Survey and Monitoring of Bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2021, conducted by the Center for Karst and Speleology in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
 - Advancing Transboundary Bat Conservation in Romania and Moldova (a conference held in autumn 2021) and a follow-up project Transboundary Bat Conservation in Romania and Moldova (completed in March 2022), both conducted by the Centre for Bat Research and Conservation in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
 - Use of detection dogs for bat tree roost monitoring, implemented by Jelena Mausbach (Artenspürhunde Schweiz).
 - Bat Migration Routes in Europe, conducted by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.