

## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 18 May 2016

### Secretariat Report



#### **Staff**

Since StC11 there have been no changes in the Secretariat staff. The Secretary Kate Horn is on extended maternity related leave (special leave without pay) in 2016 and expected to return in January 2017.

#### **Agreement Membership**

Serbia has informed that on the governmental level the accession procedure is completed but still awaiting the ratification by parliament. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

#### **Outreach**

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series and Leaflets continue to be highly demanded:

- Publication Series No. 2 and 4 as well as the leaflet on “Bats and Forestry” had to be reprinted.
- Publication Series No.6 (Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects – Review 2014) have been translated into French and German. Layout and print will follow as soon as possible.

The International Bat Night continues to be successful and growing every year again all over the Agreement area. Reports of events are available on the EUROBATS website.

#### **Special Projects**

In 2015 the Secretariat was able to finance and co-ordinate the following projects through EPI funding:

- “Let’s all be Bat-Men” – awareness raising in Bulgaria;
- Capacity Building for bat species monitoring in Northwest Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)

- Plecotus sardus on Sardinia – from knowledge to conservation
- Workshop for conservationists and foresters: Improving forest management for bats in the Netherlands;

These projects become possible thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

In addition the publication of the book “Bats in the Anthropocene: Conservation of Bats in a Changing World” has been financially supported by EUROBATS through a voluntary contribution from Germany.

### **Online Reporting System for National Implementation Reports**

Based on the new format adopted by MoP7 the online reporting system has been set up and is operational in a testing phase with all national focal points.

### **Joint EU-EUROBATS Species Action Plan on Bats**

Already in 2013 the development of a joint Species Action Plan on Bats had started between the European Commission and EUROBATS. The draft is in its final stage now and is expected to be adopted by the EU Habitats Committee in the near future.