

8th Meeting of the Standing Committee

London, United Kingdom, 21 March 2013

Secretariat Report



Staff

The contract of the Temporary Administrative Assistant Ana Ferreira da Silva has ended on 31 November 2012. After completion of the re-classification process in January 2013, both posts of Administrative Assistants (GS-6 50% part-time) have been advertised and are under recruitment. It is expected that by the time of StC8 the recruitment process will be close to completion. From January to March 2013 Titus Munyasya Ndunda is filling the gap as temporary Assistant.

After the 7th Meeting of the Standing Committee had agreed to move forward the recruitment on the new post of Associate Scientific and Project Officer (P-2, 50% part-time), the Secretariat had initiated the process of establishment, classification and advertisement of the post at UNEP Headquarters. This process has been lengthy but is close to completion now. It is expected that by the time of StC8 the recruitment process will have started.

Agreement Membership

Since the 7th Meeting of the Standing Committee, Cyprus has acceded to the Agreement. Switzerland is expected to deposit its instrument of accession in due course. The Secretariat continues to receive indications from a number of additional states preparing the accession to the Agreement.

Publicity

In 2012 the Secretariat has invested significant time and efforts in the new EUROBATS website. Apart from an attractive design particular attention has been given to user friendliness through easy navigation and additional features (e.g. clear structure, enhanced search functions, order forms etc.). A presentation will be given at StC8.

Another ambitious website project relates to a joint CMS Family internet platform that the Secretariats have started to plan and develop in 2012. This joint platform will not only demonstrate the close links between CMS and the related Agreements but also link all relevant information and documents for focal points. It will not replace the existing individual websites but become a joint portal to the CMS Family as a whole.

The various volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series continue to be highly demanded and reprints will become necessary in 2013.

The International Bat Night continues to be successful and growing every year again all over the Agreement area. A new poster has been printed in and disseminated by the Secretariat in 2012.

EUROBATS Advisory Committee Workspace

Following the successful example from AEWA, the whole CMS Family has developed an online workspace for the Advisory or Technical Committees.

The EUROBATS Advisory Committee Workspace (<http://workspace.eurobats.org>) became operational in January 2013 and is the electronic, web-based communication space and working area for the EUROBATS Advisory Committee (AC). Its aim is to provide a central platform for online collaboration and support the work and the communication of the Advisory Committee between meetings. The platform consists of a public and a restricted area, the latter accessible only to the current members and other experts of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee and includes the following sections:

- AC WORKING AREA - An area where the working groups (IWG) of the Advisory Committee work on the implementation of their work plan for the on-going intersessional period on priority topics as instructed by the previous Sessions of the Meeting of Parties.
- AC DISCUSSION AREA - A forum area where the Advisory Committee discusses all other matters which are not covered by the on-going work plan.
- AC MEMBERS AREA - This area contains the contact for all AC members and observers and their individual profiles.
- RESOURCE AREA - This area contains resource documents, such as the Agreement text and annexes and the contact list for the EUROBATS Secretariat staff and their individual profiles.

Special Projects

In 2012 the Secretariat was able to finance and co-ordinate the following projects through EPI funding:

- The conservation of vulnerable floodplain forests in the Hungarian Lower-Danube-valley, with pond bats and barbastelles as indicators (Hungary, Serbia, Croatia and Romania);
- Exploring the feeding and roosting habits of *Pipistrellus hanaki* in Crete, Greece;
- Capacity-building for bat species monitoring in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria (Jordan);
- First Tabachka Bat Workshop (Bulgaria);
- Workshop on bat research and bat conservation in Belarus – print of an information leaflet on bat conservation in Belarus (in Russian language);
- Baseline Survey and Monitoring of bats in Lebanon.

A number of further very promising project applications have been received in 2012 and have been reviewed by the EPI Project Assessment Working Group.